

*Interesting Book Review:

Lawal, Ibrinke O. *Library and information science research in the 21st century: a guide for practising librarians and students.* Oxford: Chandos Publishing, 2009. 212 pp. ISBN 978-1-84334-372-1. £47.00, \$80.00, €60.00

There is a certain danger in choosing a flashy and ambiguous title for a book. When I saw this one I was immediately intrigued by the ambition of the author to provide a forecast of the future development in library and information science. Of course, one should be well versed in the ongoing research to do this. Given the width and complexity of the research area it seemed a very bold attempt.

Alas, my expectations were severely deceived. The book does not provide any overview of the existing research, nor does it offer any insight into its future development over the course of the century. In fact, it seems that its author is not very aware of the amount and scope of the research in the field going on in the world or even in the USA. The USA seems to be the focus of the book as a few sentences on European curricula should not even be there as they may entirely confuse and mislead the reader about the actual scope of the book.

Instead of research as such, the author directs her attention to the development of the library and information science curriculum in the USA and advocates finding a place for research related subjects, especially research methods, within it. I applaud this passion and support this position not only in thought but in deed as well: teaching research methods to Master's students, guiding them in writing final examination paper based on a research project, etc. However, a glance at a number of Websites of schools and departments in the USA suggests that this point is already well taken by educators in the field.

As someone who does that in addition to conducting information research, I was quite surprised to read the laments as the one from the Conclusions:

It is perhaps not by design that research in LIS is sparse compared with other professions. The conduct of research can be a daunting task, particularly if it is only voluntary. It is hard to add research to the already crowded schedules librarians have every day. (p. 181).....

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