

## BOOK REVIEW / CRITIQUE DE LIVRE

**Developing Library Leaders: A How-To-Do-It® Manual for Coaching, Team Building, and Mentoring Library Staff.** By R.D. Stueart and M. Sullivan. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, 2010. 106 pages (soft cover). ISBN 978-1555707255. US\$80.00.

With the recent death of Stephen Covey (author of *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*), leadership is once again in the news. In addition to Covey's works, there are many bestselling books expounding various theories of leadership. However, running libraries is not the same as running a Fortune 500 company, making books specific to library leadership and its development essential.

*Developing Library Leaders* starts out by making a distinction between managers, who handle "things" and administrative duties and learn to live with situations, and leaders, who take control of those situations, creating a vision and influencing others to share that vision. Herein lies the need to work with staff to build the skills required to move that vision forward.

At 106 pages, the book provides a quick and useful introduction to many important aspects of leadership and staff development. Starting with an overview of different models and necessary characteristics of effective leaders, successive chapters cover team building, project management, coaching, mentoring, and succession planning. Throughout the book, the authors provide tips and practical self-assessment and planning exercises. Sidebars include recommended readings.

*Developing Library Leaders* is written by two authors with strong credentials in the field of library management; however, their background is mainly in academic settings. This is reflected in the book, making it more appropriate for larger libraries with staffing models that would allow for team building, coaching, and mentoring. In addition, while the intended audience is libraries and other information services organizations, most of the content is very general in nature and would be suitable for anyone running a larger nonprofit organization.

This book is recommended for those wanting an introduction or overview of leadership skills including team building and effective communication. Additional reading in the topics covered would probably be necessary for those in or aspiring to take on leadership roles in academic or other larger health libraries. Of particular value is the monthly "Leading from the Library", a *Library Journal* opinion column written by Steven Bell (<http://lj.libraryjournal.com/category/opinion/leading-from-the-library/>).

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