A RESOURCE FOR (ASPIRING)
LIBRARY AND INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS

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RESOURCE REVIEW

Book review of

Hosamani, S. (2019). *Handbook of Library and Information Science*. Larsen & Keller.

As the college librarian of the premier library and information science (LIS) school in the Philippines, it is typical for me to receive requests for book recommendations for students and readers who are still starting to learn about or have some little knowledge on the nature of library and information science.

In answering these inquiries, I am reminded of what Tyckoson and Dove (2014) have written regarding the librarians' task of giving recommendations:

> *Every time a librarian recommends one source over others—or in addition to others—we are providing readers' advisory services to our users. Since most questions do not have factual answers, we do a lot of recommending of books, databases, websites, and other resources. This is a common practice in every kind of library, even though we do not always call it readers' advisory. (p. 8)*

Reiterating this point, this brief book review will provide details and some information about a reference book in LIS: *Handbook of Library and Information Science* by Dr. Satish Kumar S. Hosamani.

In this book published in 2019, Hosamani systematically and concisely presents LIS concepts, methods, and theories accompanied by examples and applications. The clear and well-defined presentation of these concepts is visibly essential to the learning and understanding of the readers, particularly LIS students who are in the preliminary stages of understanding the nature of the profession. With only 211 pages including an index, this book stays true to its being a "handbook." As defined by Reitz (2004), a handbook is "a single-volume reference book of compact size that provides concise factual information on a specific subject, organized systematically for quick and easy access" (para. 20).

Looking at the table of contents, one would see that this handbook is divided into four chapters. Each chapter contains topics connected to the main theme. The main themes seen in the chapters cover both the theoretical and practical aspects of the LIS profession—Chapter 1 provides a succinct introduction to library as an institution and library science as a discipline; Chapter 2 tackles the foundational facets of information science such as information services and sources, information management, and research methods; Chapter 3 discusses the use and importance of information and communication technologies in libraries; and lastly, Chapter 4 presents library classification and technical

Bagunu, J. R. M. (2020). A resource for (aspiring) library and information professionals.
Philippine Journal of Librarianship and Information Studies, 40 (2), 93-94.

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services (and use of cataloging and metadata) in libraries. Each chapter has a summary, which further makes this handbook an easy read.

The visualizations used in the book make the discussions of the contents more interesting. Visualizations such as diagrams, tables, conceptual framework, etc. definitely play an essential role in defining or illustrating what the topic is all about. As Matthews (2016) explains, the appeal of visualization is not surprising, given that our brains find it easier to process information when presented as an image rather than as words or numbers. Present-day examples and data also supplement the subjects discussed. For example, one interesting topic is on the *Five Laws of Library Science* by S.R. Ranganathan where the original laws and new conceptions in the current environment are likewise presented.

Together with the discussions on the practical applications of LIS theories, this book's timeliness is another add-on. Timeliness of information is one of the criteria mentioned by Bemis (2014) in evaluating information sources, as it reflects current trends, issues, or historical perspectives. For instance, there are discussions on libraries and emerging trends (pp. 5-6, 13-14), information sources (pp. 104, 107), and technologies in the libraries such as automation (pp. 141, 143). One will also see that this book presents the current status of the profession and specializations in library and information science that are particularly helpful to those who will begin their career in this field.

Hence, this handbook provides an "orientation" to those who are about to enter the LIS profession. Fundamental topics on librarianship, technology, information science, and basic technical services in the libraries are covered. Incoming freshmen students will find this material useful, and also for those who are still trying to figure out their research topics or projects in their LIS requirements, since this material has helpful examples and applications of theories. This will also be a handy and practical source for LIS teachers in creating their modules that need concise explanations of LIS concepts and functions, especially during this time of online and flexible learning.

DECLARATION ON CONFLICTING INTERESTS
The author declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

DECLARATION ON SOURCES OF FUNDING
The author received no financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

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Bagunu, J. R. M. (2020). A resource for (aspiring) library and information professionals. *Philippine Journal of Librarianship and Information Studies, 40* (2), 93-94.