



## Review

### ***Working in the Virtual Stacks: The New Library & Information Science***

*Laura Townsend Kane. Chicago: American Library Association, 2011. 167pp. ISBN: 978-0-8389-1103-7. \$47.00.*

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The library profession is changing. So much of what we did only a few years ago has been swept away by innovation and new technologies. So much of what we are doing today was only a dream then, or totally unanticipated, even by the dreamers. The changes came upon us often slowly, sometimes in a flood, but right now, it's hard to remember a time before Google, Wikipedia, Amazon, Facebook, the iPhone, and the Kindle. How many of these will still be with us ten or twenty years hence? What unanticipated new technologies and opportunities will we then be unable to do without? The author, Kane, recognized the revolution going on around and within us and how it has affected the work of information specialists. She recorded the results of some of the transformations in our working environment with this book. As a sequel to the author's *Straight From the Stacks: A Firsthand Guide to Careers in Library and Information Science* (American Library Association, 2003), where more traditional librarians and their careers were highlighted, this new collection of interviews strives to accent the innovative career opportunities that exist now for librarians.

The book consists of the career histories of 34 librarians from various parts of the country and in many different library specializations, and is divided into chapters that broadly

describe a few types of library careers. These include subject specialists, technology gurus/social networkers, teachers/community liaisons, entrepreneurs, and administrators. Some of these are traditional career opportunities that have taken a more technological turn, and others are jobs that never truly existed before. Most of these men and women have made the jobs their own by creatively using technologies and technological opportunities to provide information services to their users.

While not comprehensive in its scope, it is a fine collection of career stories that exemplify the wide range of work done by librarians. This book is a great starting point for students looking for a career or specialty within librarianship as well as for those librarians looking for a change.

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