

responsibility.—*Dan Forrest (dan.forrest@wku.edu), Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green*

Subject Determination during the Cataloging Process. By Alenka Šaupperl. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow, 2002. 173p. \$47.50 hardbound (ISBN 0-8108-4289-0).

This qualitative approach into the process of assigning subject headings gives an inside look into the actual thought process and highlights the inherent difficulty of the procedure. The book is based on Šaupperl's doctoral thesis at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and consists of seven chapters, a bibliography, and an index.

Data were collected between October and December 1998 using questionnaire, think aloud, follow-up discussion, and timeline interview methods. The same format was used to report each subject's responses: a brief description of the environment and the cataloger's primary responsi-

bilities, data obtained from each subject, and a summary of the person's style. The sample size included twelve catalogers from three large academic libraries. From this group six were observed while choosing subject headings, and the remaining six were merely interviewed about the process they normally use when choosing subject headings. Šaupperl interjected seventeen terms she had gathered from the observation experiences into the dialog with the interviewed participants in order to strengthen her findings between the two groups.

Subject determination is viewed from the perspective of very personal experiences of the twelve practicing catalogers in the study. Textbooks often discuss a step-by-step process describing methods of assigning subject headings, so what sets this book apart is the inside look at the analysis process of practicing catalogers and particular thought patterns present before the final subject headings are chosen and entered into the cataloging record.

Šaupperl not only examines each response, but also cross-references the participant's experiences. She discusses similarities and differences broken down into three categories: examination of the book and subject identification, searching for subject headings, and classification. The final two chapters describe a hypothetical example of the subject determination process based on a synthesis of the overall results discussed in chapter five. The book ends with discussion of relationships between her results and previous research.

A variety of concepts and methods not typically covered in cataloging textbooks are explored, such as note taking, revising and rethinking choices, and utilizing multiple online and print tools. Clearly, this book should make an excellent supplement for anyone taking a cataloging course or otherwise interested in exploring these processes.—*Deana Groves (deana.groves@wku.edu), Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green*