

Liu, Ziming. *Paper to digital: documents in the information age*. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2008. 157p. \$50.00 (ISBN: 978-1-59158-620-3)

This book is a collection of Liu's academic research on the proliferation, perception, and use of digital documents. Most chapters are updated or expanded versions of Liu's previously published articles, and combine original statistical research with a review of relevant literature. Together, these articles explore why, with all the technology available to us, we have not yet become a paperless society--and what that implies for information users and librarians.

The central theme of this collection is that many people still trust digital documents less, and are less comfortable using them, than paper documents. Paper retains the advantages of being tangible, easily preserved, private, accessible, and readily notated. Though digital documents have their advantages, such as mutability, interactivity, and ease of distribution, these can also be sources of fragility and mistrust.

Though the copyright date on the book is 2008, the previously published content is only minimally updated, and most of the works cited are from 1995-2005. Some of the citations feel dated in discussions of internet use and people's perceptions of digital information. Liu also avoids mentioning specific sites or products, since his focus is on researching general behaviors and perceptions. However, the lack of discussion about relevant developments like Wikipedia, open access journals, Google Book/Google Scholar, or the Kindle adds to the feeling of disconnect from the realities of the current world of digital documents. Anyone working in archival digital preservation will also note the lack of discussion of important initiatives in that field.

This book will get its readers thinking about the long-term implications of an information environment that remains divided between paper and digital formats. People who prefer paper will be reassured that paper isn't going away any time soon, but those dealing with digital objects may be frustrated by this collection's lack of practical recommendations on how to improve digital trustworthiness and preservation.

Overall, information professionals won't miss much if they opt to read Liu's original articles rather than purchasing this somewhat pricey collection.

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