Digital Curation Fundamentals. By Jody L. DeRidder. New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2018. 153 pp. Index. Softcover. $40.00.

Jody DeRidder begins her book stating that "websites and digital news stories disappear daily; researchers can't access their own data for reuse; students don't know how to make their work last for the next ten years" (p. ix). This disturbing statement is all too real for many archival professionals and sets the tone for why this book is important. *Digital Curation Fundamentals* is relatively short at 153 pages, but is packed with content. DeRidder builds this text on 14 years of experience developing and supporting a digital library as well as additional resources, including BitCurator, Digital POWRR, and Stanford Libraries' ePADD Project. DeRidder clearly states in the preface that this book is for the average librarian or archivist, and I would wholeheartedly agree with this statement. The author includes "fundamentals" in the title, but more appropriately should have included the term "foundational" as well. Seasoned digital curators may not find much they do not already know or that may have been covered in other, denser texts, but the size of this book should not deter any professional looking for a quick guide.

The book is structured as a reference handbook and thus is not intended as a cover-to-cover experience. Each chapter addresses a particular question digital curators may find themselves asking when they approach, engage with, and wrap up digital projects. Most chapters include tables, diagrams, or workflows that many archivists have seen, but rarely have encountered in a single reference resource. Each chapter is consistently well structured, and one of the most convenient elements of the chapter design is the inclusion of a "Key Points" section that boils down each chapter into three to ten critical points the author wants readers to take away from the chapter. These key points allow readers to further target chapters or sections that best apply to the situations they are facing.

The initial chapter defines digital curation and lays out the importance of preserving electronic information. DeRidder poses the question of what would happen if the initial discoveries of DNA, the combustion engine, or the ability to construct structurally sound high-rises were lost due to poor preservation or obsolescence. In this section, DeRidder sells her book to any skeptical reader, and she indicates that convincing administrators of the value of digital curation is particularly useful. The chapter is also helpful to any new or early professional who may question what it means to curate data. While the book will not answer every question readers have about digital curation, its many footnotes point to more substantive resources. DeRidder also spends considerable time in this chapter discussing how hardware and software evolve constantly and how providing access to these files or systems over time becomes complicated. If curators do not plan for these changes, much of their work will be pointless.

One of the most helpful chapters to any new professional is chapter 3, where the author discusses digital curation models and which ones to use and when. She spends time dissecting the Digital Curation Centre's Curation Lifecycle Model, the Open Archival Information System (OAIS), and the Digital Preservation Outreach and Education (DPOE) Modules. Many students and new professionals struggle with these models, and it is refreshing to spend time exploring the differences, similarities, and purposes of each. This is one of the sections where the experience of the author shines through in

her practical advice. Her conversational style engages and empowers readers to choose their own perspective and mix and match the models as needed to fit their organizations and needs.

Many archivists will find chapter 5, which focuses on the identification and selection of content, helpful. To have the systems and resources available to preserve digital content is one thing, but if a professional cannot clearly identify and select the content to go into those systems, then resources are wasted on junk files. Again, DeRidder brings her experience to the conversation as she explains that scope creep is the enemy of any professional. The concept that everything cannot be saved, or, in some cases, should not be saved, is foreign to many administrators and stakeholders. If readers are to establish a practical, realistic, viable, and sustainable digital curation program, then parameters must be established for it (p. 37). DeRidder walks readers through the processes of setting up priorities, conducting inventories, capturing content, managing metadata, and even educating creators so they can help the content survive into the future. New archivists sometimes fall into the trap of focusing too much on individual parts of this process, but the author lays out the overall process for readers to consider and offers insight into each stage of the project.

The book does not have a formal conclusion, but it does close on one of the most overlooked portions of digital curation: how to leverage the community. DeRidder argues that without a community to support a program, it will not go far or be successful. In developing processes and policies for a program, professionals should poll and work with curators in the field. By communicating with organizations and consortiums, a program can keep up-to-date with changes in the field and, more important, pool resources to develop better solutions for all digital curators. In this final chapter, DeRidder provides examples of several groups that focus on digital curation and preservation. While this list is relevant now, it is not comprehensive and may not age well in the coming years. DeRidder concludes this chapter with a call to readers that the digital curation community needs input and is always looking for new members.

Refreshingly, Jody DeRidder's book never bogs down in theoretical discussions, but instead serves as the practical how-to guide that readers would expect from a reference tool. While it does not focus heavily on theory, it does build upon resources that delve deeply into those topics. Readers wanting to explore more theoretical arguments can mine the footnotes for additional readings to expand. Finally, the diagrams, tables, and additional resources that DeRidder provides, not to mention the practical advice, make it more than worthy to sit on any digital archivist's, curator's, or administrator's shelf.

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