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Info Career Trends

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Review: Self-Examination: The Present and Future of Librarianship

Published by [rachel](#) at 11:47 am under [book reviews](#)

Budd, John M. *Self-Examination: The Present and Future of Librarianship* [Beta Phi Mu Monograph Series]. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2008. ISBN: 978-1-59158-591-6. 296 pages. \$60.00.

John M. Budd answers some good librarianship trivia questions in chapter one of his philosophical tome, *Self-Examination: The Present and Future of Librarianship*. For example, do you know what year Benjamin Franklin started the Library Company of Philadelphia? He answers this within a discussion of early efforts to make libraries accessible to the public. I found several interesting sound bites inside this book, like the expression "species of librarianship," with Budd's example being academic librarians. Budd also states, "Librarianship must be concerned with truth" and lastly he says, "All libraries serve some civic purpose (even corporate libraries)." There is so much material contained within these chapters, spot on and controversial, depending on your library-world view, that I would love to have the author engage those of us interested in continuing the discussion. After all, he states in his introduction that, "If as librarians, we are to be authentic individuals and professionals, we can only become so through dialogue." Let the dialogue begin in today's style - via a podcast!

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