Some may be tempted to compare Eden’s compilation with the second edition of Michael Gorman’s highly influential Technical Services Today and Tomorrow (Englewood, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1998). Generally, Eden’s book has a more modest scope; it will be more useful to those involved in the day-to-day work of leading a technical services department or unit, and less useful to opinion leaders and library and information science educators or students. Having said that, a side-by-side comparison of Gorman’s introductory chapter “Technical Services Today” and Pat Lawton and Deborah Rose-Lefmann’s “What is Technical Services?”—both definitional treatments of the topic—yields worthwhile insights. Other chapters in Gorman’s compilation that might usefully supplement Eden’s are Roxanne Sellberg’s “Cataloging Management” and the oft-cited essay by Jennifer Younger and Kaye Gapen, as revised by Cecily Johns, “Technical Services Organization.” Another work to supplement Eden’s compilation is Michael Buckland’s well-known Redesigning Library Services: A Manifesto (Chicago: ALA, 1992). While more than a dozen years have passed since its publication, Buckland’s chapter “Bibliographic Access Reconsidered” predicted the significant expansion of the catalog’s scope and the organizational challenges about which Eden’s authors have written. Buckland’s essay is well worth the time of the reader who has picked up Eden’s book.

For the most part, Eden’s contributors do not seriously challenge traditional definitions of technical services. Should an aspiring author or editor be willing to take it on, a helpful companion to Eden’s book would feature a more systematic, future-oriented treatment (à la Buckland’s 1992 manifesto) of how library technical services might or should be transformed over the next five to ten years. A useful starting point for such a work could be a review of some articles on the applicability of knowledge management to the future of libraries, followed by an exploration of the implications for technical services. Several such articles—including an infamous one by T. Davenport called “Blow up the Corporate Library”—appear in a compilation that assembles a number of International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) papers on knowledge management.1—Karen Calhoun (ksc10@cornell.edu), Cornell University Library, Ithaca, N.Y.

Reference


This volume assembles presentation papers, background papers, and other materials related to the First International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Meeting of Experts on an International Cataloging Code (IME-ICC), held in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, July 28–30, 2003. The goal of the meeting was to increase the ability to share cataloging information worldwide by promoting standards for the content of bibliographic records and authority records used in library catalogues (10). This work builds on the foundation of the Paris Principles drawn up by the 1961 International Conference on Cataloging Principles (ICCP). Objectives of the meeting included reviewing existing cataloging codes with an eye toward harmonization, and drafting of a general statement of cataloging principles. The statement would incorporate recent concepts deriving from IFLA’s work on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) and the Functional Requirements and Numbering for Authority Records (FRANAR), changing models for Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC), and new definitions of seriality.

Both the 1961 Paris Principles and the final December 19, 2003, draft of the new Statement of International Cataloging Principles are included in the volume. The latter is also published in number 20 (Jan. 2004) of the online newsletter of the Standing Committee of the IFLA Cataloging Section, SCATNews (www.ifla.org/VII/s13/scatn/news20.pdf). The new statement of principles reflects FRBR/FRANAR terminology for entities and relationships, updates the Paris Principles recommendations regarding heading choice and formulation, and identifies “the convenience of the users of the catalogue” (21) as the guiding principle for constructing cataloging codes.

Barbara Tillett’s presentation paper on “A Virtual International Authority File” discusses how the principle of user convenience has altered the direction of UBC efforts. As originally conceived, UBC called for each national library to establish authorized headings for its own personal and corporate authors, and for other libraries to adopt those headings as the universal form. In practice, this proved an extremely difficult goal to achieve given the differences in cataloging codes used by the national libraries and the language-specific nature of each country’s authority work. Tillett describes how new technologies for linking records and navigating among
files have made possible a reconceptualization of UBC. Each national library is now responsible for establishing all name headings for its users consistent with its rules and language preferences. These authority records are then interconnected in a widely accessible Virtual International Authority File (VIAF) to enable libraries to search and retrieve useful information from other national libraries’ authority files. Ultimately, VIAF could enable users to search with the headings of their preferred community to find records in the local library or other database, wherever it may be.

Two other presentation papers are included in the volume. John D. Byrum’s “IFLA’s ISBD Programme: Purposes, Process, and Prospects” describes the history of the International Standard Bibliographic Descriptions (ISBDs), the process by which they are created, reviewed, and revised, and current issues, including correlating FRBR and ISBDs, dealing with multi-format publications, and managing series and standard number information. Patrick Le Bœuf discusses a wide range of FRBR issues in the lively “Brave New FRBR World.” Of particular interest is his suggestion that FRBR needs a “package content” level intermediate between expressions and manifestations to account for the aggregation of expressions that often make up a single bibliographic resource (47).

A collection of background papers discusses various aspects of heading choice and formulation. The major focus of the 1961 Paris Principles is the project retrieval and has strong affinities with subject headings and thesauri, which, although they have strong links with classification per se, are not really classifications in the strict sense. This book is based largely on the author’s experience in teaching subject classification and other methods of subject retrieval. Despite the title, the work also handles such retrieval methods as subject headings and thesauri, which, although they have strong links with classification per se, are not really classifications in the strict sense. This book is based largely on the author’s experience in teaching subject retrieval and has strong affinities with a programmed text, containing exercises scattered throughout with answers and explanations. It is written in an informal style and will be easily digested by those who have little acquaintance with classification.

Appended to the paper is a list of the multiple forms found when prominent names are searched across ten national library databases. Guerrini also contributes “Corporate Bodies from ICCP up to 2003,” a valuable account of the history of corporate body concepts and naming conventions in library cataloging. He analyzes the conflicting rationales that underlie varying cataloging practices, in particular regarding the vexed concept of corporate authorship.

Ingrid Parent’s “From ISBD(S) to ISBD(CR): A Voyage of Discovery and Alignment” recounts the events and decisions that led the ISBD(S) Working Group to widen the focus of ISBD(S) to encompass continuing resources in general. Such changes cannot be made profitably in isolation, and Parent stresses the importance of ensuring that AACR, ISBD, and ISSN rules for title changes in particular all keep pace with one another. Ann Huthwaite’s “Class of Materials Concepts and GMDs” discusses the problems posed by multiformat resources and offers suggestions for how to resolve them. Rather than defining a chief source and prescribed sources of information for each class of materials, she recommends a general rule to use the “source which provides most complete information” and trusting cataloger’s judgment (150). She also sees a need to divide the current list of General Material Designator terms into expression and manifestation level terms, and to find a suitable place for the former. A series of brief summaries from the Meeting of Experts working groups and various lists of the participants round out the volume.

This book will be of interest to anyone following the development of cataloging concepts and rules at the international level. As is often true at this level, the discussion is pulled in conflicting directions. Wading into these issues, the reader can see the vision of well integrated complementary records enabling users to navigate a vast sea of diverse resources easily; yet one also feels the competing wash and undertow of varying local practices, concepts, and maps of the contents of that sea. Meanwhile, the work goes on. The second IML-ICC was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 2004. For more information about the first and second IML-ICC meetings see the conference Web sites: www.ddb.de/news/ifla_conf_index.htm (IME-ICC1) and www.loc.gov/loc/ifla/imeicc (IME-ICC2).—Stephen Hearn (s-hearn@tc.umn.edu), University of Minnesota, Minneapolis


In 1964, Barbara Kyle published an excellent little book in the Teach Yourself series, *Teach Yourself Classification* (London: EUP, 1964). This is a clear exposition of the basic essentials of classification for those unacquainted with the discipline. Some forty years later, Vanda Broughton has done likewise for the twenty-first century with the publication of this basic introduction for those who have no background in classification, a discipline that Barbara Kyle commended as a compulsory school subject. *Essential Classification* is primarily concerned with library classification and other methods of subject retrieval. Despite the title, the work also handles such retrieval methods as subject headings and thesauri, which, although they have strong links with classification per se, are not really classifications in the strict sense.