Cultural Heritage Information: Access and Management. Edited by Ian Ruthven and G. G. Chowdhury. Chicago: Neal-Schuman, 2015. 253 pp. Index. Softcover. $110.00.

Cultural Heritage Information: Access and Management begins with a helpful introduction that outlines the scope of the work, definitions, and intended audiences. The scope and content of this book are just as the title indicates; all chapters focus on some aspect of access and information management for cultural heritage materials. Readers are provided with a key classification of two categories of cultural heritage: 1) tangible cultural heritage (e.g., objects, artifacts, structures); and 2) intangible cultural heritage (e.g., performances, music). While subsequent chapters do not regularly distinguish between these two types, it is important to keep them in mind when considering how metadata and access may differ between tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

While the editors state that they intend practitioners and students to find the book useful, it is more so to understand the questions, concerns, and research topics concerning digital cultural heritage. Library, archives, and museum professionals will not find this book to be a how-to guide for digitization, metadata, or access systems, which they might suspect from the title. Rather, the book is geared much more to an academic audience. Many of the concepts discussed in the chapters are grounded in case studies, which helps with applicability, but readers may find this work to be more technical, theoretical, and abstract than practical and applicable.

To promote diversity in perspective, the editors selected chapters from 18 authors who reside in six different countries, including Africa, Japan, and the UK. These varying perspectives provide new insights into collections and issues that are often unique to particular cultures. The case studies that the authors include offer a greater awareness of the cultural and historical issues and challenges unique to these collections. That said, the international perspective that the editors attempt to achieve feels more like a head nod than full inclusion. Many of the authors discuss the same European-based collections in their case studies and examples, namely the Europeana digital library, and use statistics, best practices, and standards developed in Europe. Certainly, the discussions and illustrations brought forth by these European-based authors are transferable to other collections and parts of the world. This reader would appreciate greater variety, however, particularly when the editors make a specific point about the international breadth of the work.

The chapters in this book discuss some of the usual content associated with digital collections and libraries. For example, readers can find definitions of digitization, selection criteria for digitization, and general overviews of digitization policies and guidelines. Scalability and sustainability are also discussed in multiple chapters, and rightly so, since digitizing cultural heritage materials and providing access to them is a significant undertaking. Some chapters discuss the impact digitization has on the job market and the need for articulating the value of these efforts to one's institution and community. Sustainability extends beyond discussions of institutional capacity to focus on the environmental impact of digitization and digital access. Environmental stewardship is a common societal concern, so it was a wise editorial decision to include this discussion.

Another timely topic discussed in the book is that of digital humanities (DH). Digital

humanities has many multifaceted connections to various disciplines, including digital cultural heritage. The author of the digital humanities chapter skillfully articulates DH's history, including the challenges of formalizing its definition and history. Those interested in DH will find this an interesting read. This chapter also offers suggestions for making cultural heritage materials more readily available to DH researchers, including digitizing materials as quickly as possible, enhancing citation features, and utilizing APIs (Application Program Interfaces) that allow researchers to mine data.

Many of the authors raise important points about key issues surrounding digital cultural heritage, including digital literacy, indigenous cultural heritage, and user-generated content. As more and more cultural heritage materials are available in digital form, the implications of the digital divide become paramount. The use of information and communication technologies (ICT) continues to increase rapidly with mobile devices; yet, while usage increases, not all ICT consumers have the basic Internet skills to use the systems and information. Digital literacy is key to the successful consumption and use of digital cultural heritage. A few of the chapters in this volume discuss this important topic, some in greater detail than others. Interestingly, the Association of College and Research Libraries' information literacy framework and standards are not referenced in the discussion of information literacy, and they would have been helpful to include (especially for a book that strives to include international perspectives and standards). Nevertheless, the coverage of this relevant and timely topic makes this book an important resource.

Folded in at the end of a chapter immediately after a brief discussion of intellectual property issues, readers will find a few pages discussing indigenous cultural heritage (pp. 55–58). While only three pages in length, this section raises important questions to consider when digitizing and providing access to indigenous cultural heritage. Readers may wish for a more thorough discussion of this topic, particularly when it is one of the more novel subjects covered in the book.

User analysis, usability studies, and user-generated content are prominent concepts when discussing systems design. This book covers all of these topics thoroughly, providing both understandable overviews and definitions of these concepts and case studies to illustrate them in action. Authors note the important role that users play in the design of accessible systems and the creation of new information in today's digitally driven world. To remain relevant, digital cultural heritage access systems must not only afford opportunities for users to contribute content, but they must also preserve that content and integrate it with existing metadata. These criteria should be considered when selecting and designing systems for digital cultural heritage materials. Rightly stated, the authors discuss the need for more research into user-generated content and crowdsourcing as they relate to digital cultural heritage.

The content covered in this book, particularly environmental sustainability, digital humanities, digital literacy, and user-generated content, make this book worth reading. Throughout the work, contributors cover many of the topics with good breadth but not as much depth. This scope often means that authors just touch upon topics rather than diving deeply into the issues and complexities associated with the subject at hand. Combined with an often abstract, theoretical writing approach, this scope limits the usefulness of the book for practitioners and students. Because the volume is an

accumulation of individually written chapters, there is some redundancy, particularly in the introductions where authors establish the focus of their chapters. The final limitation of this work is the European perspective of many of the examples and authors. This by itself is not a problem, but the editors specifically state that they aimed for an international examination of digital cultural heritage. More diversity in perspective and examples would have helped to achieve their goal. That said, all of the authors included in this volume did their research and used quality, credible sources that are well referenced along with case studies to illustrate their points. Many timely subjects are addressed in the book that add new perspectives in the context of cultural heritage collections and institutions. This work is thus a valuable contribution to the literature, particularly for an academic audience.

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