

San Jose State University

From the Selected Works of Ann Agee

2017

Book Review: Rewired: Research-Writing Partnerships within the Frameworks

Ann Agee, San Jose State University



Available at: https://works.bepress.com/ann_agee/33/

SOURCES

If you are an instruction librarian looking for a book with ready-made lesson plans or templates, then this book is not for you. As the authors note, “There are no cookie-cutter solutions. You will want to adapt the recommendations in this book to your real life and choose the strategies that work best for your own teaching” (6). *The One-Shot Library Instruction Survival Guide* will inspire instruction librarians to move beyond traditional bibliographic instruction, such as “click here, go there” demonstrations of library resources, to more engaging information literacy instruction sessions.—Magen Bednar, Undergraduate Services Librarian, Bizzell Memorial Library, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma

Rewired: Research-Writing Partnerships within the Frameworks. Edited by Randall McClure. Chicago: ACRL, 2016. 308 p. Paper \$68 (ISBN 978-083898904-3).

On many campuses, writing skills and research skills are supported in separate instructional silos. When it comes to college composition assignments, however, writing and research are interdependent, and this close relationship is evident in the many common elements shared by the Council of Writing Program Administrators (WPA) Framework for Success in Postsecondary Writing and the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education. How the core concepts in these frameworks interconnect and how librarians and writing instructors can work together to implement them in the classroom is the focus of *Rewired*.

Librarians and writing instructors frequently work separately, despite their shared values. The first section of *Rewired* examines this dynamic and presents ways to transform the relationship and develop mutually beneficial partnerships. The four essays in this portion analyze and interpret the frameworks, looking for ways to break down the campus/library division and give composition instructors and librarians a common language to use when designing assignments and providing students with research support.

The majority of the book is devoted to case studies demonstrating these partnerships in action. Contributors include both librarians and writing instructors, and the campuses represented range in size from small private colleges to large public universities. As a result, the case studies offer a variety of approaches and assignment types to serve as models, and the essays in this section frequently include assignment details, rubrics, and student learning objectives. In addition to these practical examples, this section also show how librarians have approached and worked with faculty to implement redesigned assignments.

Three chapters on assessment close the book. Whether the term used is “frames” or “habits of mind,” the ACRL and WPA frameworks both focus on behaviors. This makes assessment a challenge, and the essays in this section reflect that struggle. These chapters provide some potential best practices but no simple solutions.

Composition instructors, writing center directors, and academic librarians will find *Rewired* a source of ideas for

designing assignments and instruction in their own institutions. It will also help librarians and writing instructors understand each other’s viewpoints and priorities. A final interesting side note: nine of the book’s fourteen essays have Creative Commons licenses, making them freely available for reuse by readers. Sharing these chapters on campus could be the first step in a new interdisciplinary partnership.—Ann Agee, Librarian, School of Information, San Jose State University, San Jose, California

The Small and Rural Academic Library: Leveraging Resources and Overcoming Limitations. Edited by Kae-trena Davis Kendrick and Deborah Tritt. Chicago: ACRL, 2016. 264 p. Paper \$56 (ISBN 978-0-8389-8900-5).

Most forward-thinking and worthwhile academic library practices originate at large, well-staffed institutions. Unfortunately, translating such practices from a large-scale research library to a small institution or one-librarian operation can be difficult, if not utterly impossible. *The Small and Rural Academic Library: Leveraging Resources and Overcoming Limitations* bridges this gap by speaking to librarians who feel handicapped by their lack of resources.

The book is divided into five sections: Library and Outreach Services, Human Resources and Professional Development, Planning, Instruction, and Technology. Each section features multiple chapters with various authors, and several sections also include a librarian interview entitled “Big Ideas, Small Libraries,” which addresses the section topic via a Q-and-A-style article.

In many of the chapters, the “literature review” is almost comically predictable, with the admission that much of the research found on the topic came from large libraries, with more staff in the library than some rural colleges have on their entire campus. Discussion of implementation often reminds readers that, due to lack of staff and resources, timelines are stretched to accommodate incremental work, rather than instant, focused project management. For much of this discussion, small and rural librarians will be nodding their heads in agreement, but will also feel that the authors are “preaching to the choir.” This discussion is necessary, however, for those who may be new to the small or rural library, or may be interested in how practices are implemented on a smaller scale.

Because these chapters are written by those at small institutions, much of the information is presented in case study format, with a few quantitative, data-driven pieces sprinkled throughout. Many rural institutions are not equipped to dig deep into institutional research, and patron use of the library may be low enough to preclude any statistically significant findings. Still, the case studies are useful. For instance, chapter 7, “Mission Possible: Strategic Planning for Small Academic Libraries,” is a detailed look at how a small library took on the herculean task of creating a multi-year strategic plan. This is the kind of activity that can seem insurmountable when staff members spend the majority of their time