

course of one's professional reading. This little book will go on my shelf next to the other little books of anecdotes and reminiscences by librarians. It helps, of course, that publications of this sort are all more or less the same size, and their colors don't matter. Well, at least not to *me*.—David Miller (*dmiller@curry.edu*), Curry College, Milton, Mass.

The LCSH Century: One Hundred Years with the Library of Congress Subject Headings System. Ed. by Alva T. Stone. New York: Haworth Information Pr., 2000. 249p. \$69.95 cloth (ISBN 0-7890-1168-9); \$39.95 paper (ISBN 0-7890-1169-7). Published simultaneously as *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly* 29, nos. 1/2.

In 1898 the Library of Congress (LC) created its dictionary catalog, containing author, title, and subject entries in a single alphabet, replacing the author catalog and classed catalog it had used previously. The subject headings were based in part on the subject heading lists that the American Library Association had issued in 1895 and 1898, supplemented by headings needed for materials in the LC collections that were not represented in the printed lists. Four years later, with the advent of the distribution outside the Library of Congress of its printed cards, these LC subject headings began to be accepted more widely, at

first throughout the United States and later in many other countries around the world in their English form or as the basis for translations into or adaptations in other languages. LC published its first list during the period 1909–1914, issued nine additional editions (some with supplements) from 1919 through 1986, and since the eleventh edition in 1988 has issued annual printed volumes. The lists also have been issued in microfiche form since 1976, as compact disks either separately or as a part of the *Cataloger's Desktop* since 1988, and in machine-readable form since 1986. (The appendix, "Chronology of Official LCSH-Related Publications," in the introductory article omits the listing for the tenth edition in 1986.)

This volume was prepared to celebrate the centenary of the first adoption of LCSH and also its adoption outside of LC. As such it is not a guide to the use of LCSH, but rather it covers the story behind it, the principles upon which it is based, and how they have changed over the years. The backgrounds of the structure of the LCSH language and its semantics are examined, as is how LCSH fits into the set of eleven principles for subject heading languages developed by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions' Section on Classification and Indexing, and how the basic structure of LCSH relates to and affects its use outside the boundaries of the United States.

A third section examines how LCSH works in the current online environment, particularly changes that have been made and still need to be made to it in order for it to work well in such an environment. This includes such things as how its pre-coordinate structure affects filing and display, as well as the ability to authenticate headings using machine methods and what this means for authority control.

The next two sections address specific questions, such as teaching LCSH, its use for musical works, its use in periodical indexing, how cooperative programs like the Subject Authority Cooperative Project (SACO) can be used to improve its coverage, its use to provide access to forms and genres of materials, and how it fits into the international library scene, both by itself in English or translation as well as its use in complement with another subject-heading scheme such as the French system for indexing called RAMEAU and the German-language system SWD. The final chapter looks at what LCSH can be and should be in its second hundred years and beyond.

As mentioned earlier, one would not go to this volume for guidance on how to apply LCSH. But it can be looked upon as a good source for information about the structure of the system, how it developed, and what role it may play in the future.—Edward Swanson (*swans152@tc.umn.edu*), MINITEX Library Information Network, Minneapolis, Minn.