

that best fit their institution and can glean from them the parts that will best work for them. With more than twenty pages of appendices, Breivik provides ample information to support any new information literacy endeavor.

This volume is an important resource for all academic libraries that are looking at ways to create information literacy programs or to enhance existing instructional programs. Instruction librarians unsure of where to start in the implementation of a new literacy program will be well served by the information found in this book.—*Laverne Simoneaux, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond.*

*Chilling Admissions: The Affirmative Action Crisis and the Search for Alternatives.* Ed. Gary Orfield and Edward Miller. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Education Publishing Group, 1998. 132 p. \$15.95 (ISBN 1-891792-00-8). LC 98-71079.

Affirmative action is a loaded term these days. In some instances, the discussion of affirmative action focuses on the widespread discrimination in hiring and promotion practices that it is intended to address, as well as the under-representation of women and minorities in many professions and in administrative positions (including those in academic libraries). At other times, and in other contexts, the discussion is focused on what is perceived, by some, to be another type of discrimination—which they believe is being perpetuated by affirmative action policies and “minority set-aside” programs. In the academic environment, there are important considerations both with regard to the composition of faculty, staff, and student body, but also to the representation of diverse perspectives in the classroom and library.

*Chilling Admissions*, the publication of the results of a project funded by the MacArthur, Mellon, Rockefeller, and Charles Stewart Mott Foundations, among others, is the first publication by the new think tank, the Harvard Civil Rights Project. Working with a variety of theoretical perspectives, historical analy-

sis, and empirical research, this book is based on the premise that there is a compelling need for the use of empirical data in the investigation of issues related to affirmative action. It is also based on the assumption that there is a need to provide substantive evaluation of both the results of eliminating race, as a factor, in admissions and financial aid decisions, and of the potential for success of alternative strategies—such as affirmative action based on class—in achieving a culturally diverse student body.

The foreword and introduction, written by Harvard law and education faculty, Edley and Orfield respectively, frame the discussion in terms of the legislation and judicial decisions that have shaped civil rights and affirmative action programs and debate in the U.S., including *Brown vs. the Board of Education*, the Bakke case, and Hopwood. Other authors—including administrators and academics in the areas of law, education, public affairs, and sociology—provide historical overview and current analysis of the issues. They focus on critical legal cases as they relate to affirmative action in the states of California, Texas, Maryland, and Mississippi. These authors provide evidence which disproves many of the widely held assumptions about affirmative action, including the idea that enrollments of white and Asian students will rise sharply with the elimination of affirmative action and that only admissions, not applications and enrollment, of minorities will be affected by the elimination of race-based approaches.

*Chilling Admissions* is generally well-written and relatively comprehensive in coverage. The focus is on those states which have been most affected by recent court decisions and legislation. Major shortcomings are the lack of an index, and the inconsistent handling of lists of references and notes, and in the presentation and discussion of data among the chapters—the latter making comparison and synthesis difficult.

This book presents a convincing argument that the abandonment of affirma-

tive action programs has had a negative impact on minority admissions. Its abandonment also affects enrollment; the number of minority applicants declines and some of those who are accepted choose to attend other institutions which may offer more welcoming environments and more students like themselves. The reader is presented, in *Chilling Admissions*, with a substantive, research-based discussion of an issue critical to academic libraries.—Mark Winston, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

*Digital Culture: Maximising the Nation's Investment: A Synthesis of JISC/NPO Studies on the Preservation of Electronic Materials.* Ed. Mary Feeney. London: British Library Board, 1999. 85p. (ISBN 0-7123-4645-7).

It has been clear for some time that in digital preservation matters the U.K. and Australian library and archival communities are well in advance of those in the U.S.A. This booklet emphatically marks the practical progress that Britain has made so far and is an essential framework for anyone working in the difficult area of digital preservation. Its eight chapters

are related to the previous work of a number of U.K. agencies; the seven relevant studies are included in the brief bibliography. (JISC is the Joint Information Services Committee of the U.K. Higher Education Funding Council, an outgrowth of the 1993 Follett Commission that articulated the digital library needs for U.K. universities; NPO stands for the National Preservation Office.)

We can be grateful to the Digital Archive Working Group (DAWG) and its chair Peter Fox for commissioning this progress report. Its collation of the crucial studies over the past three years (none older than 1997) shows the remarkable speed with which important work can be done. This summary also displays one common characteristic of the varied study groups: the usefulness that each one found in taxonomy.

The chapter on stakeholders describes potential interested parties (e.g., creators, rights-holders, providers, archivists, regulators) and the nature of their interests. The chapter on technological decisions examines the major technological approaches: technology preservation, technology emulation, and data migra-

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