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This is, we feel, due to the rapidly evolving nature of the market. There is now a plethora of different types of digital object which might be termed 'e-books' and a bewildering number of business and access models to match. It may be that many authors and publishers have been waiting for this situation to stabilize before committing to such a serious undertaking as a whole book on the subject.

However, the pace of change shows no signs of abating. If anything, now that e-books have come to the attention of the wider populace, the rate of growth is accelerating, with large collections of texts in e-formats becoming available to students, public library users and consumers alike, and with the revolution in internet-enabled mobile devices meaning that e-texts can be accessed at times and in locations that would have been impossible just a few years ago.

Therefore, the editors of this book felt that it would be timely to bring together a selection of practical information, best practice and case studies which would be of assistance to information and library professionals who are managing collections of e-books right now, even though it may be that some of the finer details will be out of date by the time of publication. We hope that it will be of interest to those who are just beginning to dip their toes in the water, as well as those who have