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Buchanan and McDonoughs' "The one-shot library instruction survival guide" (Book Review)

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Book Reviews



Buchanan, H. E., McDonough, B. A. (Eds.). (2017). *The one-shot library instruction survival guide*. 2nd edition. Chicago: American Library Association. 154 pp. \$50.00. ISBN 9780838914861

One only has a single chance to make a first impression. This naturally leads to a tension in “one-shot library sessions,” between the need to engage quickly and the need to teach thoroughly. Nevertheless, “It is still possible to make any one-shot session relevant and meaningful.” Buchanan and McDonough have packed a big punch in a small package. While the volume is not “a cookbook of ready-made lesson plans,” it is a one-stop shop for “big ideas” and “creative solutions.” Topics include keys to collaboration, classroom strategies, online methods, assessment techniques, and time management principles. In this second edition, the third chapter examines the new ACRL *Information Literacy Competency Standards*. Other subjects have also been updated or elongated to reflect the most recent “best practices” supported by evidence-based scholarship. Chapter four, the longest discussion in the book, covers multiple teaching methods, including one-minute papers, think-pair-shares, gallery walks, concept maps, role-play scenarios, jigsaws, and other learning games. Chapter six, covering assessment, discusses CATs (classroom assessment techniques), performance assessment rubrics, tests and quizzes, and post-instruction surveys and interviews. The volume’s golden nuggets of wisdom include: “The teaching librarian’s mantra should be to push back without being pushy.” “Liberate yourself from the role of presenter and focus instead on being a facilitator of learning.” “Even the best, most seasoned teachers experience mishaps and embrace them as a learning opportunity.” Practical snippet-reminders include: “Don’t expect miracles,” “Ditch the script,” “Plan for chaos,” and “Avoid over-commitment.” Supplemental in-text boxes include tables, figures, talking points, lessons learned, related resources, and vignettes. These vignettes share “rubber-meets-the-road” personal experiences from info-literacy practitioners within academic library contexts. The volume ends with a full bibliography and an index.

Reviewer

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