Data Research Book a 'Must Read' for All Information Professionals
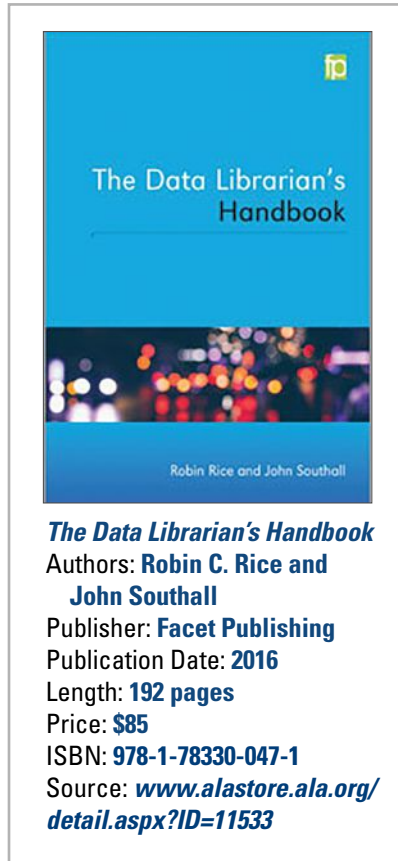
Robert L. Bailey, Ph.D., IGP, CRM

The *Data Librarian's Handbook* focuses on the changing priorities in library science and the growing interest in research data support. By offering practical guidance on collecting, curating, and crunching data for economic, social, and scientific purposes, it will be useful for any information professional, including librarians and record managers.

Key topics include:
- The evolution of data libraries and data archives
- Handling data compared to other forms of information
- Managing and curating data to ensure effective use and longevity
- Incorporating data literacy into mainstream library instruction and information literacy training
- Developing an effective institutional research data support policy and infrastructure
- Supporting and reviewing a data management plan for a project (a key requirement for most research funders)
- Developing, managing, and promoting data repositories
- Handling and sharing confidential or sensitive data
- Supporting open scholarship and open science, ensuring data is discoverable, accessible, intelligible, and assessable

Written by two data librarians with more than 30 years of combined experience, *The Data Librarian's Handbook* looks at the everyday role of the data librarian, as well as the needs and expectations of information users.

The Data Librarian's Handbook
Authors: **Robin C. Rice and John Southall**
Publisher: **Facet Publishing**
Publication Date: **2016**
Length: **192 pages**
Price: **$85**
ISBN: **978-1-78330-047-1**
Source: ***www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=11533***

The authors offer both experienced and inexperienced librarians advice for providing research data support for those who come to the modern library with great expectations.

Relevant for All Info Pros

This book assumes that readers are librarians with fundamental knowledge and abilities in this area, and the authors attempt to build on that as pragmatically as they can while linking daily tasks to broader goals and progressive initiatives.

Those who are not librarians should not be intimidated by the book, though. Information professionals will quickly understand the basic issues and enjoy reading how the authors solve problems. For an ostensibly dry subject, this book is a good read.

Although the book's acknowledgements point to librarians as being "worried that the field of data librarianship was changing faster than we could even fix our knowledge onto the page," any information professional's title – records manager, content manager, or information governance professional, for example – could be substituted in this sentence because all are experiencing this phenomenon.

As a former professor, I support the premise that information professionals should spread their net as widely as possible for interdisciplinary crosspollination. Everyone should be learning about and using research data management, as it is germane to their information specialization. We need to maximize the use of records as assets, enhancing those assets to get the greatest return on investment for our organizations.

Useful for Students, Educators

With its numerous case studies from a range of institutions and disciplines, tips for best practice, study aids, and links to key resources, this book is a must read for all veteran and new entrants to the field, as well as library and information students and lecturers where academic research support is taught. **E**

About the Author Robert Bailey, Ph.D., CRM, is records program administrator and EMC project leader at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas. Previously, he was records manager advisor in the Office of Chief Information Officer, St. Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. He is an active consultant, speaker, and seminar leader at numerous national conventions. Bailey can be contacted at *Robertbail@mccarran.com.*