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Book Review: The Accidental Data Scientist. Affelt, Amy. Medford, NJ: Information Today, 2015, 222pp., #39.50, ISBN 978-1-57387-511-0.

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THE ACCIDENTAL DATA SCIENTIST. Affelt, Amy. Medford, NJ: Information Today, 2015, 222pp., #39.50, ISBN 978-1-57387-511-0

The book *The Accidental Data Scientist* by Amy Affelt aims to introduce librarians and information professionals to Big Data, its use and application. Affelt has extensive experience working with Big Data in a corporate environment as a librarian, and is a frequent conference speaker on knowledge management and data science topics. Thomas Davenport's forward highlights the timeliness of Affelt's book.

Sensibly arranged, the book begins by addressing the basics of Big Data to an end that relates the needed skill sets to personal career implications. The initial chapters of the book explain the five "V's" of Big Data, describe common programs and apps used with Big Data, and contains a Big Data glossary. She also covers information sources to keep up-to-date with the field, including professional venues that support librarians holding data related responsibilities. Next, the book addresses the practical skills needed for working with Big Data and highlights subject specific content knowledge. She goes on to profile a host of easy-to-use online tools that can be used to process smaller sets of data, using similar skills required of working with large data sets. This is followed by several examples showing how librarian skill sets can be used in real life Big Data projects, and how librarians can use data in their current workplaces. The book closes with a chapter on the implications of the growing data industry, practical career suggestions for librarians and information professionals, and tips for landing a position working on a data team, or as a data scientist.

The Accidental Data Scientist has many strengths. Affelt is fully aware of her audience, and she presents the topic through the lens of what librarians and information professionals need

to know. The book is concise and easy to read. It includes practical applications for librarians and information professionals currently employed, and those seeking employment in data scientist positions. Care is given to include examples relevant to librarians working academic and public library environments, in addition to librarians working in corporate libraries.

Librarians and information professionals in many stages of their careers will find *The Accidental Data Scientist* useful. Those beginning a career will find new opportunities to pursue. Those established in a career will find avenues to broaden their skill sets. Those seeking to broaden the range of potential career paths outside of traditional librarianship will find direction. This book is recommended for librarians and information professionals seeking an introductory understanding of Big Data and the data skill sets needed to work with it.

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