

HOW TO BE A GEEK GODDESS. Tynan-Wood, Christina. San Francisco, CA: No Starch Press, 2009, 338pp., \$24.95, ISBN 978-1-59327-187-9.

If a reader is interested in becoming conversant in the basics of computers and other technologies and wants to learn about these things from a woman's perspective, then this reference guide might be perfect. Each chapter offers practical advice with multiple options to choose from, as well as boxes with *Dear Abby* type questions and helpful responses. Topics are presented in what might be considered a feminine approach, and include "housebreaking" a new computer system, learning about "geek parenting," online dating, and going shopping "where the stores never close." She even refers to software as accessories, like shoes or purses, and acknowledges that men typically see software as a tool. But Tynan-Wood's book isn't entirely fluff. It is written for anyone – male or female – who wants to know more about buying or using computers, wireless networks, VoIP, and all kinds of gadgets including music players, TVs, and "luxury gear" like e-book readers and GPS units for the car. Security issues are also covered and the author not only helps readers how to think about safely navigating the web, but how to share that knowledge with their children. The author does an excellent job highlighting the basics across a broad spectrum of technologies, and even covers social tools such as Facebook and eHarmony which are on the more human side of the web, and a topic often neglected in books targeted at helping users make decisions about technology purchases. *How to Be a Geek Goddess* is a comprehensive book for women interested in technology and wanting to learn more, but don't necessarily have the passion or the dedication to become an "ubergeek" or expert on all things tech. Women who are already very comfortable in the IT world might not find this book particularly helpful. In addition, the author only addresses two operating system choices in the first chapter – Windows and Apple – and writes only from a Windows perspective. This book would be an excellent addition to any public library as it provides a great overview to the technologies in our daily lives. Also, many of the tech tools referenced throughout the book could be helpful to many librarians. Tynan-Wood is a prolific author and the only woman to have written regular columns for both *PC World* and *PC Magazine*. Her blog geekgirlfriends.com compliments her book nicely and may be of interest to the technology novices and even the more tech-competent women.

Rachel E. Vacek
Web Services Coordinator
University of Houston Libraries
Houston, TX
revacek@uh.edu