

## **Practical Tips for Facilitating Research**

*Edited by Moira J. Bent*

Facet

London

2016

263 pp.

£49.95 soft cover

ISBN 978-1-78330-017-4

**Review DOI** [10.1108/EL-08-2016-0160](https://doi.org/10.1108/EL-08-2016-0160)

This book is very useful for those setting out in research support roles, but it is also of interest to those wanting to develop their research support services. This is a thoughtful and well-planned resource, with many examples of good practice from other libraries. Most of the sections have “best for” tips and “examples from practice”, as well as a “to think about” feature, which highlights any potential pitfalls and issues that may need further thought. Moira Bent has published other books with Facet, co-authored SCONUL’s *Seven Pillars of Information Literacy*, and her experience helps inform this volume.

I was very interested to hear about other universities’ practices. I think this book is one of the best that I have read in this area and there will be snippets of information that most readers will learn from. The structure works well and is flexible, allowing for more examples, more tips or more “to think about” issues as appropriate. The book adapts to its subject matter and its sources rather than sticking to a rigid format for each section.

I read it section by section, but it is a book which could be dipped into. There are eight subject sections along with an introduction and summary. A slight negative point about the book is that the chapter headings and subsections sometimes do not reflect the topics as well as they might: “Places and Spaces” for instance, covers a lot of promotions/marketing work which is not named and is not indexed either, but that is a quibble. The other sections cover: the Research environment; Strategies, such as collaborations and RDM support; Library staff roles, including the librarian as potential researcher; Collections, which looks at ways of promoting and exploiting resources; Interventions in the Research Lifecycle, which covers open access, systematic reviews, writing support and bibliometrics; and a section on Teaching mentions “just-in-time” teaching and the use of recordings and bite-sized sessions, such as Leicester University’s Elevesens, which are planned to fit into a coffee-break. The final section on Information Literacy discusses workshops. There are gems of ideas along the way, including looking at ways that the library can generate income, the use of secret shoppers and the value of involving employers in teaching.



This book is well worth buying as a team resource for librarians who work with researchers or for those planning to expand into this area. It is full of interesting insights into the practices of other universities and provides good tips.

**Jane Mansfield**

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## **Social Media and the Good Life: Do They Connect?**

*Edited by Mark Y. Herring*

McFarland

Jefferson, NJ

2015

216 pp.

US\$29.95 soft cover

ISBN 978-0-7864-7936-8

**Review DOI** [10.1108/EL-01-2017-0019](https://doi.org/10.1108/EL-01-2017-0019)

The purpose of this book is to examine the value of social media and discuss the legal and ethical pitfalls of usage. The book is written for a wide audience including government officials, educators and parents. Different social media platforms promote different usage, and Herring looks at the benefits and risks associated with that use.

Chapter 2 discusses how social media was designed to facilitate connections between people. Other chapters track the history of social networking and how the government uses social media. This includes how politicians such as Obama and Trump use social media in elections and Edward Snowden.

In the education context the discussion includes how there is no gatekeeper. The question asked is whether social media helps or hinders academic work, especially with privacy issues around online submissions and the risk of cyber snooping. It also talks about the problem of online predators and cyberbullying. Herring says that the next step is for legislation to enact cyberbullying laws to curtail its incidence. Benefits of social media in the education context include teaching students to read, spell and collaborate.

In Chapter 5, the discussion encompasses uses of social media by disabled people and talks about the benefit of bringing people together, exposing abuses and removing barriers to accessibility. Some of these solutions include technical advances such as voice recognition and text to speech programs. However, this cannot improve the majority of user-generated content and leads to the problem of enforcing accessibility laws.

The next chapter discusses the benefits of social media in the business community, especially through marketing, although statistics have not shown increased sales. Herring also discusses the rise of social media abuses at work. He predicts that businesses will need to create stronger social networking policies.

Privacy is a big issue stopping people using social media as the risk factors are high. Chapter 8 talks about the growing problem of identity theft so we need to protect