
Book reviews

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The Strategic Management of Technology: A Guide for Library and Information Services

David Baker

Chandos

Oxford

2004

£39.00 (Softcover)

305 pp.

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Keywords Technology led strategy, Information services

Review DOI 10.1108/02640470510635791

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In *The Strategic Management of Technology* – David Baker offers a fresh and very practical overview of aspects to consider for managing technology. He firmly believes a strategic approach will minimise the chances of failure, since it will mean that the critical success factors will be taken into consideration. He, therefore, offers numerous practical guidelines and advice in this regard, which are also reflected in the four case studies on projects from the UK, USA and the Sudan.

Baker holds an MBA degree from the Open University in the subject area of strategic management of technology, and has published widely in the LIS literature. He is thus well equipped to tackle the complexities, intricacies and challenges of the strategic management of technology. In a very practical, to the point manner, Baker starts off by considering the concept of strategic technology management, which includes strategy, technology, value and mission statements and technology management. In Chapter 2 he deals with invention, innovation, improvement and integration in a fairly detailed discussion. Scenario planning and systems thinking as two methods of strategic planning are, respectively, covered in Chapters 3 and 4. Chapter 5 covers strategy implementation, while Chapter 6 offers a summary of the book. Although there are many references to private sector organisations and their approaches, Baker, where possible, attempted to relate these to the public sector where most libraries and information services find themselves.

The Strategic Management of Technology – is a clear, well-written and logically structured publication. Although firmly based in the theory of strategic management and IT development as is clear from the extensive lists of references, each chapter takes a very practical approach to real-life complexities. This makes *The Strategic Management of Technology* – an excellent companion for the busy IT manager.

The book concludes with an extensive list of sources for further reading and a good, 7-page index.

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The Strategic Management of Technology – is recommended for all LIS professionals who have to manage changing IT environments, and need advice on strategic issues: it does not only offer sound practical advice, but also good pointers to the subject literature and a theoretical bases for strategic management.

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Emerging Issues in the Electronic Environment: Challenges for Librarians and Researchers in the Sciences

Edited by Jeannie P. Miller

Haworth Information Press

Binghamton, NY

2005

US\$29.95 (Softcover)

258 pp.

ISBN 0-7890-2578-7

Keywords Sciences, Academic libraries, Electronic publishing

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Previously published as an issue of *Science & Technology Libraries*, this book provides an interesting mix of practical and theoretical considerations for librarians and STM researchers. In the two intriguing introductory chapters, Julie Hurd incorporates the digital aspects of scientific publishing into an updated version of Garvey and Griffith's model of scientific communication. She also gives an enlightening description of the behind-the-scenes complexity involved in the "seamless" resource linking so beloved of librarians and researchers. Elizabeth Cooksey then draws a parallel between serendipity and metaphor, where ideas are linked without a prescriptive statement of exactly how they are linked: by making available both digital and non-digital resources, librarians facilitate the juxtaposition of ideas in users minds.

Next up are e-journals. Linda Ells assesses the economic impact on libraries and researchers of e-journal-only collections, bundled journal packages, and more. She describes the effect of various publishing models on archiving, user needs, and tenure, whilst stressing that there's more knowledge in the world than is found in the core journals. Michael Fosmire assesses the influence of online archives on the use and citation of journal articles, and concludes that there may well be a 10 percent enhancement in citation rate for papers with online access. Analysis of the use of online supplementary material in 65 STM journals leads Schaffer and Jackson to several recommendations for improving the accessibility of such material. Tony Bremholm cleverly illustrates the use of online resources for bibliometric study, but warns of the potential issues of access, fair use, electronic format, and others that may complicate such research.

Helping researchers stay current and organised in the face of the digital onslaught with current awareness services (an important but sadly neglected topic for STM researchers) is described by Patrick Sullivan, while Robert McGeachin