efforts and will likely pique the reader’s interest, it may also raise expectations this book cannot fulfill. Nevertheless, if what was meant was a conceptual map of the invisible Web—and the authors do not state this—the effort has succeeded handsomely. The wealth of useful concepts, distinctions, and examples, and the carefully organized way they are presented, make Sherman’s and Price’s book a remarkably valuable field guide for anyone seeking content on the Web.—Gregory Wool (gwool@iastate.edu), Iowa State University, Ames.


If the editors had not included a section called “Those That Got Away” (xvii–xviii) in the introduction to Maps and Related Cartographic Materials Cataloging, Classification and Bibliographic Control, I would not have realized that some parts of the cartographic cataloging universe are not included in this impressive array of chapters by prominent members of the map cataloging community. This book includes everything from the basics of map cataloging to spatial metadata to retrospective conversion.

The book is a well-organized how-to guide for cataloging diverse types of cartographic materials. After the introduction and general information about cataloging maps, chapters on related topics are grouped into sections: “Cataloging Specific Material Types,” “Handling Early Cartographic Material,” “Digital Cartographic Materials,” “Classification and Subject Access of Cartographic Materials,” “Retrospective Conversion of Collections and Quality Control,” and “Cartographic Materials in an Archival Setting.”

The editors have preserved the tone of each chapter, which gives the reader a feel for the background and experience of the authors but results in inconsistencies within the text. For instance, some chapters include the AACR2 (Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2d ed.) rule number references in the text, while others put the references in endnotes. Unfortunately, the authors’ original comma usages are preserved; a few authors use commas so sparingly that sentences are puzzling until their context within the paragraph is understood. I found myself mentally inserting commas into sentences such as “Whereas titles of books are usually evident from the title page maps quite often provide more than one title from which to choose” (40).

Map cataloging is at a crossroads. One of the primary manuals, Cartographic Materials: A Manual of Interpretation for AACR2 (1982), has been out-of-print for years, though one can buy an overpriced black-and-white copy printed on demand. A long-awaited revision is imminent. Similarly, the Map Cataloging Manual (1991), prepared by the Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress, is being revised. Neither manual could have anticipated the World Wide Web and the explosion of digital cartographic data. Neither manual adequately covers the cataloging of early maps. In effect, Maps and Related Cartographic Materials Cataloging, Classification and Bibliographic Control is the only current reference manual devoted to the bibliographic description of cartographic materials. The chapters are written in an organized, simple style ideal for the beginning map cataloger. Frequent references to the two older manuals and the primary tools of AACR2 and the MARC21 (Machine Readable Cataloging) format allow readers to look up the original citations and judge for themselves whether they accept the authors’ interpretation of the best way to catalog the cartographic resources. Clearly, the authors intend to provide a pragmatic and detailed supplement to the primary cataloging tools.

Even an experienced map cataloger will appreciate the chapters on the cataloging of special formats that they encounter infrequently. I recently referred to “Cataloging Aerial Photographs and Other Remote-Sensing Materials” in cataloging several photo-mosaic indexes of areas in Tennessee. Unsure of how to interpret some of the numbers on the photo-mosaics, I consulted Maps and Related Cartographic Materials Cataloging, Classification and Bibliographic Control and quickly found the information needed to determine date and scale. As is typical with other chapters in the “Cataloging Specific Material Types” section, the authors include background information on the map format and discussion of what is significant for cataloging. The text is accompanied by numerous photo-reproductions of the maps and examples of MARC records. The authors cite many references for additional information.

The number and quality of illustrations and catalog record examples vary from chapter to chapter. Those on aerial photographs and on early printed maps are among the best in providing illustrations and accompanying MARC examples. “Cataloging Geographic Sections” is invaluable for its illustrations of different types of geologic sections and explanations of cataloging technique, but contains not one example of a complete bibliographic record. Pictures of map series or atlases would add little to two of the most clearly written chapters in the compilation, “Cataloging Map Series and Serials” and “Cataloging the Contemporary Printed Atlas,” though all of the “how-to” chapters would be enhanced by full-level MARC catalog records, accompanied when practical by illustrations of the resources. In some cases, the catalog records seem to have been an afterthought because they illustrate pre-
AACR2 cataloging rules or have MARC-coding errors. Though the chapters on metadata include comprehensive lists of citations for further exploration, the entire “Digital Cartographic Materials” section disappoints in its lack of any complete bibliographic records, whether in Dublin Core, MARC, or some other format.

The chapters on early maps and map archives, digital cartographic materials, and retrospective conversion projects are a good introduction to areas of growing importance. Early map catalogers as well as those on the cutting edge of geospatial metadata description are challenged by the changing nature of practice, standards, and reference sources in these fields. “Cataloging Early Printed Maps” is particularly good for reconciling conflicting information among manuals.

A comprehensive reference work needs a comprehensive index. Unfortunately, the index is one of the few weak points of the book. Cross-references are limited, making it challenging to find terms. I could not find “Raster” in the index anywhere, and “Resource Description Framework” was listed only as a subcategory under “Metadata.” When this work proves to be so useful that an updated edition is published, I hope the editors will include both a comprehensive index and a combined bibliography of all the cataloging resources cited in the bibliographies of the separate chapters.

None but the most fanatic map cataloger will read Maps and Related Cartographic Materials Cataloging, Classification and Bibliographic Control from cover to cover. Its strength is as a handy reference tool for specific areas of cartographic description and access and for planning that long-overdue retrospective conversion project.—Kay G. Johnson (johnsonk@utk.edu), University of Tennessee Library, Knoxville.

Works Cited

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