

resources (it currently includes almost 90,000). This is a useful discussion of a project that has resulted in a helpful resource for researchers.

The fifth section of the book, "Digital Libraries: Practical Applications of the Standards," turns to practical uses of metadata to provide access to Web materials. In a useful discussion Diane Boehr relates the development of the use of metadata at the National Library of Medicine, covering issues such as implementation strategies and Web resource selection criteria. Stanley Blum presents another aspect of the use of metadata in his discussion of how biological specimens are cataloged in museums. Brad Eden discusses a lesser-known metadata standard, the Instructional Management System (IMS). This article describes the development of IMS to support learning and compares it to other metadata standards. Wendy Treadwell discusses the development by the Data Documentation Initiative of a metadata standard to provide better access to data files, resources that are often neglected. Finally, Beth Picknally Camden describes the efforts by the University of Virginia to apply Dublin Core to digital video clips. These practical applications of metadata to projects at libraries and museums are useful resources to others who are contemplating digital projects of their own.

The concluding section is titled "Where Are We? Where Are We Going?" and includes articles by Michael Gorman and Clifford Lynch. Gorman discusses the wide variety of resources available on the Internet and reminds us that we have to be as selective with Web resources as we are with more traditional resources. He also points out that one should not forget the issues of preservation; it won't matter whether we catalog something if it disappears into oblivion. Lynch cautions against the idea that there is a platonic ideal of metadata. He maintains that we need to think about

metadata not just as being for description and classification, but we also need to think of how it is used for the retrieval of information and resources, and he explores that context throughout his discussion.

Overall, this book is an outstanding collection of articles presenting the state of the art of metadata in 2000, the year of the preconference where the papers were first presented. There is some slight overlap in content with *Electronic Cataloging: AACR2 and Metadata for Serials and Monographs*, which includes the proceedings of subsequent regional institutes that grew out of this preconference.<sup>2</sup> However, the volumes complement each other more than they overlap, as the presentations and resulting articles from the regional institutes were much lengthier and substantive than those at the preconference, and the speakers were fewer in number. While some of the information has changed in the subsequent years, and some of the articles are outdated, it is a useful resource for any cataloging librarian who wants to keep up with developments in the field.—*Rebecca L. Mugridge (rlm31@psu.edu), Pennsylvania State University, University Park*

#### References

1. Tom Delsey, *The Logical Structure of the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*. Accessed Jan. 8, 2005, [www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/docs.html](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/docs.html).
2. Sheila S. Intner, Sally C. Tseng, and Mary Lynette Larsgaard, eds. *Electronic Cataloging: AACR2 and Metadata for Serials and Monographs* (New York: Haworth, 2003).

**Information Architecture: Designing Information Environments for Purpose.** Eds. Alan Gilchrist and Barry Mahon. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2004. 266p. \$75 Hardcover (ISBN 1-55570-493-X).

This volume covers four broad areas—design environment, software environments, managing metadata (including taxonomies and controlled

vocabularies), and user interface—in seventeen chapters, five of which are case studies. Each chapter is written by a different expert in the field, following introductory material by the editors. The editors do a fine job of placing the four sections into context, not just in library and information science but also within database architecture, Web history, and other appropriate contexts. This allows the reader to see the bigger picture when it might be easy to become mired in the detail of a case study. The book has an academic approach, clearly aimed for an educated audience.

While there is a library science bent, some of the authors speak to practitioners in other disciplines, such as Web managers and database engineers. Audiences for this work, according to chapter emphasis, seem to be: system designers (information modelers) (Part 1), software purchasers (Part 2), metadata appliers (Part 3.1), taxonomists (Part 3.2), and usability testers (Part 4).

Peter Morley's foreword starts the book off with a brief, and admittedly personal, history of information architecture. I found this quite useful and rather disarming. It softens the academia inherent in the topics and shows the field to be young, still forming, and variously defined.

The chapters present several aspects, aimed at both government entities and corporate sites: case studies; practical information and approaches; demystification; definitions; methodologies; standards; and legalities. In addition, the book has a global perspective, although centered on Europe (the United Kingdom in particular).

The order of the parts and chapters within them roughly follow the chronology of information architecture development. For example, if the information architect is starting from scratch, an information model is a good beginning point. Following that is an emphasis on the business

case, software choice, and so on. The final section is on usability, which makes sense since such testing could be done after the modeling and creation of a site's information architecture. Nonetheless, the editors explain the reader is not expected to be read the book in order, but rather each section as needed.

On behalf of the professional indexing community, I am a little embarrassed about the index to this book, created by Indexing Specialists (UK) Ltd. While it is usable, it has lacks: not enough see also references (none, actually), some scattering of terms (an entry for "distributed citizen's information systems" but no connection to the single locator for "information systems"), and odd choices for some entry terms. Having indexed books at the tail end of the publishing cycle, I know how hard it is to get the final editing done. Still, it would have improved the user experience (which is what Part 4 is all about) to have an index with a more cohesive structure and greater integrity.

There is no overall bibliography, as the editors felt anything they listed would no longer be useful by the time of publication. I find this explanation specious; using that reasoning, would this book be useful by the time of publication? However, several of the chapter contributors have included bibliographical references so the reader has somewhere to go after digesting the material.

The chapters themselves are packed with methodologies and practical approaches to the individual issues they aim to elucidate. Information modeling is an underutilized initiation of Web site architecture, and the writers on this topic provide well-documented definitions and visualizations of the process. Following the advice in these chapters will go a long way to assuring a successful build-out of the information architecture.

The chapters on software are interesting in that they don't (can't,

really) talk much about actual software. It changes too quickly, and individual site needs vary too greatly. The authors provide instead a way of looking at software needs and assessing available solutions. It is gratifying to see the business case brought up in this section—again, an underused approach to not only architecting a site, but re-architecting it in response to change. The chapter on software vendors makes an important point, at least from a government Web site perspective, about the need to access isolated silos of information in a usable way. (Perhaps "silos" is a Midwestern term; the author calls them "stovepipes.") This chapter borders on project management, which is not otherwise addressed in the book.

Part 3 is titled "Managing Metadata," but runs the gamut from interoperability to XML to topic maps to taxonomies, taking side trips to define related such terms as controlled vocabularies, thesauri, even ontologies. Chapter 9 makes an important point that could be the rallying cry for this entire section, "Standards are the key" (148). This section doesn't have the cohesiveness of the other parts of the book, but it certainly displays valuable understanding of the issues.

The final section, on user interface, discusses some aspects of usability testing. It is a rather brief introduction to a topic that could truly run throughout the information architecture process. Of the three chapters in this section, the second is a rather fey interview and the third a case study. I would like to have seen a concluding chapter that summarizes and brings together the many threads presented in the book.

*Information Architecture* provides a needed approach to the many topic areas encompassed by this new discipline. That it was written by practicing experts in the field makes it especially worthwhile. The editors and authors have given us a lot to digest in a way that is useful, manageable, and applicable.—Eileen Quam (eileen.

quam@state.mn.us), *Minnesota Office of Technology*

***Managing Preservation for Libraries and Archives.*** Ed. John Feather. Burlington, Vt.: Ashgate Pub., 2004. 189p. \$79.95 Hardcover (ISBN 0-7546-0705-4).

This book consists of eight essays written by an international group of contributors and covers major current preservation management issues. As stated by John Feather in the preface, the topics range from state-of-the-art developments in the field to well-proven methods of preserving traditional library materials. That said, a full three chapters are dedicated to digital preservation, understandably giving this newer and rapidly changing area more consideration than other subjects. As books about library preservation tend to be published few and far between, this volume is a welcome addition to the available literature.

Feather opens the book with an introductory chapter, laying a foundation for the rest of the book by providing an overview of the underlying ideals of preservation, giving the reader some background of the field, and then moving on to creating preservation policies. He discusses the philosophy of preserving cultural and documentary heritage and writes that preservation is the means by which documentary heritage is passed on to future generations. He explains the often-conflicting principles of artifactual value verses intellectual content and the search for balance between current and future use. He touches on differing levels of preservation commitment and the issues surrounding selection for preservation. Feather then covers some obstacles to preservation and discusses principles of preservation policies for libraries and archives.

The second chapter is the first that focuses on various aspects of digital preservation. Colin Webb gives a straightforward overview of the challenges involved in digital preservation.