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Lipinski, T. A. (2013). *Librarian's legal companion for licensing information resources and services*. Chicago, IL: Neal-Schuman/American Library Association

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451. Lipinski, Tomas A. **The Librarian's Legal Companion for Licensing Information Resources and Services**. Chicago, Neal-Schuman/American Library Association, 2013. 734p. index. \$130.00pa. ISBN 13: 978-1-55570-610-4.

All librarians have some knowledge of copyright law and how it affects patrons' use of information. Yet, with libraries selecting more content and services controlled by license agreements librarians need some understanding of contract law. *Licensing Information Resources and Services* is the fourth book in the American Library Association's series on legal topics in libraries.

This source provides librarians with both basic and advanced concepts in contract and licensing law. The content is divided into three parts. Part 1 discusses the essential concepts of contract law. Part 2 covers the general categories of licenses libraries are most likely to encounter, including those for music and media. Part 3 is the most practical section of the book, providing a "Basic Licensing Glossary" of numerous license terms; an analysis of four actual licenses (i.e., BioOne, NewspaperARCHIVE, Nature, and Amazon's Kindle); key clauses to look for in licenses; and questions and answers to ask when evaluating licenses. Content is accessible via a subject index and detailed table of contents. There is a separate index for referenced cases and laws.

Considering the complex nature of contract law, the author, Tomas A. Lipinski, makes this subject fairly accessible. This is likely due to his training as a lawyer and practical experience as a librarian, most recently Executive Associate Dean at Indiana School of Information and Library Science. Compared to Lesley Ellen Harris' *Licensing Digital Content: A Practical Guide for Librarians* (2d ed.; see ARBA 2010, entry 572), Lipinski's text is more complete, addressing background concepts in contract law, including numerous references to relevant cases and laws, and offering an extensive glossary. This book will give you the ability to play an active role when deciding the terms of a contract, or at the very least allow you to evaluate whether the terms are favorable or not. This work is highly recommended for all libraries.—**Kevin McDonough**