

Canadian universities, have brought their expertise in the areas of education, educational research, and technology to the publication.

For its breadth of information, *Selected Styles in Web-Based Educational Research* is a valuable addition to most academic libraries, and it is particularly important for collections with an emphasis in education. While the authors have included an almost overwhelming amount of information in the book, their inclusion of learning objectives and abstracts for each chapter, along with numerous section headings within each chapter, activities, and illustrations, will help the reader to navigate the book and to identify key points. The authors have chosen to write in a very accessible style that will appeal to a range of readers. This title most certainly will be used by both students and faculty.

Nancy Marshall  
Documents Librarian/Associate Professor,  
South Dakota State University, Box 2115,  
Brookings, SD 57007-1098, USA  
E-mail address: [nancy.marshall@sdstate.edu](mailto:nancy.marshall@sdstate.edu).

doi:10.1016/j.giq.2006.07.006

**Emerging Issues in the Electronic Environment: Challenges for Librarians and Researchers in the Sciences.** Jeannie P. Miller (Editor). New York: The Haworth Information Press, 2004. 258 pp. \$29.95 (paper). ISBN 0-7890-2578-7.

We are well and truly entrenched in the digital age; digital age, digital revolution, electronic age, electronic environment ... whatever term you give it, it is upon us. This digital age has changed, sometimes drastically, the way scientists and academics do research. It has changed libraries and the way they do business and it has changed the jobs of librarians. In *Emerging Issues in the Electronic Environment: Challenges for Librarians and Researchers in the Sciences*, we are presented with thirteen diverse articles about how the electronic age has changed the landscape for scientific researchers and librarians alike.

The articles touch on a variety of topics from Webinars and e-journals to Bibliometrics and maps. The theme running through each article is how electronic information, computers, the Internet and the World Wide Web have changed research and what this change means for libraries and librarians. Some of the articles address the various economic impacts of the digital revolution on libraries and publishers. This collection of essays, each written by a librarian, gives practical insight, advice, and a detailed and useful snapshot of the current environment in scientific and academic research. Each author touches on the unique ways that these advancements and changes impact librarians and the opportunities and possibilities this revolution creates for librarians. This book is a great resource for the scientific researchers discussed in the essays. And, while most librarians working in the science or any branch of academia today are acquainted with the issues discussed herein, all of the pieces in the collection are well written and clearly articulate the issues being faced by librarians. Thus, the issues discussed in the articles will be useful for those librarians working outside the science and

academic realm. Any librarian who takes the time to read this collection will find that it was time well spent.

The first essay by Julie Hurd, “Scientific Communication: New Roles and New Players,” sets the stage by providing the reader with a succinct chronological view of scientific publishing. This essay explains, in easy to understand terms and with useful diagrams, how and why scientific publishing started, and brings us through the evolution of scientific publishing and how the move from paper-based research to computer-based research has altered the research process.

In her essay “Too Important to Be Left to Chance – Serendipity and the Digital Library,” Elizabeth B. Cooksey addresses, in a unique way, the by now time-honored prediction that the digital revolution means that librarians will no longer be necessary. Cooksey deals with the issue head on, making the point that with information overload brought on as a result of the digital age, libraries and especially librarians are needed more than ever to prevent scientists from missing out on crucial information. The methods that scientists have traditionally used, which include serendipity, have been drastically changed with digital resources.

The book then provides a handful of essays dealing with electronic journals. Linda L. Eells discusses the progression of e-journals from the early days of PDFs to the current landscape where some journals are published only in electronic format. Eells discusses the new e-journals and how libraries acquire them, and then Michael Fosmire contributes a discussion about digitizing the old print journals. In his essay “Scan It and They Will Come... But Will They Cite It?” Fosmire provides a sometimes jargon heavy discussion about the usefulness of digitizing and publishing online versions of journals existing only in print. Thomas Schaffer and Kathy M. Jackson talk about one side benefit of the digital revolution and that is the ability for authors to submit supplementary materials with their articles. This supplementary material does not make it into the journal as text, but resides in places such as the publishers Web site—with persistent URLs where researchers can find this information. Supplementary material can be anything from pictures to survey results. The essays on journal articles are completed by an article on Bibliometrics in the electronic environment that is only for the seriously devoted librarian, and an interesting article that looks at “reprints” and personal article collections in the online environment. The discussion of reprints is particularly interesting for the discussion of the important role to be played by librarians in helping to organize these new vast collections.

There are five very interesting articles about new tools, products, and issues that have emerged out of the digital age. Patrick Sullivan looks at Current Awareness services, aka CASs, and how important a role they play in keeping researchers from being overloaded by information. He emphasizes how important it is for librarians to know about existing CASs, to inform faculty of their existence, and to teach faculty how to use them. The article includes a list of some CAS services currently being used by libraries. How the use, access, and collection development of maps have changed in the digital age is discussed by Joanne M. Perry. Perry briefly and insightfully introduces readers to a topic most librarians never think about. One of the most innovative “products” to emerge from the digital age, Webinars, are represented in the book in an article by Karen J. Docherty and Angi Herold Faiks. Webinars, as articulately explained by Docherty and Faiks, are programs being run on software that allow you to virtually meet with colleagues, students, and faculty from all over the globe. Katherine Chiang

presents a detailed look at the proliferation of Biology databases and discusses how these databases have created new approaches to research in the life sciences—moving away from only experimental research into the realm of data manipulation as research via these shared scientific databases. And finally we get introduced to “virtual patrons,” their wants and needs, and how librarians must adapt to serve them, by Lesley M. Moyo.

The final essay in the collection discusses conceivably the most crucial issue of the digital age, the preservation of digital material. Jean Marie Deken gives us: “Preserving Digital Libraries: Determining “What?” Before Deciding “How?” This article is a useful look at the question being faced by libraries today. Deken addresses this issue by looking at what should be preserved before deciding how to preserve it. In order to determine what is to be preserved, Deken looks at digital items in comparison to other types of cultural artifacts that have been archived.

The articles are interesting and for the most part timely, although in some cases perhaps a little bit out of date already—such is the nature of the digital revolution! The librarian authors, while in some cases prone to specialized jargon that can be somewhat cumbersome to read through, have provided the reader with a good overview of how research is being done in the electronic environment. The articles look at how research will continue to evolve, and how librarians are being impacted by this revolution, and perhaps most importantly for librarians, how they can make bigger and better contributions than ever before.

Kristen Baginski  
*Research Librarian,*  
*University of Maryland School of Law,*  
*Thurgood Marshall Law Library,*  
*501 W. Fayette St., Baltimore, MD 21201, USA*  
*E-mail address: [kbaginski@law.umaryland.edu](mailto:kbaginski@law.umaryland.edu).*

doi:10.1016/j.giq.2006.07.003

**Managing Learning in Virtual Settings: The Role of Context. Antonio Dias de Figueiredo and Ana Paula Afonso. Hershey, PA: Information Science Publishing, 2006. 333 pp. \$69.95 (paper cover). ISBN 159140489-4.**

Online or e-learning is increasing in importance in higher education. More and more colleges and universities all over the world are utilizing various technologies to make their curriculum available electronically. There is growing body of literature that addresses the concepts, trends, and issues in e-learning. According to the authors of *Managing Learning in Virtual Settings: The Role of Context*, de Figueiredo and Afonso (2006), previous books on the topic of e-learning have dealt primarily with content delivery. Their book “is an interdisciplinary book providing a broad and multidisciplinary vision of learning contexts. It does so by offering a sound body of theory on a multiplicity of domains relevant to the understanding of learning contexts, while illustrating and complementing this theory with a variety of real-world experiences” (de Figueiredo & Alfonso, 2006, p. vii).