



Review

Getting Started With Cloud Computing: A LITA Guide

Edward M. Corrado and Heather L. Moulaison. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, 2011. 214 pp. ISBN: 978-1-55570-749-1. \$65.00.

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Cloud computing, although it has been around for a while, is generating new buzz as a new flood of gadgets like tablets and Chromebooks bring new emphasis to this important technology. As budgetary pressures increase, the shared nature of these cost effective services are also making libraries take another look at what is available in the “cloud.”

Getting Started with Cloud Computing takes librarians through a general understanding of what services and technologies are available in the cloud, understanding the cloud, pros and cons of moving library services and data into the cloud, and choosing a vendor. There is an excellent discussion of how cloud computing can be used to train tomorrow’s library leaders. The authors believe that the future of libraries will depend on the technological skills of the librarians running them. Virtual learning labs can be designed that offer multiple educational opportunities.

Various technologies are described in some detail:

- Improved federated searching with shared indexing/metadata.
- Enhanced OPAC functionalities and shared services.
- Shared digital repositories.
- File sharing and library intranets.

Case studies of how libraries have actually used cloud computing round out this interesting book. Librarians from all types of libraries will be interested in innovative, cost-effective solutions for common problems like creating/maintaining library guides and integrating them into the library web site, file sharing with offsite staff members, scheduling, enhancing and evaluating reference and instruction, and fostering discussion/interaction with library users.

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