

Summer 7-2017

# Review of New Methods of Teaching and Learning in Libraries

Kelli Johnson EdD

*Marshall University*, johnson28@marshall.edu

Follow this and additional works at: [http://mds.marshall.edu/lib\\_faculty](http://mds.marshall.edu/lib_faculty)



Part of the [Arts and Humanities Commons](#), and the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Johnson, Kelli. Review of New Methods of Teaching and Learning in Libraries, by Ann Whitney Gleason. *College & Research Libraries* 78, no. 5 (July 2017): 723. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5860/crl.78.5.723>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Libraries at Marshall Digital Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Libraries Faculty Research by an authorized administrator of Marshall Digital Scholar. For more information, please contact [zhangj@marshall.edu](mailto:zhangj@marshall.edu), [martj@marshall.edu](mailto:martj@marshall.edu).

# Book Reviews



**Ann Whitney Gleason.** *New Methods of Teaching and Learning in Libraries.* Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017. 200p. Paper, \$55.00 (ISBN 978-1-4422-6411-3).

Ann Whitney Gleason's book arrived on my desk at the perfect time. Similar to many colleges and universities across the country, at my university, we are currently struggling with economic and budgetary issues, assessment issues, how to best integrate the new Framework from ACRL and information literacy standards into the curriculum, as well as faculty retirements! I wondered what answers the book held for me.

Gleason's book is divided into three parts, each addressing a different facet of teaching and learning in the library environment. The first part of Gleason's book focuses on the teaching and learning practices in libraries. In chapter 1, Gleason introduces the basics of instruction in a library setting. She begins with a brief history of library instruction and then moves into a discussion of today's learners, emphasizing the changing nature of the student. Gleason notes that "problems arise when colleges and universities are still organized around providing services that work best for traditional students and do not add services for the varied needs of the new majority of nontraditional students." In addition, Gleason discusses many issues affecting colleges and universities mirroring the concerns noted above. Furthermore, even though, as Gleason says, "One of the primary missions of libraries everywhere is education," librarians are not necessarily taught how to teach, similar to other faculty on campus. We obtain our terminal degree, usually an MLS, and then are thrust into the classroom environment without any pedagogical basis or direction. And while many librarians are familiar with Bloom's taxonomy and even the flipped classroom model, few are familiar with other pedagogical models. Gleason rounds out chapter 1 with a discussion of several instructional theories including constructivism, a model that is present in the text as a whole.

In chapter 2, Gleason delves into the library instruction process. The author considers the need for information literacy instruction, the importance of lesson planning and design, and the need for assessing and improving library instruction. Chapter 3 is devoted to the examination of "Teaching beyond the Classroom Walls." In this chapter, Gleason discusses online education and the new and familiar tools that are used in the delivery of online instruction. Many librarians and faculty members may have reservations about online instruction. In response, Gleason addresses best practices for those providing online instruction, listing important components of high quality e-learning as well as effective assessment.

Part II of Gleason's book reviews the use of educational technology to actively engage students and meet learning outcomes. In chapter 4, the author reviews teaching and learning with multimedia tools including clickers, whiteboards, video, and gaming and simulation. Personally, I had never been clear on gaming in an academic library setting; however, Gleason offers a reasonable description of educational gaming for library instruction that cleared up many of my personal misconceptions. Chapter 5 is an incredibly detailed discussion of mobile technology in the library, including a framework for mobile learning along with a model for evaluating technology in learning and suggestions for effective use of mobile technology in the library.

The final chapters in Gleason's text address a theme that has been important in the dialogue for some time, that of "Library as Place." As we know, library as place

is evolving. Chapter 6 examines the past, present, and future of library spaces as well as the pedagogical considerations that librarians must ponder as we use, assess, and modify our libraries. In chapter 7, Gleason expands on her examination of technology in the library space begun in chapter 6. In this chapter, the author details the concept of educational makerspaces, building on the constructivist pedagogical model she outlined throughout the text. Chapter 7 looks at 3D printing, video studios, support for digital humanities and scholarly publishing.

Gleason concludes the book with a discussion of the future of teaching and learning in libraries. She touches on the changing nature of libraries and advises the reader that libraries will “face many challenges in the future.” She writes about the trends and themes that we will likely be addressing in the years to come.

This book is appropriate for teaching librarians with years of experience as well as for new librarians who have never stood at the front of an information literacy classroom. As an academic reference and instruction librarian, I appreciate Gleason’s outlining of pedagogical models and her thoughtful discussion of library as place and how teaching, learning, and technology fit within that place and within the instructional framework. She addresses assessment and strategic planning, two very important topics that, I feel, libraries sometimes overlook. I plan to keep this text on my bookshelf and make it required reading for veteran and newly hired librarians at my university.—*Kelli Johnson, Marshall University*

***Linked Data for Cultural Heritage.*** Eds. Ed Jones and Michele Seikel for the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services. Chicago: American Library Association, 2016. 134p. \$75.00 (ISBN 978-0-8389-1439-7).

Linked data has been a hot topic in the library world, and this book provides a good overview of the topic. The contributors present theoretical and practical information to help readers understand linked data concepts and its purpose.

The first chapter, by Thorson and Pattuelli, presents institutional projects experimenting with linked data, including Europeana, the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), the Social Networks and Archival Context Project (SNAC), and more. They also present a detailed description of the Linked Jazz project. In the second chapter, Stahmer presents the migration process of the English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC) from MARC to linked data and potential benefits that migration presents. The author provides a great explanation of the triplestore data model, a discussion of tagging and controlled vocabularies, and social cataloging.

O’Dell gives a great explanation of why we need controlled vocabularies and their purpose. For people who work in the library field, this is not new. However, it is good to have a reminder concerning why we use certain things, such as authority files, and how such things can fit into future projects. The author also discusses best practices regarding creating library thesauri, metadata element sets and best practices, and data retrieval and information discovery with associated best practices.

Huerga and Lauruhn take a look at linked data and authority control through the lens of science, medical, and technical (STM) publishing. They discuss authority control, identifiers, and vocabularies; use of Web Ontology Language (OWL) to enhance metadata semantics, and using SPARQL for crosswalking controlled vocabulary mappings. Their explanation of each is done clearly and concisely. Huerga and Lauruhn also present a great discussion of authority control using URIs and why they are a “natural fit to represent resources in authority control vocabularies” (62). The authors also mention creating URIs using RDF and OWL, DCMi Metadata Terms and the Bibliographic Ontology Specification indicating they are complementary, and provide a great discussion of linking author identifiers, specifically the ISO standard International Standard Name Identifier (ISNI).