

ic Academic Programs,” “Innovative Models for Information Literacy Instruction,” and “Branching Out: Teaching Special Literacies.” Underlying these themes is the core strength of the book: the six ACRL frames (“Authority Is Constructed and Contextual”; “Information Creation as a Process”; “Information Has Value, Research as Inquiry”; “Scholarship as Conversation”; and “Searching as Strategic Exploration”). The editors have chosen wisely in providing a variety of academic library settings that demonstrate these frames, but they have also included time-related examples, such as modifying current ILI in an already popular offering, and the groundwork necessary in developing a wholly new ILI program in a brand new school.

The cohesive vision of both the ACRL’s framework and the book’s editors can be fully appreciated as the reader progresses through the book. Each chapter provides a different perspective on the framework, as the librarians describe how they applied this new approach to their unique academic situations, but each chapter also relates back to the theme it falls under, which might sound confusing, but it is not. Undergirded by the six frames and under the umbrella of one of the three themes, each disparate situation reveals the conceptual commonalities shared with the others. It becomes clear to readers fairly quickly how the interconnected core concepts provide both stability to the pedagogy and flexibility for the instructor, the students, and their situations. The result is a cohesive manual for instructional librarians that can either be read as a book or used as needed, chapter by chapter.

ILI manuals, guides, and books abound in library science and in academia. One I am familiar with

is *The Library Instruction Cookbook* (ISBN: 978-0-8389-8511-3; Chicago, IL: ACRL; 2009), edited by Sittler and Cook. While similar in essentials, it more closely resembles a recipe book but with little meat on the bone. This work by Ragains and Wood is more thorough and allows each contributor to explore and explain their situations’ requirements and the ways in which ACRL’s framework has helped synthesize their lesson plans. Questionnaires, workflow templates, and workshop agendas are included or appended in the appropriate chapters, thereby aiding readers by making the abstract concrete. Teaching approaches such as the “flipped classroom” and “one and done” are expounded upon using contemporary situations in a variety of settings. Collaboration with faculty, coworkers, and other departments (such as information technology) is stressed, but the book is also well grounded in the realities of time, staff, and budget for academic librarianship and librarians today. I found the inclusion of the instructional needs of librarians, so that they can effectively teach their patrons, both helpful and reassuring.

Lest the reader think that this book sounds very academic and abstract, rest assured, it is not. While there is some unevenness in tone and prose, given that each chapter has a different author; overall, the book is quite cohesive. Readers can easily extrapolate from the individual examples what portions of the presented pedagogy can be used in their own situations. I found myself admiring the painstaking dedication of the librarians who have developed and presented these programs, while also being able to imagine myself doing much the same in my own library. It is a volume I am sure to refer to in the

future as my patrons’ ILI needs change. Showing ACRL’s 2015 Framework through real-life examples not only provides readers an opportunity to reflect on the status of their current programs, but also provides information on the ways in which they might incorporate the six frames for patrons and staff alike. This book is recommended for any library that supports any level of research.

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Reed, Don C. **Stem Cell Battles: Proposition 71 and Beyond (How Ordinary People Can Fight Back Against the Crushing Burden of Chronic Disease—with a Posthumous Foreword by Christopher Reeve)**. Singapore: World Scientific Publishing; 2016. 432 p. \$49.95. Hardcover. ISBN: 978-981-4644-01-3. \$24.99. Softcover. ISBN: 978-981-4618-27-4. ©

Stem Cell Battles: Proposition 71 and Beyond tells the story of the efforts both to pass a law and earn sustained financial and political support for stem cell research in California, in particular for the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM). Reed, whose son became paralyzed in a football accident, is a passionate advocate for patient rights and stem cell research.

Reed’s personal involvement with the events chronicled in *Stem Cell Battles* imbues the narrative

with zeal and an enthusiasm that might otherwise be absent. He weaves anecdotes and inspirational personal details—both his own and those of other patient advocates—into the stories of legislative and political battles. Reed’s personal connection with the events that he recounts is a two-sided coin, however. The book would have benefited from more rigorous editing, as on several occasions, the author includes unimportant anecdotal details or otherwise goes off on tangents that do not add to the narrative in a substantive way. At times, the writing veers towards the bizarre, such as in the following passage:

From the last to the first, the plaintiffs argued that the government had entered the public comment period “with a closed mind,” unfairly ignoring the negative comments of those who wished to stop the program. But many of these letters were “not responsive.” If the question was how could embryonic stem cell research best go forward, answers that support shutting it down were off-topic. If someone asks, “Should we go to the movies or go bowling?” and someone

answers, “Pizza,” that is off-topic, although it may be desirable. (p. 241)

Although the author never claims to be an impartial observer, he is at times so partial as to make readers wonder whether reading an account written by an observer, rather than an advocate, might allow them to develop a more independent, informed opinion on the subject. While the author often cites reputable organizations from the popular and scientific press as sources (e.g., ABC News and *Nature Reports*, respectively), he cites Wikipedia on several occasions. We in the library community work hard to emphasize that while Wikipedia might not be a terrible place to start your research, it is not an appropriate place to end your research! Checking the information sources used in Wikipedia and citing those sources, once (and if) they were confirmed to be reputable and accurate, would lend more authority to some of the information presented in the book. This is especially important given Reed’s involvement and advocacy in the stem cell research community.

Overall the story is an inspiring one. Reed offers a concise expla-

nation of what stem cell research is and its connection (real or imagined) to many controversial topics, including cloning, abortion, and personhood. He makes a compelling case for the promise of stem cell research and shares numerous examples of the medical problems—from liver failure to diabetes to urinary incontinence to Parkinson’s disease—that could potentially be cured or alleviated with sufficient progress in stem cell research. The kind of progress that is only possible, Reed argues, through sustained financial investment and political support.

Stem Cells Battles tells an interesting story, one more appropriate for a lay reader than an expert in the field. It might find an appropriate home in your library if your collection includes sections devoted to either medical research advocacy or leisure reading.

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RESOURCE REVIEWS

Merck Manuals. 2016. Porter, Robert S., M.D. editor-in-chief, Merck Sharp & Dohme, a subsidiary of Merck & Co.; Kenilworth, NJ; <http://www.merckmanuals.com>; free website.

The first *Merck Manual* was published in 1899 by Merck & Co. as a pocket-sized reference aid for doc-

tors and pharmacists. The intended audience expanded in 1997, when the *Merck Manual of Medical Information: Home Edition* was added to the growing body of medical reference resources. In 2014, Merck published Merck Manuals (North America) and MSD Manuals (as it is known outside of North America) exclusively online

to advance their “Global Medical Knowledge 2020” initiative to provide access to current, credible medical information to “up to three billion professionals and patients on every continent by 2020” [1]. The Merck Veterinary Manual is a separate publication that is not reviewed here.