
Reviewed by Jolanda-Pieta (Joey) van Arnhem, Instructional Design Librarian, College of Charleston Libraries, College of Charleston

Mentoring A to Z by Julie Todaro is an excellent resource for any librarian interested in learning more about mentoring or setting up a mentoring program in their library. The helpful guide is packed full of resources, including basic terminology, ideas for program naming, and mentor and mentee do’s and don’ts. Todaro also provides an overview of the goals of mentoring programs, which include increasing diversity and gender equity among library staff and fostering leadership development. The author outlines strategies for designing training and delivering mentoring programs in person or virtually and discusses the need to assess the value and benefits of mentoring and mentoring programs.

Mentoring A to Z puts library mentorship programs in context and clearly outlines common pitfalls of mentorship programs and mentor/mentee relationships. Todaro also provides a vast list of resources, including easy to follow “case methods” in each chapter that help the reader reflect on and consider various aspects of mentoring and mentoring programs. The book includes an extensive bibliography, a resources section, and appendices with helpful forms, samples, templates, and checklists, that build knowledge about mentoring in general, keep you organized, and help you decide what type of mentoring program will work best in your environment.

As President Elect of the American Library Association for 2016-2017, Todaro’s library leadership experience is evident in her organization of these resources and thorough, practical guidelines for moving mentoring theory into practice. This handy reference is a must have for any library or librarian interested in mentoring, being a mentee or mentor, or setting up a mentoring program.