Book Review

Goldkind, L., Wolf, L., & Freddolino, P. P. (2019). *Digital social work: Tools for practice with individuals, organizations and communities*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

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Simplistically, technology's evolution and use represent a contentious, ongoing and generally dichotomous lineage; generally, it is either praise for the tremendous potential and promise or the distinction which proposes the horrific threat of its adoption and/or use (e.g. technophobia).

The debate continues today and impacts our social world (e.g., family, education, peers, government, organization, agencies, etc.), and this book specifically seeks to provide potential "evidence" regarding some of the promise that can be directly associated with social work practice.

In a series of fourteen essays, organized in three areas of attention (i.e., individual, organizations and communities), one is exposed to a variety of clear, practical and innovative approaches to social work challenges that may clearly be enhanced through the use of technology. While it is vibrant that these essays provide an optimistic assessment of the potential of the technology, additional critical evidence is needed to seriously assist in comprehensive assessment, adoption and advocacy.

These essays provide rich examples of promise, but they face tremendous challenges for a variety of reasons (e.g., comfort with technology, personal access, personal competence, ethical considerations, considerations regarding privacy, potential reduction of lack of face-to-face interaction). However, these challenges appear to be afterthoughts absent more inclusive examination and consideration. One completely understands this view when examples of current practice appears to have promise or significantly addressed the problem(s). While one cannot help but to be euthanistic, concrete solutions require more evidence; the promise of this book is that it will perhaps inspire further inquiry.

This book provides a general overview of the potentiality of technology for social work practice which ranges from the virtual world, digital music, online support, digital storytelling, big data, GIS, twitter, mobile services, etc.

This text is definitely a "must read" for potential social workers; the future of and threat to the profession has, continues and will impact our potential to provide quality, personal and meaningful interactions and service. Like it or not, technology demands our ongoing constant attention, research and investigation; humanizing technology is critical to carefully capture the vision, mission, purpose and promise of social work practice.

"Unless someone like you care a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."
—Dr. Seuss

Reference

Dr. Seuss. (1971). *The Lorax*. New York, NY: Random House. Retrieved 07.08.2019. https://www.chrisrossarthur.com/uploads/3/8/5/9/38596187/dr._seuss_the_loraxbokos-z1.pdf