

*Listening to Learn: Audiobooks Supporting Literacy.* Sharon Grover and Lizette D. Hannegan. Chicago, ALA, 2012. 188 p. Paper \$45 (ISBN 978-0-8389-1107-5).

This book's authors argue for the increased use of audiobooks as student reading material and for the integration of audiobooks into curricula for students of all ages. To this end, they "introduce some of the research linking audiobook listening and literacy development and equip readers with many titles, standards, and instructional activities to facilitate the use of audiobooks in classrooms, libraries and homes" (2).

After a brief summary of research supporting audiobooks as tools for literacy development, the book's focus turns to learning standards and the audiobooks' ability to complement instruction. Connecting audiobook themes to elements of the curriculum means that "all good stories and information resources can be enhanced with listening experiences that become learning experiences" (17). National, state, and local curricula are cited here, providing support for using audiobooks for learning.

The next chapters divide the grade levels into four groups (grades K–2, 3–5, 6–8, and 9–12) and provide age-appropriate examples of audiobook titles, covering their themes and their connections with curricular instructional objectives. The authors provide brief summaries of talking books, curriculum tie-ins, and information about specific standards. For example, a title about dealing with bullying is linked to a health curriculum: "Students will learn strategies to reduce and prevent violence and implement peaceful resolution of conflicts" (110). Others are linked to math, science, social science, history, and English.

A chapter titled "Connecting it all" offers ideas to support audiobooks in classrooms and libraries and at home. Unfortunately, these suggestions are too brief and include rather generic ideas such as group discussions, response journals, compare-and-contrast exercises, and so forth. These ideas might help one get started, but too many details are left to readers. The book ends with an unnecessary account of the technological developments that have brought us to the listening experience we know today, followed by very brief advice on acquisitions.

This work is a useful collection development resource for both school and public libraries, as well as for anyone interested in recommended "listening." The authors include many "notable" lists by subject (such as *Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students, K-12*) and a list of print award-winning books that are also available in audio format. Peppered throughout are "testimonials" from librarians, authors, and audiobook narrators about the magic of audiobooks; these reinforce for readers the real-life benefits of "listening to learn."—Sarah J. Hart, *Branch Librarian, Chatham-Kent Public Library, Chatham, Ontario, Canada*

*Small Business and the Public Library: Strategies for a Successful Partnership.* Luise Weiss, Sophia Serlis-McPhillips, and Elizabeth Malafi. Chicago: ALA, 2011. 132 p. Paper \$55 (ISBN 978-0838909935).

Current news abounds with reports on high unemployment rates, shrinking government services, and a dire need for small business development to help jump-start a faltering economy. During times of economic stress, public libraries often have been called upon to provide services and resources to local businesses, yet many books on this topic date back to the 1990s. This new book, *Small Business and the Public Library*, is a timely volume that will be appropriate for some public library professional collections.

The title, preface, and chapter titles of *Small Business and the Public Library* indicate a book focused on small businesses' need for support and public libraries' importance as a partner of small businesses. The book is organized into eight chapters, with topics ranging from collection development to programming, marketing, and partnerships. Unfortunately, the book may be somewhat disappointing to practitioners looking solely for information on aiding small businesses. Throughout the book, the authors provide some excellent examples of collaboration; however, it is somewhat disconcerting to find sections of this compact book devoted not to small business, but to material and resources related to career services. But given the dearth of current material on the market, this book still offers solid value for those who seek to establish or expand a small business center: the authors are clearly experienced, passionate advocates for business and career services in public libraries.

For additional if outdated comparisons, interested readers should also look at Rosemarie Riechel's *Public Library Services to Business* (1994) or Maxine Bleiweis's *Helping Business: The Library's Role in Economic Development: A How to do it Manual* (1997). Reichel's book reports on survey results from both public and corporate library business services, with an explicit chapter on service barriers. Bleiweis's manual covers basic ground and includes with plans, surveys, forms, and advertising information.

For those interested in collection development for a small business center, *Small Business* is a solid starting point for some core business resources, but this material may be nicely supplemented by Rita Moss's new edition of *Strauss's Handbook of Business Information*, released in February 2012. Previous editions of Strauss's book have proven invaluable to many libraries offering business reference services. Last, for those interested in the career resource sections, Jane Jerrard's 2009 title *Crisis in Employment: A Librarian's Guide to Helping Job Seekers* offers useful information to complement *Small Business and the Public Library*.—Serin Anderson, *Collection Development & Administrative Services Librarian, University of Washington Tacoma, Tacoma, Washington*