

Book Reviews

Margaret Rohdy, Editor

Seymour Lubetzky: Writings on the Classical Art of Cataloging. By Seymour Lubetzky; comps. and eds. Elaine Svenonius and Dorothy McGarry. Englewood, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 2001. 443p. \$67.50 (ISBN 1-56308-932-7) LC 2001-038429.

When Seymour Lubetzky came to the Library of Congress in 1943, he was given the assignment of studying the cataloging rules to see if they could be made simpler and more logical. His approach to this assignment was to spend years in the stacks at the Library of Congress studying the history of cataloging in order to try to understand the principles implicit in the rules—the reasons for the rules or the purposes they were intended to serve. In this search for principles, he discovered the writings of Antonio Panizzi and Charles A. Cutter, which he found so useful that he spent the rest of his career quoting them and directing students to them. In his own work, he was able to take the principles first expressed by Panizzi and Cutter and suggest ways to bring the rules back to these principles, making them simpler and more logical—and therefore easier to teach, understand, apply, and “explain to inquiring readers and searching administrators” (144–45).

Now we are living in an age in which the presence of full text on the Internet has made it tempting to believe that we can do without the expense and complexity of creating surrogates for these documents in the form of metadata created by well-educated and experienced catalogers following well-designed cataloging rules and standards. Elaine Svenonius and Dorothy McGarry have performed a service of inestimable value to the cre-

ators and users of metadata, now and in the future, by publishing in this book a number of Lubetzky’s writings that had near-print or gray literature status until now—my own copies of many of these writings are photocopies of typescripts handed down from cataloging teacher to cataloging student. Now that these are all in published form, one hopes they will be immediately and widely read and will not sit on the shelf waiting for a new Lubetzky to point out that the reasons for the rules are more valid now than ever.

There are several other reasons why the publication of this book is an important event in the metadata world. One is that the origin of much of the *Anglo-American Cataloging Rules*, 2d ed. (AACR2) can be found in these writings. Here is the first suggestion of the theory of separate bibliographic identities, leading eventually to the AACR2 practice of entering one person under more than one pseudonym. Explained here is the AACR principle that a change of the name of a corporate body is a change of identity. AACR2’s entry of persons under the names by which they are commonly known, rather than under the fullest form, and entry of corporate bodies directly under their own names, rather than the earlier practice of entering them under place originate with Lubetzky as does the practice of successive entry serials. The origin of the practice of successive entry of serials can be found here. The idea that conditions of authorship of a work should be analyzed without regard for the “character of the work or the medium containing it” in order to determine how it should be identified in the catalog is pure Lubetzky and explains why

the rules in AACR2 from chapter 21 on are usually not limited to particular types of publication (with notable exceptions for art works, musical works, sound recordings, and certain legal and religious publications).

Another reason that the publication of this book is an important event is that the origin of the concepts of *work*, *expression*, and *manifestation* in Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (1998) can be found in Lubetzky’s important distinctions between *book* and *work*.

And finally, the publication of this book is important because these writings contain much good advice that still has not been taken. Lubetzky’s explanations as well as many explications of the nature of the bibliographic universe and of the pitfalls certain to be encountered in any attempt to control it are still relevant to the design of any system for providing access to metadata. For example, Lubetzky’s warning that “[t]he title, while quick and convenient, is not a very reliable guide” (34) should be pondered by those system designers who offer a title search to users seeking a known work, instead of a search that allows them to search using both author and title words, matching both parts of that search against authority records to catch variation in either the author’s name or the title. The quote, by the way, is from his early article “Titles: Fifth Column of the Catalog.” “Different editions should be cataloged separately, each on a different entry, but different issues of a given edition should be listed together on the same entry” (42) is an early endorsement of the practice that we now would call expression-based cataloging, as opposed to the current practice of issue-based (or

manifestation-based) cataloging that often leads to dozens of records in OCLC for the same expression of the same work, especially in the humanities. And Lubetzky's sound advice about corporate authorship, taken in AACR1, was rescinded in AACR2, leading to many more works of corporate authors being identified by title alone.

For all these reasons, this is a book that should be read by all librarians, information scientists, system designers, experts in informatics, knowledge engineers, and anyone else who ever creates or uses metadata, helps others use and interpret metadata, or designs systems for searching and displaying metadata. As Lubetzky says, "Those who are still longing for a code of rules which could be applied by a beginning cataloger without the exercise of judgment are looking backwards to a time which has gone by" (149).—*Martha M. Yee (myee@ucla.edu), University of California at Los Angeles, Film and Television Archive.*

Works Cited

- Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*. 2d ed. 1988 rev. Eds. Michael Gorman and Paul W. Winkler. Ottawa: Canadian Library Association; Chicago: American Library Association.
- Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records: Final Report*. 1998. IFLA Study Group on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records. München: K. G. Saur. Also found (March 5, 2002) at www.ifla.org/VII/s13/frbr/frbr.pdf.

Subject Analysis in Online Catalogs.

By Hope A. Olson and John J. Boll. 2d ed. Englewood, Colo., Libraries Unlimited, 2001. 333p. (ISBN 1-56308-800-2) LC 2001-029828.

This book is an expanded and updated edition of a 1991 book by Rao Aluri, Alasdair Kemp, and John Boll. In his review of the first edition, Wellisch (1991) predicted the need for a new edition within a few years.

Indeed the new edition reveals just how much growth there has been in the relevant literature in the past ten years. Much of this work is focused on maximizing the value of established subject access tools in the environment of online catalogs. In this regard, it demonstrates a body of innovative thought following the pioneering work of Cochrane (1985, 1986).

The format—part encyclopedia, part commentary, and in general a guide for the perplexed—is like a medieval compendium. The topic could be quite narrow, but instead the authors have viewed it as the complex intersection of two larger topics. The fundamental principles and basic structures of both subject analysis and online catalogs are presented with concision and agility. Topics are interrelated and linked by internal references within the text. Both the core literature of each topic and the most recent research are cited extensively. The coverage of gray press research reports, many available on the Internet, is impressive.

The analysis is original and serves to relate the discrete concepts to the overall theme. The authors also identify current problems and prospects for future developments and research. Both the challenges to and the opportunities for improving online subject access are described in detail. The role of authority control and the online use of classification are the two main issues.

Bringing together various types of databases through the catalog presents a new need for vocabulary control across multiple files as well as within the catalog. Enhancements such as adding tables of contents to bibliographic records reflect a demand for higher levels of exhaustiveness and specificity in searching the catalog. The authors caution that "it is not clear that the ramifications of doing so have been carefully weighed to ensure that more positive (higher recall) than negative (lower precision) results are produced"

(320–21). The impact of vocabulary control freed from linear file structures is presented in the context of combining sophisticated retrieval techniques.

The revival of interest in classification is viewed with enthusiasm. Again the authors warn that "even in an electronic environment order and linearity, and at least some of the traditional principles of classification, cannot be ignored" (186). These principles provide a counterbalance to the scattering effect of expanded indexing of controlled and uncontrolled search terms. The potential for online classification in support of hierarchical and lateral browsing is immense. The widespread, if clumsy, use of classification by Internet search engines is witness to this potential. The development of more flexible and transparent system-user interfaces suggested by Boll and Olson will be a critical step forward.

The literature of bibliographic control seems to draw readers largely among technical services librarians. This book has as much or more to offer to public service librarians and library system designers. It is a gold mine of bibliographic instruction strategies. Library automation vendors could gain a competitive edge by studying some of its chapters. In at least one MLS program, this book will be used as the text for a subject analysis course. Although not intended per se to prepare catalogers, it provides an excellent basis for a course of value to information professionals in all fields.—*J. Bradford Young (jbyoung@pobox.upenn.edu), University of Pennsylvania Libraries, Philadelphia.*

Works Cited

- Cochrane, Pauline Atherton. 1985. Classification as a users' tool in online public access catalogs. In *Redesign of Catalogs and Indexes for Improved Online Subject Access: Selected Papers of Pauline A. Cochrane*. Phoenix, Ariz.: Oryx Press. First published in