

RESPONSIVE WEB DESIGN IN PRACTICE. Clark, Jason A. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015, 150pp., \$45.00, ISBN 978-1-4422-4369-9.

Having a modern, usable Web site is critical for libraries as it's their virtual front door, and having a mobile-friendly site has become just as essential. Responsive Web design (RWD) at its core is a set of techniques for building sites that work across multiple devices and screens, and author Jason Clark does a good job at demystifying the process involved in developing and designing sites utilizing RWD.

*Responsive Web Design in Practice* is the twelfth book in the *Library Technology Essentials* series edited by Ellyssa Kroski, and like its predecessors, this book does not disappoint. In the first two chapters, Clark provides the background readers need to understand what RWD is how it tries to answer questions of what it means to build Web sites in an increasingly mobile world. He provides multiple examples to reinforce his explanations of fluid grid layouts, flexible objects, and CSS media queries. In addition to these core aspects of RWD, Clark emphasizes the importance of paying attention to optimization and performance, an area not always addressed when implementing RWD. Throughout the book, Clark takes a "mobile first" attitude toward design and development and frequently gives tips on how to optimize code to minimize load times.

Chapter 3 is filled with examples of emerging RWD frameworks, CMSs, plugins, optimization and performance tools, and emulators. Clark helps readers make better decisions about why they might choose a particular tool and explains how they might get started using it.

Clark continues to give practical examples in Chapter 4 by mapping out some of the most common and emerging use case scenarios for RWD and library content, such as the library Web site, information kiosks, promotional displays, and wearable computing. He then provides a refreshing selection of case studies in which he interviewed five librarians at different public and academic libraries. These librarians were early RWD adopters and provide fascinating insight and into how and why they approached creating responsive web environments in their libraries.

Chapter 5 is the meatiest section of the book – it's filled with practical, step-by-step library projects. Clark provides demos and downloadable code for each of six scenarios, which are presented from easiest to more complex: adapting your existing layout into a responsive layout, building a responsive layout from scratch, creating a responsive contact form, creating a responsive search interface, creating a responsive single page application, and finally, using an RWD framework for a complete site. Some of these activities and the amount of code shared might be daunting to the novice, but readers who maintain websites or are developers will appreciate the advice for building and integrating systems with responsive designs.

In the final two chapters, Clark presents tips for adopting the practice of responsive design thinking and addresses what's on the horizon for RWD, such as new HTML markup for images, new CSS styles and rules for precision, and new layout styles and JavaScript APIs for performance. In comparison to other books on RWD, this book dives deeper by providing relevant, practical working examples and downloadable code samples that libraries need. As RWD is still in its infancy, it will continue to evolve, and Clark provides many reliable resources to help keep the reader current and excited about the future of RWD.

Rachel E. Vacek  
Head of Web Services  
University of Houston Libraries  
Houston, TX  
[revacek@uh.edu](mailto:revacek@uh.edu)