artistic elements became more common in bookplates in the wake of Commodore Perry's visit to Japan (1853–1854); not long after, the art of the Indian subcontinent followed suit, as the English empire spread.

The earliest bookplates chosen by Hopkinson are from the beginning of the sixteenth century, including one by Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528), who engraved a portrait of his friend, the leading Nuremberg humanist Willibald Pirckheimer (1470–1530). Pirckheimer pasted copies of this portrait into the books of his extensive library. Most of the bookplates (95%), however, date from 1850–1940, and Hopkinson provides us with some excellent models of interpretation, along with the dimensions, date, and mode of production. As an example, I will reproduce an entry here that is so detailed that showing the actual image is unnecessary: “ALTHEA GYLES (1860–1949). Bookplate for Lady Colin Campbell, c. 1895–9; Photogravure; 8.9 x 7.9cm. Lady Colin Campbell (Gertrude Elizabeth Blood; 1857–1911) was an author, art and music critic, journalist and socialite, and a famous beauty. In 1886 she had been the subject of a famous divorce case in which she had the worst of the suit, despite the character of her husband, Lord Colin Campbell, a notorious roué, syphilitic and bully. This print was executed by the firm Walker & Boutall after Gyles’s design. Its imagery of fawns and nymphs dancing round an altar probably reflects Gyles’s interest in the occult (she was a member of the magical order The Golden Dawn, along with her friend W.B. Yeats). The Greek inscription at the bottom, meaning ‘not granted to another,’ may allude to admission to the mysteries of a sect as well as to Campbell’s books, which are divided into thematic categories by the inscriptions at the left: cheerfulness, the heart, strife, beauty and dreamed things.”

As you can see, Hopkinson feels quite free to speculate, and although one does not doubt his authority, the language he uses is not authoritative.

Hopkinson’s book is not so much a field guide as it is a primer. He gives the reader a framework within which to place the art of any bookplate, and a language with which to talk about it. After reading through Ex Libris, the neophyte will examine bookplates with a more nuanced appreciation of their artistry, and the more practiced eye will have a set of images to look at that which has hitherto been hidden away.—Richard J. Ring, Trinity College.

Christopher Stewart. The Academic Library Building in the Digital Age: A Study of Construction, Planning, and Design of New Library Space. Chicago: ACRL, 2010. 116p. $44, alk. paper (ISBN 9780838985526). LC2010-024659. Even in an age where more and more library-subscribed digital content is ubiquitously available via any Internet-connected device, The Academic Library Building in the Digital Age demonstrates that colleges and universities continue to build new academic libraries and highlights some of the reasons why. The study, composed of two parts, attempts to compile a complete inventory of all new academic library facilities constructed from 2003 through 2009 at four-year colleges and graduate universities in the United States. Part 1 focuses on recording all known new academic library construction projects built within the time span and comparing each institution by specific variables such as project cost, institution type, enrollment profile, institutional setting, and other factors. These data are also analyzed in comparison to data collected from similar studies of construction patterns during the 1990s and early 2000s. Part 2 examines the planning and use of new space based on responses from a 53-question survey of library directors at institutions with new academic library facilities. In addition to usage data, results provide information on the trends and characteristics seen in new construction and the most common motivational factors for implementing new construction.
The book consists of ten chapters and an appendix containing the entire 53-question survey. The first chapter discusses the background of academic library buildings and the purpose of the research study. In chapter 2, the author briefly examines the use and role of library space throughout history and the characteristics of contemporary use. Chapter 3 describes in greater depth the design of the research study and provides an overview of the variables used for comparing each institution as well as an explanation of the background and design of the survey instrument. The fourth chapter provides various charts comparing institutions by variables including: year of completed construction, state where campus is located, Carnegie Classification, public or private governance of the institution, campus setting as residential or nonresidential, total enrollment population, undergraduate or graduate enrollment profile, annual tuition and fees, total construction cost, and library size measured by square footage. Chapter 5 discusses the survey responses and the study population, which included 59 percent of all possible participants, and was heavily weighted toward institutions serving predominantly undergraduate students. In chapter 6, the author describes 16 planning considerations that motivated construction of a new library building with survey responses showing that “changes
in information technology” and “changing character of student body space needs” were the strongest factors. The seventh chapter discusses the general characteristics and trends of new library buildings such as an overall increase in space, multiuse space for nonlibrary facilities (such as classrooms, computer labs, cafés, and meeting rooms), less restrictive food and beverage policies, and increased 24-hour access availability for residential campuses. Chapter 8 discusses the varied and popular offerings of user-focused space in new library buildings, such as soft seating, group study space, classroom space, quiet study space, and space for library staff. In chapter 9, the author focuses on reported usage data within the new library spaces; his findings demonstrate that, while social areas like cafés, art galleries, and meeting space are important for new libraries, the busiest areas are group study and quiet study spaces. The final chapter concludes by reviewing the purpose, methodology, and themes of the study as well as suggestions for further research and inquiry.

This study is an excellent resource for library deans and directors seeking quantitative analyses and statistical data demonstrating the essential need of a new library facility to meet the demands of contemporary users, especially the undergraduate population. While those wanting images of completed buildings or architectural drawings will be disappointed, most readers will appreciate the highlighted trends in new construction and the factors motivating most projects. The author demonstrates with clear and cogent statistics that yes, academic libraries will not only survive in the digital age; but, by adapting to user needs and behavior (through qualitative and quantitative analysis), they will thrive.—Anders Selhorst, Guilford Technical Community College.