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# The Data Librarian's Handbook

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THE DATA LIBRARIAN'S HANDBOOK. 1<sup>ST</sup> ed. Rice, Robin and Southall, John. *London: Facet Publishing, 2016. 177p. ISBN 978-1-78330-047-1. \$95.00*

With data management becoming more prominent in modern librarianship, this book seems to have arrived just in time for those interested in learning more.

While the title indicates that this book is a “handbook,” it reads more like a textbook. A great deal of detail is provided on the history of data management, basic information about data, how to foster data literacy, creating a collection of data, institutional policies, case studies, data repositories, data sharing and supporting open access.

The end of each chapter has a handy “Key-takeaway points” section which nicely summarizes the main ideas of each chapter. In addition, there is also a “Reflective questions” section which provides questions for further discussion on the content of the chapter. The back of the book contains a reference section as well as an index.

The information in the book would be useful for any librarian interested in learning more about the field of data management. However, it is important to note that it does not provide detailed instruction on the nuts and bolts of data management. For example, you will not find how-to information on best practices for file-naming conventions in this book, although other resources on these particulars are recommended. This book takes a much broader, more global perspective.

From the viewpoint of a medical librarian, at times it was difficult to remain focused on the detailed, lengthy passages discussing concepts that are only applicable to non-medical subject areas. There are also a great deal of acronyms used, which at times can make it difficult to follow. In addition, there is a focus on international standards and systems, particularly British, as both authors reside in the United Kingdom. While all of these attributes would be

suitable for those that are seeking extensive details on the topic, it quickly becomes information-overload for someone looking for a basic introduction to data management.

Overall, *The Data Librarian's Handbook* provides an in-depth, detailed, international perspective on major concepts of data management. As the authors indicate in their introduction, it would be most beneficial to library school students, professors, and library professionals. It is best suited for those who seek to learn about data management as a field, rather than the specific skills needed to provide data management support within their own institutions.

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