

2010

Review of Librarians as Community Partners: An Outreach Handbook

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Recommended Citation

Abate, Anne K. K. and Vogel, Alita (2010) "Review of Librarians as Community Partners: An Outreach Handbook," *Collaborative Librarianship*: Vol. 2: Iss. 4, Article 10.

DOI

<https://doi.org/10.29087/2010.2.4.10>

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.du.edu/collaborativelibrarianship/vol2/iss4/10>

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Review of Librarians as Community Partners: An Outreach Handbook

Keywords

Library outreach programs, collaboration, community

Review of *Librarians as Community Partners:*
An Outreach Handbook

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This collection of essays about library outreach programs includes contributions from public, academic, school, and special libraries across the United States. Each of the thirty-six essays describes a specific program implemented to increase awareness of the library and services offered, the steps taken to bring it to fruition, and the benefits to the library and community.

The collection begins with descriptions of sample outreach programs for senior citizens, youth, campus, and correctional facility populations. The middle section includes essays for using local media, book festivals, classrooms, and diversity as springboards for outreach. The final section describes collaborative efforts with community groups and offers suggestions on how to bring them into the library.

The wide variety of outreach programs and types of contributing libraries provides plenty of sample programs to adapt for use in any library. The profiled projects cover everything from story time at the swimming pool to having a library television program as well as grant writing and providing ser-

vices to your local prison. Since the essays are grouped by the type of outreach activity discussed, it is easy to concentrate on a specific population or type of outreach program.

Although the book is useful for the large number of programs included, it is not a handbook in any real sense. Most of the articles are too short to provide any details about how to initiate or administer an outreach program. There is an index that makes it easier to locate specific programs, locations, or tools and techniques used by the programs. The book is recommended as a tool to generate ideas on the many ways libraries and librarians are able to reach out to their communities.

Smallwood, Carol, Ed. *Librarians as Community Partners: An Outreach Handbook*. American Library Association, Chicago: 2009. 204 p. ISBN 9780838910061
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