

money to following federal antidiscrimination laws. Meltsner uses these two examples to reflect on how many factors, not just legal, but social, political, and economic, play into how social change does or does not happen. He continues to explore these concerns while discussing other events in his LDF career and his eventual move into running legal clinics in academia.

¶50 Overall, Meltsner's second memoir is more uneven than his first. Short chapters, like the two-page reminiscence on Zabar's grocery on the Upper West Side, alternate with longer chapters reflecting on his legal career and the ways in which the law affected not only his life, but other lives as well. Meltsner does not always give a clear sense of why he is telling a particular story, or what relationship it bears to other stories or reflections in the text. This gives the book an overall scattered effect. His anecdotes also jump around in time, and it is not always clear when they take place. A little more information about dates, or a timeline of his life, might have been helpful.

¶51 Nevertheless, this is a useful work for academic law libraries, or readers interested in the legal side of the civil rights movement, other social justice impact litigation, or the development of clinical programs within law schools. Meltsner refuses to allow his career to be reduced to a list of achievements; he constantly reflects on the value of the work he has done and the impact that various projects have had. He is just as willing to write about failures as successes, and the value that can be gleaned from both. Paired with his earlier memoir and other works, *With Passion* contributes a unique perspective on many key events in U.S. legal history.

Noble, Safiya Umoja. *Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism*. New York: New York University Press, 2018. 227p. \$28.

*Reviewed by Jamie J. Baker\**

¶52 As algorithms become increasingly ubiquitous in all facets of life, it is imperative that users understand the risks associated with programmatic and data discrimination when relying on results. With little regulation and the lack of transparency inherent in the use of algorithms, it is nearly impossible to be a fully informed user. In *Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism*, Safia Umoja Noble makes a valiant effort to bring awareness to the issues surrounding the use of algorithms, with the goal of creating informed users.

¶53 Noble notes that “[t]his book is about the power of algorithms . . . and the ways those digital decisions reinforce oppressive social relationships and enact new modes of racial profiling . . .” (p.1). Noble has termed the new modes of racial profiling “technological redlining.” In addition, “[b]y making visible the ways that capital, race, and gender are factors in creating unequal conditions,” Noble hopes to bring to light the “various forms of technological redlining that are on the rise” (*id.*). To that end, Noble organized the book “to emphasize one main point: there is a missing social and human context in some types of algorithmically driven decision making, and this matters for everyone engaging with these types of technologies in everyday life” (p.10).

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¶54 *Algorithms of Oppression* begins by exploring corporate control over information with a focus on Google. As Noble states, “Google has become a ubiquitous entity that is synonymous for many everyday users with ‘the Internet’ itself” (p.34). In 2012, for example, “83% of search engine users used Google” (p.35). When discussing Google’s “monopoly status,” Noble argues “that Google functions in the interests of its most influential paid advertisers or through an intersection of popular and commercial interests. Yet Google’s users think of it as a public resource, generally free from commercial interest” (p.36). Noble goes on to mention that “overreliance on commercial search by the public, including librarians, information professionals, and knowledge managers—all of whom are susceptible to overuse of or even replacement by search engines—is something that we must pay closer attention to right now” (*id.*).

¶55 Noble brings attention, in chapter 2, to searching for “black girls” as a way “to think about the ways in which search engine results perpetuate particular narratives that reflect historically uneven distributions of power in society” (p.71). Noble’s ultimate “goal is not to inform about this but to uncover new ways of thinking about search results and the power that such results have on our ways of knowing and relating” (*id.*). Throughout the rest of the chapter, Noble continues to explore the relationship between the keyword and the result in a variety of contexts, including searching for people and communities with a pertinent discussion about efforts to provide protections from search engines.

¶56 The latter part of *Algorithms of Oppression* looks to the future of knowledge in the public by discussing problems with classifying people. Noble points out that “[t]raditional library and information science (LIS) organization systems . . . are an important part of understanding the landscape of how information science has inherited and continues biased practices in current system designs, especially on the web” (p.137). Noble further argues that “[t]he adoption of critical race theory as a stance in [LIS] would mean examining the beliefs about the neutrality and objectivity of the entire field of LIS and moving toward undoing racist classification and knowledge management practices” (p.138). Noble bridges these ideas with a discussion of misrepresentation in classifying people in Library of Congress Subject Headings and algorithmic bias in library discovery systems.

¶57 The final chapter covers the future of information culture and examines “[a]n increasingly de- and unregulated commercially driven Internet . . .” (p.154). Noble discusses the consequences of an information monopoly and why public policy is important. She concludes with a discussion toward an ethical algorithmic future.

¶58 Noble’s efforts to bring a broader awareness to the issues surrounding the use of algorithms are, well, noble. Given that the most widely used algorithms are commercial, users cannot see under the hood to understand the decision trees that make up results. The underlying programs are proprietary, so Noble is left to use the autosuggest function, as well as generated results, to draw connections to the programmatic and data discrimination implicit in the results.

¶59 In *Algorithms of Oppression*, Noble accomplishes her goal to “uncover new ways of thinking about search results and the power that such results have on our ways of knowing and relating” (p.71). At this point, academic law librarians are likely aware of the many pitfalls inherent in the use of algorithms. This book, however, provides a dynamic discussion of classification systems and information

structures that all LIS professionals should heed when working toward the continued evolution of law library information retrieval. This book is also greatly recommended reading for an advanced legal research course when the instructor focuses on the benefits and risks associated with algorithmic technology.

Rhode, Deborah L. *Cheating: Ethics in Everyday Life*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. 207p. \$27.95.

*Reviewed by Matthew E. Braun\**

¶60 We hear about it in the news. Banks and other financial institutions laundering money, rigging interest rates, opening fake accounts. Athletes taking banned substances, rubbing pine tar on baseballs, deflating footballs. Companies stiffing employees on pay, making expensive lawsuits the workers' only recourse. Universities recruiting athletes with money, and keeping athletes eligible for competition via imaginary classes that result in unearned credits and grades.

¶61 We see it in our own lives and in the lives of those around us. A few made-up charitable contributions or business expenses claimed on a tax return. A paper written for a class that is not really the work of the student. An insurance claim for items that were never owned. A few songs, here and there, downloaded freely from a website.

¶62 Cheating, with its attendant causes and consequences, is present in nearly all aspects of society, despite holding a generally pejorative connotation. This reality, and the need to push back against it, forms the core of *Cheating: Ethics in Everyday Life* by Deborah L. Rhode, a professor at Stanford Law School and a noted legal ethics scholar.

¶63 Over the course of nine chapters, Rhode explores the reasons that individuals and institutions engage in cheating, the systems that permit and even encourage such activity, the steep and often underappreciated costs of cheating, and the measures that should be taken to combat cheating and to foster ethical behavior and improved societal norms.

¶64 Focusing on cheating related to sports, white-collar organizations, taxes, academia, copyright, insurance and mortgages, and marriage, Rhode first presents the myriad forms and techniques of cheating, tying them to the underlying fears, pressures, conformist mentalities, and desires for revenge or to "even the score" that lead to cheating.

¶65 Detailing the Salomon Brothers' Treasury bond scandal of the early 1990s, the Enron accounting fraud of the 1990s and early 2000s, and the recently discovered Wells Fargo fake account practices, Rhode explains that "[c]heating is most likely when individuals find that legitimate means of achieving goals are blocked . . ." (p.42).

¶66 For financial actors, cheating may have roots in "Wall Street's unrealistic growth expectations" (*id.*). For athletes, it may be that "career[s], not to mention millions of dollars, are on the line" (p.29). For students, it may be "the view that 'It's cheat or be cheated: Because everyone is doing it, you don't want to be the only one not doing well'" (p.79). For tax evaders, it may be the belief that "complying with

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