

Practical Cataloguing: AACR, RDA and MARC 21. By Anne Welsh and Sue Batley. Chicago: Neal-Schuman, 2012. 217 p. \$75 softcover (ISBN: 978-1-55570-743-9).

In their preface, Anne Welsh and Sue Batley, both cataloging instructors, write that *Practical Cataloguing* was commissioned to bridge a gap between cataloging textbooks meant for the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR2)/MARC21* environment and textbooks focused on the new standard, *RDA: Resource Description and Access*.¹ Given that many libraries will delay implementing *RDA* until after the Library of Congress's planned implementation date of March 31, 2013, and that *AACR2* records, like pre-*AACR2* records, will be in library catalogs for years to come, this book indeed fills a gap that will be present for some time. Perhaps in recognition of the fact that nobody could write a definitive print cataloging manual in 2012 that would not be obsolete six months later, *Practical Cataloguing* is neither a how-to-catalog text nor a workbook. Rather, *Practical Cataloguing* provides a "map to the gap" between *AACR2/MARC21* and *RDA* by combining a discussion of cataloging theory, history, and the issues (and controversies) created by current and future standards, augmented with practical advice for working catalogers in any environment.

The book begins by discussing cataloging codes from Charles Cutter's *Rules for a Printed Dictionary Catalogue* through *RDA*.² Additional chapters address related issues such as the *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR)*, International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD), and access points and headings.³ The language avoids jargon and is accessible to both novice and experienced librarians. The text takes on a narrative quality as it discusses the evolution of ISBD, *AACR2*, and *MARC21*, why and how *RDA* (with its *FRBR* underpinnings)

has come to replace *AACR2*, and navigating a workflow where both codes must coexist in an environment with many unknowns. Each chapter contains detailed explanations and copious examples of descriptive data and access points in ISBD, *MARC21*, *RDA*, and *AACR2*. Particularly valuable are the bolded "Practice Notes" in each chapter that give advice on the local interpretations, shortcuts, and compromises catalogers make in their local library systems. Readers in the United States will quickly recognize that the authors are based in the United Kingdom, both from the British spellings of "cataloguing" and "colour," and from the wry humor that slips into the text. For example, a practice note tells us that "this rule is often ignored or forgotten by cataloguers, as we can see in this example from a real catalogue" (29); access points are introduced with, "When confronted for the first time with the phrase 'access points' you might think that you are being faced with a piece of modern cataloguing jargon. And you might be right" (49).

Chapter 10 contains a number of sample records illustrating level 1 and level 2 *AACR2* and *RDA* descriptions. The examples are in ISBD (*AACR2* and *RDA*) and *MARC 21 (AACR2* only) format. The examples are all for print monographs; given the ready availability of copy cataloging for print monographs, some examples of serial, nonprint, and nontextual materials would have been more helpful to new catalogers. Even more unfortunate, some of the information about *RDA* has become outdated only five months after *Practical Cataloguing* was published. Several URLs point to now-moved or obsolete websites, and in table 6.1 (107–109) the authors illustrate an *RDA* record in *MARC21* by using an example from appendix M in the original *RDA* draft. While the example includes data for the content, media, and carrier elements, it lacks the mapping to the correct 33X field,

a startling omission. Finally, although *Practical Cataloguing* was published in March 2012, it makes no mention of the Library of Congress's *RDA* implementation date. Those seeking information on how to catalog using *RDA* should visit the Library of Congress's *RDA* training materials website at www.loc.gov/aba/rda/training_modules.html. Those seeking the most current version of *RDA* and *RDA*-to-*MARC21* mappings should consult the *RDA* toolkit at <http://access.rdatoolkit.org>.

Practical Cataloguing concludes its narrative with suggestions for key activities that cataloging managers and catalogers both new and experienced can undertake to familiarize themselves with a constantly changing environment. Also included in this section is a guide to resources for keeping current with the latest developments in cataloging codes. Because the authors, like most people, are unable to foretell the future, *Practical Cataloguing* is not the final word on *RDA*. However, because it gives the practice of cataloging—both *AACR2* and *RDA*—a solid grounding in theory, it is likely to remain relevant even when the definitive *RDA* textbooks are published and more libraries implement *RDA* in their catalogs. Especially for librarians who lack a solid classroom education in cataloging, *Practical Cataloguing* is a useful guide to the gap between *AACR2* and *RDA*, as well as the gap between a theoretical cataloging education and the actual work of cataloging.—Sarah Quimby (sarah.quimby@mnhs.org), *Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota*.

References

1. *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*, 2nd ed., 2002 rev., 2005 update (Chicago: ALA; Ottawa: Canadian Library Association; London: Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, 2002); *RDA: Resource Description & Access* (Chicago: ALA; Ottawa: Canadian Library

Association; London: Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, 2010).

2. Charles A. Cutter, *Rules for a Printed Dictionary Catalogue* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1876).
3. International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions Study Group on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records, *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records: Final Report* (The Hague: International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, 2009), accessed Sept. 26, 2012, http://archive.ifa.org/VII/s13/frbr/frbr_2008.pdf.

Academic Archives: Managing the Next Generation of College and University Archives, Records, and Special Collections. By Aaron D. Purcell. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2012. 315 p. \$95 softcover (ISBN: 978-1-55570-769-9).

In *Academic Archives*, Purcell takes a broad approach to a small area of the library world, addressing many aspects of the operations within the narrow purview of an academic archives. He divides the book into three parts, with part 1 describing the current state of archives in an academic setting. In this section, he begins by outlining the steps required to obtain a professional position in an academic archives, the mission of academic archives, and the role of these archives under the larger umbrella of special collections. Part 1 is observational in tone, looking at archives from an external perspective. In part 2, Purcell pursues a more operational approach. This part, which is nearly two-thirds of the book, is a discussion of the specific tasks required to build or update an academic archives program. Here Purcell also describes in detail the different aspects of operating an academic archives, including acquisition, processing, reference services, and digitization. Part 3 consists of a

single chapter, focusing on emerging trends and the next generation of academic archives. To balance the other two sections, more weight should have been given to this area—particularly because the subtitle of the book specifically addresses the future of these collections rather than the present.

In terms of physical format, the book is well organized. Purcell breaks up the sections nicely so that the reader does not become encumbered by long sections of weighty prose and can proceed directly to specific sections of interest. He also has inserted grey blocks throughout the text, containing bulleted lists that highlight important concepts in the surrounding paragraphs. This feature is helpful for the casual reader who is simply skimming the text for the high points or for those who are interested in previewing the content of the book before investing the time and effort to read further.

Purcell includes occasional photographs and diagrams to add visual interest, but these are sporadic and not particularly dynamic. Some of the loss in impact may be because the images are black and white rather than color. Although color illustrations may have been cost-prohibitive, the lack of color prevents the level of detail necessary to appreciate the content of the photographs. As a result, some of the images are more useful than others. His textual descriptions of complicated processes are thorough and effective, however, which make the images superfluous.

Part 1 combines three very different aspects of academic archives under the umbrella of “Archives and the Academic Environment.” The first chapter targets one of the primary audiences for which this book would be appropriate—prospective archivists. Chapter 2 is more of a survey of what academic archives are, including a substantial section on the role that technology plays in the modern academic library. Chapter 3 offers an overview of the history of special collections, followed

by an examination of their structure today and the types of materials one might expect to find. Purcell also dedicates several pages to the next generation and future directions for special collections, which is explored in greater length in part 3.

In contrast to part 1, which examines established academic archives as they currently exist, part 2 addresses issues associated with updating or building new programs. The first two chapters of part 2 (chapters 4 and 5) operate on higher administrative levels, focusing on mission and vision building for the archives and institutional records management. Although useful, the concepts put forth are more policy-driven than procedural and require the would-be archivist to operate on a different level of responsibility, addressing the role of the archives within the larger academic environment. This is a role more likely to be assumed by a senior member of the archives’ staff, who presumably is already familiar with the specifics of archival operations and therefore unlikely to read this introductory text.

The greatest strength of this book can be found in part 2—in particular, chapters 6 through 9, which offer a systematic guide to working in an academic archives. From collection development to processing, research services, and digitization, Purcell provides the reader with a true sense of operations in this type of environment. His descriptions are thorough, and he uses terminology that allows the layperson to follow the course of the various processes, which means that even those activities that can be extremely complicated, like the physical arrangement of a collection or the creation of a finding aid, are well explained.

Purcell’s approach is ambitious in both audience and scope of content. As he states in the preface, he targets the book to a wide-ranging audience, including archivists, information professionals, library directors, historians, academics, and prospective archivists,