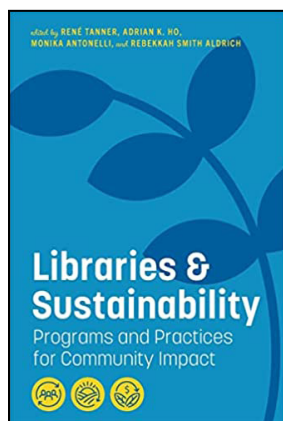


the literature in their pages, and their audiences. In her book, publishing infrastructure is not an invisible and neutral container for content, but a force that actively shapes it. Seligmann captures this most concisely in her discussion of the journal *Bim* from its humble Barbadian origins to its status as a broad-based anglophone Caribbean journal: “I consider the infrastructural capacity of a magazine to generate literature to be shaped by the set of possible relations it may establish to other forms of literary infrastructure.”

In other words, these literary magazines cannot be understood fully until we place them in relation to the range of actual and relevant infrastructures they imply. If *Origenes* adopts a Eurocentric tack, it does so in relationship to European infrastructure. If *Bim* becomes West Indian, it does so in relation to the specifics of cross-Caribbean infrastructures. This astonishing insight opens the book to a librarian reading, especially for those libraries that see themselves today as the architects of a hybrid—digital and analog—cultural and historical record.

While Seligmann does not address libraries or archives directly in her discussion of infrastructural relations, she does provide useful concepts for us to carry on the conversation as stewards of one of the central infrastructures of world literature. These concepts emerge most clearly in chapter 5, when Seligmann departs from her “slow reading” of specific journals, turning to cartography to elucidate the location-making of the journals. Through a series of maps and careful analysis, she teases out three axes for cartographic location-making that can help us imagine literature that is not compelled to gravitate toward the centers of capital. These concepts are “authorship, circulation, and influence,” and Seligmann designs provocative maps from these to help us visualize the geographic imaginaries and realities at play in her book. For us, these three concepts serve as an invitation to imagine the many more axes that will help us be better partners, and perhaps even co-stewards, of these polycentric literatures around the world—always responsive to the idea that the moves we make will have a role to play in the future cultures that will matter to us. —Alex Gil, *Yale University*

Libraries and Sustainability: Programs and Practices for Community Impact. René Tanner, Adrian K. Ho, Monika Antonelli, and Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, eds. Chicago, IL: ALA Editions, 2021. 176p. Paper, \$49.99 (ISBN: 9780838937945).



In 2019, ALA adopted sustainability as one of the core values of librarianship, highlighting the importance of libraries to be resilient in this changing world. The conversation has morphed from merely “thinking green” to adopting the “triple bottom line” view of sustainability. Practices should aim to be environmentally sound, socially equitable, and economically feasible to be considered sustainable. This book aims to explore how libraries can address the issues of sustainability, looking into some actions that are proving successful in communities. This collection of essays constitutes a wide view of sustainability, offering myriad ways to promote the library as a leader for sustainable communities. The book is split into four parts: leadership, planning, programming, and transformation. Each section includes ideas that can be implemented at many libraries alongside suggestions that challenge how libraries operate in their communities and how we educate a new generation of librarians.

As expected, the book includes multiple essays about sustainability programming (think repair clinics and DIY events), discussion of collection development initiatives like seed libraries

and working with green publishing, and suggestions about producing sustainable conferences and large events. Other authors address issues related to planning and development, including sustainable buildings, permaculture, and makerspaces. The running themes of the book echo the ideas of the library serving as a community model, with short-term and long-term goals meant to produce more sustainable practices. There is a way, no matter how small, that each library can adopt a sustainable habit. The variety of ideas in this book gives readers the chance to look around their own library and consider, "Could we do something like that?"

Multiple essays revisit the importance of the library as a member of the community. Community-embedded libraries have opportunities to shape behaviors through sharing sustainability information, providing a model of change: "Libraries are perfectly positioned to be both the inspiration and the catalyst within their communities when it comes to nurturing sustainability as a mindset" (3). This line encapsulates the roles that libraries serve in their communities, inspirational and motivational for patrons and for staff. Michele Stricker's essay "Rapid Library Disaster Response and Recovery for Community Resiliency" points out that being a leader in the community is about more than just serving as a role model. It also means acting in times of crisis. When another once-in-a-lifetime weather event hits, how resilient is the library to quickly recover and assist in the recovery of others? In "Community-based Librarianship," a new model for educating sustainability-minded librarians launches at Texas Woman's University for rural Texans. Libraries prove to be assets to their communities when they are responsive and adaptable, and these essays take that to heart.

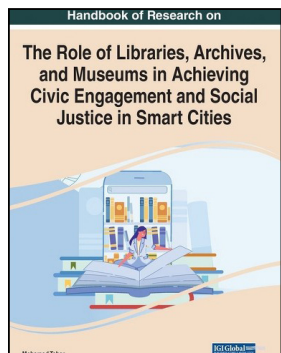
The idea that libraries are neutral helpers is not congruent with the perspective that libraries can be a grassroots force for sustainability. Neutrality only serves the status quo, and the status quo is not sustainable. Views expressed in these essays position libraries as pushing for meaningful change, at individual branches as well as the larger institutions that encompass them.

Shaking off the vocational awe and idea that libraries are *prima facie* good, we must be self-critical in how we may be engaging in oppressive and unsustainable actions, on our own or on behalf of our libraries. In Erin Elzi's essay "Why We Can't Talk about Sustainability in Libraries without Also Talking about Racism," the author asks, "Does the library prioritize educating its community about these environmental injustices in which it is a proponent? Does it spend as much time urging the larger system to divest, urging its community to vote when divestment is on the ballot, as the amount of time it spends on promoting small individual acts of waste reduction?" (111) Acknowledging that individual acts are very important, Elzi's point about the larger forces that can undermine sustainability goals is an important part of the conversation. This essay raises many questions. How can libraries speak truth to power while remaining economically feasible? How can libraries create more equitable outcomes in their community? How can libraries function in an environmentally sound way within a system that participates in unsound activities?

This book contributes good ideas and crucial questions to carry on conversations around promoting sustainable libraries, while addressing the three bottom lines of sustainability that the ALA has adopted as a value. There are also questions to guide our thinking moving forward. This book contains sustainability ideas that will work for all libraries. Those working in academic libraries may be energized with new programming ideas or community-based outreach for across campus, or encouraged in long-term planning to incorporate makerspaces, or inspired to start conversations around pushing for sustainability within their institutions.

The strength of these essays is the applicability across libraries, from rural to academic. Each essay has something to offer, a question to ponder, a library to imagine, and a sustainable future at which to aim.—*Lindsey Jackson, University of Texas at Austin*

Handbook of Research on the Role of Libraries, Archives, and Museums in Achieving Civic Engagement and Social Justice in Smart Cities. Mohamed Taher, ed. Hershey, PA: IGI Global, 2022. 565p. \$295.00 (ISBN: 978-1799883630).



Organizations such as Libraries, Archives, and Museums (LAM) impact social justice (SJ) and civic engagement (CE) all over the world. This handbook explores these topics from different perspectives, uncovering the relationships between the LAM institutions and the communities they serve. The authors aim “to fill the gap with a sufficiently comprehensive critical overview of the role played by LAM in achieving SJ and CE,” examining the subject in a novel way, and on an impressive scale. The book is broken into four sections: the workplace, participation in the community, theory in the community, and smart cities. Each section includes chapters that look at how these institutions contribute to the life of the city from the perspectives of educators, archivists, curators, and librarians.

A strength of this collection is the diversity of international authors, all of whom examine shared problems and offer broad solutions that will be useful to a range of practitioners and will inspire further research. The book emphasizes the global nature of the problems we face, offering ways for information professionals to search for solutions together. Too often, LAM professionals work on the same problems in isolation, reinventing the wheel repeatedly. Additionally, the authors present a broad range of methodologies, such as interviews, literature reviews, case studies, and analysis. This will be valuable for LAM students as they are introduced to the many types of research they could perform in their careers.

Any contemporary title meant to explore the impact of LAM institutions on cities must attend to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Taher handles that well here. The introduction discusses global surveys on Covid-19, and the survey instruments appear in the appendices. Separating the survey from the rest of the book ensures its relevance past the pandemic era while maintaining the ability to address it. While some chapters discuss the pandemic’s impact, it is not the primary focus. Chapter 20 looks at technology and civic engagement through case studies of Barrie and Toronto, Canada. While the authors mention the role of Covid-19, the focus is on popup sidewalk labs and an entrepreneur-in-residence program at the Toronto Public Library. Covid-19 has impacted everyone and, in turn, has impacted how we handle service in LAM. While some doors were physically closed, others were virtually opened as the pandemic led to a greater focus on digital access to services. However, virtual service does not solve everything, as this has exacerbated the digital divide. Chapter 6 explores the importance of community engagement, while chapter 7 delineates the repercussions of Covid-19 on traditional approaches to community engagement work. This is just one example of Taher’s clever editing, positioning chapters such that they directly address each other. The concluding survey about LAM responses to Covid-19 offers strategies for a “new normal” that emphasizes digital literacy and media activism.

Several chapters focus specifically on libraries, archives, and museums in Canada. Chapter 11 is a standout example, looking at missed opportunities in the Toronto Public Library’s