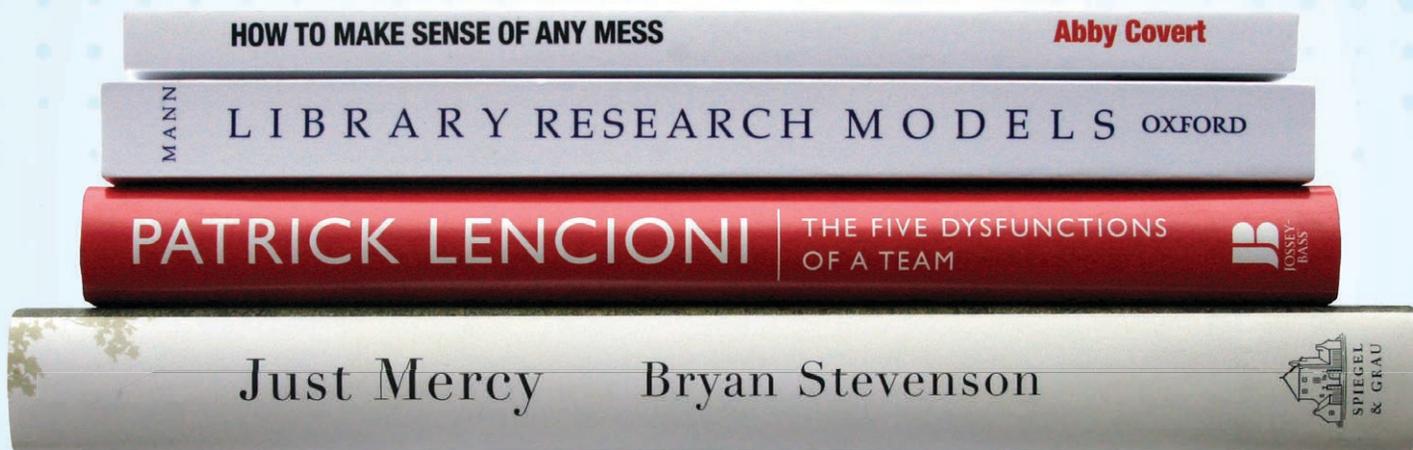


# SHELF LIFE PRODEV RECS

What book has been key to your professional development?



**1 HOW TO MAKE SENSE OF ANY MESS** by Abby Covert (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform; 1 edition; November 4, 2014). "This is my go-to troubleshooting guide. I use it to map out a strategy at the beginning of every project, as well as to find clarity in the middle. Through diagrams, thought-provoking questions, and communication tips, you get the insights you need to face your reality, define expectations, and manage ambiguities. Exercises help you see yourself as part of an ecosystem that requires you to listen and understand the needs of others and provide the best possible solutions given the knowledge you've gleaned. Covert has taken great pains to eliminate jargon and offer lucid explanations; the result is a refreshingly practical and motivating tool."

*Megan Mall; Director of Content Strategy; American Association of Law Libraries; Chicago, IL*

**2 LIBRARY RESEARCH MODELS: A GUIDE TO CLASSIFICATION, CATALOGING, AND COMPUTERS** by Thomas Mann (Oxford University Press; revised edition; December 15, 1994). "Thomas Mann recognizes that researchers will self-limit the resources available to them as they become more experienced in their field by being unaware of other fields. I believe this holds true for researchers and librarians. He is a steadfast believer in all the tools librarians have developed over the years and reminds me to continually review my search habits in order to find the best strategy for each situation. Some may say his message is not relevant in the computer age. I believe it is as relevant today as it was 100 years ago. Keyword searching the big name databases may be easy and provides lots of results, but that is the least of the many library research models available to us."

*Jennifer Dollar; Librarian; Pepper Hamilton LLP; Washington, DC*

**3 THE FIVE DYSFUNCTIONS OF A TEAM: A LEADERSHIP FABLE** by Patrick Lencioni (Jossey-Bass; 1 edition; April 11, 2002). "Leaders are nothing without a great team, and Lencioni has helped me understand what it takes to build such a team: trust, conflict, commitment, accountability, and results. Conflict about ideas is probably the most surprising requirement because teams often work through consensus and conflict avoidance. However, true innovation only happens when there is a diversity of opinions. This book is written as an easy-to-read fable about a new CEO who inherits a dysfunctional team of executives. Once you understand Lencioni's ideas, another of his books, *Overcoming the Five Dysfunctions of a Team*, will provide you with more practical guidance using exercises, tools, and examples."

*June H. Liebert; Firmwide Director of Library and Research Services; Sidley Austin LLP; Chicago, IL*

**4 JUST MERCY: A STORY OF JUSTICE AND REDEMPTION** by Bryan Stevenson (Spiegel & Grau; reprint edition; August 18, 2015). "Stevenson tells the story of one of his first cases defending Walter McMillian, a black man accused of murdering a young white woman in Monroeville, Alabama. It is also the story of his inspiring life's work advocating for a fair and accessible justice system. Whether it's 10, 20 or 30 years in the industry, constant front-facing customer service can result in compassion fatigue for librarians. This was a huge shot in the arm and a late career professional boost, reminding me of our sense of purpose and the good we do."

*Malinda Muller; Director, Programs and Partnerships; LA Law Library; Los Angeles, CA*

**CONTRIBUTE** What book has had the greatest impact on your education or the education of your students? Send your pick to [hhaemker@aall.org](mailto:hhaemker@aall.org).