In her preface Peggy Johnson makes an important distinction regarding the coverage and scope of this book. She defines electronic collections as

the electronic content selected by librarians from a variety of sources for a library, managed by the library and made available for users. This content may be purchased, leased or available as free resources. It may be selected title by title or in bundled packages. The emphasis in this book is on developing and managing this type of collection.

Only certain aspects of e-collection development are covered, and certain digital formats/genres have been deliberately omitted. Open access is introduced but not explored in depth. Marketing, promoting of e-collections and user services are also not covered.

On a positive note Johnson explains clearly and in depth the complexities and the essential principles of selecting, acquiring, managing and budgeting for e-content. While this book has a US focus, the principles are applicable internationally. for example the work of International organisations dealing with e-content issues is discussed where relevant. This book is aimed at all libraries, large or small, dealing with e-collections.

It starts with the history and development of e-content. The next two chapters cover evaluation of e-resources, and selection and ordering of the actual items. Arguably the most important of the eight chapters in this text is Chapter 4, which is devoted to licences and contracts. Terminology is explained, key elements are outlined, issues that librarians must be aware of are discussed, and negotiating principles of the initial contract are clearly defined. License renewals and issues arising, such as conflict over price increases, are discussed. The often-thorny question of what happens to the collection once the subscription ceases is explored in depth.

Chapter 5 focuses on the conduct of business with the suppliers, whether publishers, aggregators, vendors or agents. This process is thoroughly explained step by step, and problem issues are discussed. The following chapter covers the actual management of the e-resource once in the library collection. Storage and retrieval in searching, discovery and access are outlined. Problem solving of common issues and concerns is illustrated.

The delicate area of accounting for e-resources in the library budget is the topic of the next chapter. Consortia and the pros and cons of joining one are discussed. The end chapter looks at future trends in e-technology. The glossary explains terminology in a user-friendly manner.

This book is highly suitable for librarians wrestling with the complex concepts of management of e-content within the contexts as outlined in the preface. It is ideal for students of library and information management, and especially so for experienced
professionals who need a resource that ties together the important elements of developing and managing e-content successfully in their respective libraries.

Kathryn Prescott

*Directorate-General Technical Airworthiness (RAAF)*