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Barbara M. Pope

Pittsburg State University, bpope@pittstate.edu

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Review of *Academic Library Outreach: Beyond the Campus Walls*

Barbara M. Pope, MALS, Periodicals/Reference Librarian, Leonard H. Axe Library, Pittsburg State University, KS (bpoppe@pittstate.edu)

Nancy Courtney, ed. *Academic Library Outreach: Beyond the Campus Walls*. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2009.

This collection of essays written by academic librarians explores academic library outreach from several different perspectives. The editor, Nancy Courtney, acknowledges that there are diverse definitions for what constitutes academic library outreach. In her introduction she challenges the reader to think beyond the campus walls in order to establish unexpected, productive, and collaborative relationships with people and organizations throughout the community. The essays are not prescriptive in their approach. Each chapter presents examples of how academic libraries implement outreach, expanding it from the traditional approach which is focused on the campus itself, to a model where the library mission includes service to the community. For example, as Courtney notes, many academic libraries allow community members to use library computers, the print collections--and for some libraries--limited access to electronic resources. In addition, some academic libraries offer training workshops for librarians in the community and many libraries participate in cooperative collection development. Readers learn what academic libraries do to reach out to area grade schools, home schooled students, the community and organizations within it, and other libraries and museums. Outreach projects include creating an online digital archive, bibliographic instruction, promoting literacy among children, and expanding access to government and health information. Academic library outreach is necessary because it makes the academic library more relevant to the non-campus community since it provides tangible and meaningful service. This book's practical approach is sure to give readers many ideas about how to implement a successful outreach program at their library.

Academic Library Outreach: Beyond the Campus Walls is divided into five sections: K-12 and Information Literacy, Special Collections and Digital Projects, Events and Exhibits, and Discipline-Specific Outreach. This 270 page book, includes an annotated bibliography, index, and notes about contributors. It would be an excellent addition to all academic library collections.