works on French publishing history. He has also served as a trustee of the New York Public library and, early in his career, as a reporter for *The New York Times*. As a scholar, author, and reporter, Darnton brought an impressive, well-rounded understanding of traditional print publishing to the negotiating table with Google.

Given this intimate personal and professional history with what he calls "e-books and old books," Darnton brings interesting insights to this discussion of the role of print and electronic media in the present and future. "Far from deploring electronic modes of communication," he states that his goal is to "explore the possibilities of aligning them with the power that Johannes Gutenberg unleashed more than five centuries ago. What common ground exists between old books and e-books? What mutual advantages link libraries with the Internet?" Darnton's grappling with these questions is the subject of this lively and highly readable collection.

As the subtitle suggests, the book is divided into three sections: Past, Present, and Future, containing a total of eleven essays. It's really a compact anthology of Darnton's thoughts on the modern state of the codex, as all the essays were previously published between 1999 and 2009, mostly in the *New York Review of Books* and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. The content has been revised and edited for this volume.

Darnton covers a range of topics. He provides an overview of the "information landscape," drawing on his background as a journalist and researcher to place the creation and "stability" of information into historic context. He discusses the significant merits and shortcomings of Google's book digitization project and discusses the role of the library in the electronic information age. He writes about other electronic publishing efforts, particularly the American Historical Association's Gutenberg-e project and the role of the monograph in the tenure process.

In one essay, he takes on Nicholson Baker's controversial *Double Fold*, addressing each of Baker's main points, noting that Baker's text "should be read as a journalistic jeremiad rather than a balanced account of library history over the last fifty years." Other essays address the importance of descriptive bibliography and the "heretical" work of Donald F. McKenzie, the love of reading and the work of seventeenth century British bibliophile William Drake, as well as the book's closing essay, the appropriately titled "What Is the History of Books?"

Through it all, Darnton holds true to his own love of books, be they electronic texts or eighteenth-century French tomes, and invites us to share his enthusiasm through a series of reasoned, thoughtful essays. Any librarian with a love of book history or concerns about the future of the profession will find much to agree with, and much to debate, in this well-written volume.—*Gene Hyde, Radford University.*

Thomas A. Peters. *Library Programs Online: Possibilities and Practicalities of Web Conferencing.* Santa Barbara, Calif.: Libraries Unlimited, 2009. 159p. alk. paper, $40 (ISBN 9781591583493). LC2009-027036.

The ways we communicate have changed drastically in the last decade. The traditional in-person, written, and telephone communications are now complemented by a host of new technologies such as smartphones, computers, laptops and netBooks. Geographic boundaries and time itself are much less significant bar-

riers, and Web conferencing resources constitute yet another technology that stands to push the limits of communication further.

Library Programs Online is a practical guide for those involved with implementing online library program services, and it is written toward the newly appointed managers. It explores a wide range of ways that libraries can use this technology for live group events, prerecorded programs and podcasts, and previously recorded archived events.

Although this book is geared toward public and academic libraries, the general concepts it covers are applicable to anyone who deals with Web conferencing tools. Several of the topics and examples in this book derive from the years of experience the author has had while working with public libraries and Online Programs for All (OPAL).

The author, Thomas A. Peters, lays a solid foundation for how to successfully and efficiently use online Web conferencing resources. The chapters are logically structured, beginning with the basics of human communication and the ways in which technology has changed traditional modes of interaction. Chapters 1 and 2 introduce the reader to Web conferencing and provide glimpses into working online library programming services. The following nine chapters deal with the nuts and bolts of these tools.

Chapter 3 examines the basic process of developing online public programs. It includes useful tips for assessing the user interface and how to decide on the most appropriate types of presentation delivery mechanism (interviews, open discussions, single-person lectures, and panel discussions). A list of eleven common Web conferencing systems is provided, which combines, but does not specify, free and proprietary systems. It also covers governing and management strategies for single and multiorganization programs.

Chapter 4, entitled "Web Conferencing Systems," delves into the different types of library-related conferencing software

that one will currently find on the market. This chapter is very handy to get acquainted with the unique characteristics, tools, capabilities, important criteria for selecting platforms, and pitfalls to avoid. The downfall is that it does not provide specific system names as examples, so the reader is left guessing which is free and which costs money.

Chapter 5 serves as a short checklist of things to consider for training, orientation, and required support. It addresses the important aspects of preparing speakers as well as participants for programs. Chapter 6 covers the traditional topics of how to promote and market your programs, and chapter 7 debates the pros and cons of one-shot programs versus multiday programs.

Chapter 8 discusses the various options to consider when recording, archiving, and podcasting. This chapter deals with important issues such as copyright, collection development and maintenance, and preservation of digital documents associated with the online programs. It also touches on postrecording editing.

Chapter 9 gives useful advice on how to obtain and evaluate each aspect of an online program: individual programs, speakers, efficacy of the technology, program formats, attendee demographics, and attendee perceptions of the program. It ties all of these evaluation methods together into a more comprehensive evaluation of the entire online program service.

Chapter 10 outlines some of the main issues that surround online programs. This section compiles common issues brought up about online services and resources, such as arguments against online library events, in-person versus online conferences, collaboration among institutions, and sustainability issues. The last chapter takes a cursory look into the future of Web conferencing, how its use continues to evolve as a common method for public service and professional use.

Overall, this book will be useful for those who work with Web conferencing resources, and especially

to those who are developing any type of online library programming. —*John Repplinger, Willamette University.*

Mirjam M. Foot. *The Henry Davis Gift: A Collection of Bookbindings. Volume III: A Catalogue of South-European Bindings.* London and New Castle, Del.: The British Library and Oak Knoll Press, 2010. 527p. $125 ISBN: 9780712350549 (British Library) and 9781584562726 (Oak Knoll). LC80510312.

It is good to see volume three of Mirjam Foot's excellent contribution to the history of bookbindings. With it, one of our foremost scholars in the field brings to a conclusion a project that began more than thirty years ago. When Henry Davis deeded his spectacular collection of bindings to the then–British Museum in 1968, the latter acquired an extraordinary array of specimens from the 12th through the mid-20th century. In 1978, Foot, who served for many years as Director of Collections and Preservation in the British Library, brought out volume I of her planned three-volume set. It was titled *Studies in the History of Bookbinding*, and it consisted of a remarkable series of short pieces on individual bindings, binders, and patrons in the collection. For it, Foot chose "those bindings which have not previously been the object of detailed study or about which new facts can be told." With volume II in 1983, Foot brought out the first installment of her catalogue proper of the collection, and it immediately became a standard reference work in the field. As *A Catalogue of North-European Bindings*, volume II comprised short descriptive entries organized by country and accompanied by full-page illustrations of most of the bindings.

Volume III takes, for its turf, bindings in the Davis gift from France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Switzerland (with a few outliers from exotic spots like New York and Mexico). While the general format conforms to that of volume II, individual entries are more generous, with the author paying much more attention to structural and decorative features. For practitioners as well as scholars, Foot's careful descriptions of binding structures will be enormously useful. Indeed, if you compare the individual entries in volume III with those found in the online British Library Database of Bookbindings, you will immediately appreciate the value of the printed text. While the database has many winning features and is a breeze to use, it does not carry over the rich textual descriptions that Foot prepared for the present volume. (Perhaps they will be added at some point in the future.) Each entry contains discrete sections on provenance, references, and literature, supplemented as appropriate with separate notes on tools, decorations, and relationships to other described bindings. The only regret I have about this volume (as well as about the first two) is that illustrations are not in color. I am sure that there are good reasons for that choice, but it would have been better had even a selection been reproduced in color. Happily, to get the color versions, you can go conveniently to the BL Database of Bookbindings.

The Davis collection gathers together choice bindings from the high end of the trade, and Foot makes clear in her introduction that one should not draw sweeping conclusions from them. That said, there is a wealth of information to assimilate here, and it will take years for scholars and curators to absorb the richness of Foot's commanding work. Few have done more than Foot over her distinguished career to make the case for the importance of the history of bookbinding to bibliography and the history of the book in general. As the capstone of her Davis project, the present volume will remain an essential and enduring reference tool.—*Michael Ryan, Columbia University.*