

Woodward, Jeannette. *What Every Librarian Should Know about Electronic Privacy*. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2007. 240p. \$40.00 (ISBN: 1591584892)

While it is admirable that Jeannette Woodward has written a book outlining all that may trouble us in an online world, she probably would have been more effective, and reached a wider audience sooner, had she written a series of journal articles tackling each topic as it reached the boiling point, or at least as each generated a lot listserv traffic: RFID tags in Benetton underwear was hot – in 2003.

Instead of covering everything in a cursory way – from identity theft and online sexual predators to data mining, RFID tags and the Patriot Act (to which, by the way, she says librarians mounted a “spirited” opposition; as if we were all “feisty” little librarians) – Woodward would have served the library community better had she served up 240-pages of meaty, must-read discussion regarding ongoing Patriot Act issues. Instead she devotes one chapter, or 20 pages, to the “Patriot Act Quandary.”

That’s not to say that this book has no value. IT departments should be concerned with online predators and identity thieves as much as National Security Letters (NSLs). Maybe more, since no one in IT will know about the NSL should it arrive at your library director’s doorstep.

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