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Book Review: Global Resource Sharing

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Frederiksen, L, Bean, M., & Nance, H. (2012) *Global Resource Sharing*. Information Professional Series. Oxford, UK: Chandos Publishing. isbn:978-1-84334-625-8.
Distributed in the U.S. by Neal-Schuman Publishers.

Global Resource Sharing, written by Linda Frederiksen, Head of Access Services at Washington state University Vancouver, Margaret Bean, Head of the Sciences Libraries at the University of Oregon in Eugene, and Heidi Nance, Head of Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery Services at the University of Washington Libraries in Seattle, aims to help interlibrary lending practitioners, especially newcomers, get a grasp on international resource sharing issues and practices. Beginning with a quick introduction that defines global resource sharing and a look at the history and obstacles that frame it, the book is arranged in a logical and coherent way. The authors announce their intent to include a global view, though all located in the United States, and, for the most part, succeed.

Following the introduction is an in depth history, including locations as diverse as Asian and Islamic countries, on the evolution of library to library sharing and interaction. Anecdotes from the history of interlibrary loan inspire pride in the profession. It is very clear that the authors love interlibrary loan and the possibilities of resource sharing. A handy timeline winds up chapter two's excellent lesson on the development of interlibrary loan.

Chapter three neatly brings the world of international interlibrary loan to the

reader's doorstep through a PEST and SWOT analysis. The authors paint a picture where international resource sharing is no longer something to be attempted, it is something that belongs to every practitioner and also something that is greatly affected by war, governmental alliances, natural disasters and resource inequalities. The breadth of author knowledge of how the world affects resource sharing is impressive, and challenges the reader to think beyond the small processes of interlibrary loan to the greater worldwide goals.

The authors then address the nitty gritty of international resource sharing, providing a lay of the landscape with tips, best practices, and resources of value to both the new and most experienced practitioners. Results from a survey of non-US libraries add to the scant existing information of what interlibrary lenders encounter the world over. This highly valuable insight, sorely needed by interlibrary lenders today, is the most powerful tool a reader will walk away with. Survey results continue with case studies on Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Egypt, Former Soviet Union, Israel, Latin America and the Caribbean, Netherlands, New Caledonia, Singapore, Sweden, United Kingdom, as well as the United States and expand on the history of resource sharing as well as the present impact of each country's infrastructure and copyright law on interlending activity.

Finally, a review of trends that affect interlibrary lending, including electronic licensing, open access, and copyright law, set the stage for imaginative scenarios into the future of international resource sharing that inspire the reader to think critically about interlibrary loan's current situation. Each scenario includes a SWOT analysis of its own, tying nicely back to the analysis of current practices. The book ends with a call to arms,

encouraging the now informed reader practitioners to make the difference and choose the future.

Global Resource Sharing does not solve the problem or provide a map to a new and better future of international interlibrary lending because there is no solution or map currently available to those in the field. It does pull together all of the factors, some oft overlooked, that influence the current situation and gives the reader tools with which they can affect the future of interlibrary lending.