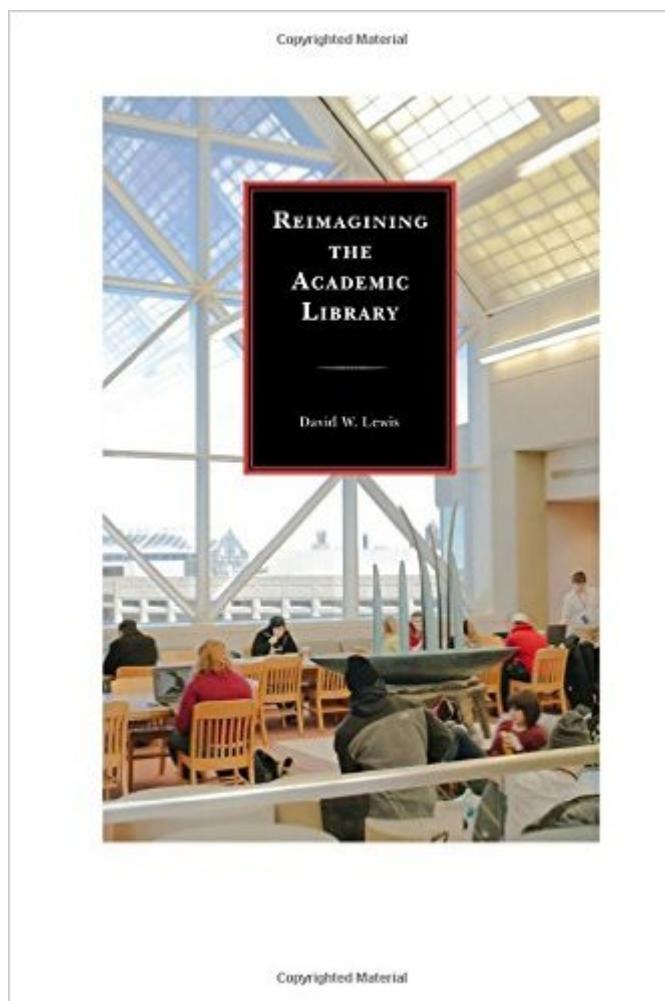


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# Reimagining The Academic Library



## **Synopsis**

Academic libraries are in the midst of significant disruption. Academic librarians and university administrators know they need to change, but are not sure how. Bits and pieces of what needs to happen are clear, but the whole picture is hard to grasp. Reimagining the Academic Library paints a simple straightforward picture of the changes affecting academic libraries and what academic librarians need to do to respond to the changes would help to guide future library practice. The aim is to explain where academic libraries need to go and how to get there in a book that can be read in a weekend. David Lewis provides a readable survey of the current state of academic library practice and proposes where academic libraries need to go in the future to provide value to their campuses. His primary focus is on collections as this is the area with the greatest opportunity for change and is the driver of most library cost. Lewis provides an accessible framework for thinking about how library practice needs to adjust in the digital environment. The book will be useful not only to academic librarians, but also for librarians to share with presidents and provosts who a concise source for understanding where and how to focus their expenditures on libraries.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Academic libraries have faced enormous disruption over the last 25 years. In this excellent overview of the current state of academic libraries, author David W. Lewis addresses the forces that academic libraries face, and the steps that need to be taken to address our changing circumstances. This book is divided into two sections; the first presents the forces facing libraries,

and the second the steps needed to address those forces. According to Mr. Lewis, the forces facing academic libraries are disruption, digital documents, the changing nature of the book, the new scholarly record, the economics of information, and changing demographics of library staff. Steps that we need to take to address these forces are: defining the job, creating the library as place, retiring the legacy print collection, preserving digital content, making the money work, and working with the "smart machine." Mr. Lewis concludes with a list of 10 things that we can do now (pp. 155-158):

- ¢ Retire the legacy print collection now
- ¢ Develop a space plan
- ¢ Have a materials budget strategy to manage the transition from traditional publishing models to open access
- ¢ Support the creation of, access to, and preservation of the scholarly content created on your campus
- ¢ Commit to the special collections your library will support and make the required investments
- ¢ Infuse the curriculum with the skills necessary to create and consume information productively
- ¢ Understand the demographics of your organization and have a plan to hire or develop the expertise the library will need
- ¢ Get the culture right
- ¢ Support the development and sustainability of network-level tools and services
- ¢ Sell the change

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