

## Review of *Building Bridges: Connecting Faculty, Students, and the College Library*

Patricia Andersen ([patricia.andersen@mines.edu](mailto:patricia.andersen@mines.edu))

Public Services Librarian, Arthur Lakes Library, Colorado School of Mines

McAdoo, Monty L. *Building Bridges: Connecting Faculty, Students, and the College Library*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2010. 167 pp.

In this ALA Editions, McAdoo offers guidance for academic librarians working with instructors and students to create effective assignments that integrate library resources to enhance student learning. The author works from the premise that “Assignments are the bridges between the classroom and true learning” (p.vii). In order to build these bridges, McAdoo emphasizes developing and managing relationships with faculty and students to further information literacy.

This book is divided into five sections: outlining the need for building bridges, developing a foundation for collaboration, creating effective assignments, understanding why assignments fail, and finally, tying it all together with faculty/librarian created student assignments. For an assignment to be successful, according to the author, librarians need to be involved in the development as well as the completion and evalu-

ation of the assignment. McAdoo discusses reasons why this basic collaboration often does not exist including the politics associated with the university structure.

The author argues that one of the main reasons that assignments fail is that they are poorly designed. In addition McAdoo also draws attention to the inherent issues with information technology including connectivity problems, different vendor interfaces, and even names of library catalogs that cause confusion. Student perceptions, topic selections, and search strategies also contribute to whether an assignment is successful. McAdoo offers useful Do and Don't Lists as well as three appendices including ACRL (Association of College & Research Libraries) Information Literacy Standards.

In summary, *Building Bridges* gives in-depth, practical advice for librarians, new or not so new to information literacy, with tips on how to both interact with faculty and students to design successful assignments.