

Book Reviews

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Catalogue 2.0: The Future of the Library Catalogue. Edited by Sally Chambers. Chicago: Neal-Schuman, 2013. 212 p. \$85 paperback (ISBN: 978-1-55570-943-3).

Despite its title, this book is not about “catalogue 2.0” in the traditional sense. That term usually describes the implementation of Web 2.0 concepts in the library catalogue, such as allowing patrons to share items via Facebook or Twitter, create their own keyword tags to describe resources, and post reviews of books they have read. These features are easy to add to a catalog, but as Anne Christensen points out in the first chapter of *Catalogue 2.0*, they are not a high priority for library patrons who are most interested in finding needed resources. Fortunately, the rest of the book examines the features users do prioritize, such as better search and ranking algorithms, mobile access to the catalogue, and improved access to digital resources. The book also describes back-end features that can provide a more streamlined experience for users, such as the use of FRBR’s framework and linked data.

Catalogue 2.0 begins and ends with a broad look at the purpose of the library catalogue in the modern world. In the first chapter, “Next-Generation Catalogues: What Do Users Think?” Christensen discusses recent studies of what users want in a library catalogue. Lorcan Dempsey ends the book by presenting his view of the modern library catalogue and where it is going in “Thirteen Ways of Looking at Libraries, Discovery, and the Catalogue: Scale, Workflow, Attention.” Each of the six remaining chapters examines a specific development in library catalogues, covering topics as diverse as improvements in searching

and ranking algorithms, implementation and development of discovery tools in Europe, mobile library catalogues, FRBRization of the catalogue, linked data, and digital scholarship.

In the book’s forward, Chambers writes, “The idea behind ‘Catalogue 2.0’ is to provide an overview of the current state of the art of the library catalogue and then to look to the future to see what the library catalogue might become” (xvii). The book meets that standard without exceeding it. While the volume’s contributors are experts in their field, they are writing for a broader audience. As a result, they discuss concepts at a basic level, providing definitions of terms and general explanations of issues involved with a particular development without delving into much detail. Some of the contributors do a particularly good job of explaining difficult concepts; Emmanuelle Bermès, for example, provides an excellent explanation of the Semantic Web and linked data for readers who have never before heard the terms, and Rosemie Callewaert includes a fascinating visualization of FRBR. This approach makes the content accessible to novices, but anyone who has much experience with or knowledge of the content of a chapter is unlikely to pick up new information from it. A few of the chapters offer practical advice and suggestions for libraries that are considering updating their catalogues, but anyone serious about implementing the ideas found here will want to review a more in-depth work on the topic. Even the references provided after each chapter include mostly examples, websites of vendors and organizations, and Wikipedia articles. On the other hand, the variety of topics covered will allow most readers to find some subjects

with which they are not familiar. Furthermore, that variety nearly eliminates redundancy from the volume. Rarely is a topic mentioned more than once, and no topic is explored in detail in multiple chapters. This also allows a reader to select specific chapters that will be useful.

Though the book’s topic is timeless, technologies come with expiration dates. Consequently, *Catalogue 2.0* will likely be irrelevant within a decade, with most of the innovations it examines either commonplace or abandoned. The multitude of examples throughout the book, while wonderful demonstrations of the utility of the ideas presented, will be useful for an even shorter period than the technologies on which they are based. Many of these examples are accompanied by links and screenshots that could be outdated within months or even weeks.

For now, however, *Catalogue 2.0* certainly has its value as a snapshot of where the library catalogue is today and an exploration of where it may be headed. While sections of the book are particularly relevant to technical services and systems librarians, it is certainly worth a read for anyone interested in both a summary of recent developments in and forecast for the library catalog. It could also serve as a reading for a course on library systems, and some of the individual chapters may be appropriate for other library courses as well.—*Julia Hess (jihess@sandiego.edu), University of San Diego*

RDA: Strategies for Implementation. By Magda El-Sherbini. Chicago: ALA, 2013. 394 p. \$65 softcover (ISBN: 978-0-8389-1168-6).

The publication of *RDA: Resource*

Description and Access in 2010 and its subsequent implementation has caused a great amount of angst in the cataloging community, giving rise to a need for resources to help libraries implement this new standard.¹ *RDA: Strategies for Implementation* will prove to be a valuable guide to libraries that have not yet implemented RDA while serving as a useful reference for those that have. As a cataloger, manager, and library science educator, author Magda El-Sherbini is well qualified to write this book. She has served on the American Library Association's RDA Advisory Committee and led the Ohio State University Libraries in their participation in the RDA Test Partnership. Ohio State also served as a beta test site for the RDA Toolkit, and her knowledge of that resource is also comprehensive.

RDA: Strategies for Implementation is organized into nine chapters. It begins with a short chapter that describes the need for a new cataloging code, RDA's underlying principles and objectives, and RDA's impact on cataloging. Chapter 2 addresses the differences between RDA and the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd ed. (AACR2).² This is highly useful, and the differences are presented in chart form so that the AACR2 and RDA practices are side-by-side and can be easily compared. El-Sherbini breaks these differences into categories such as scope, description, use of square brackets, recording inaccuracies, abbreviations, capitalization, and many descriptive elements of the cataloging record.

In the third chapter, El-Sherbini provides good advice for implementing RDA. She shares tips for catalogers and cataloging managers on becoming familiar with the resources needed to work with RDA, including the RDA Toolkit. She refers catalogers to the many webinars that are freely available on the Internet, and provides advice for conducting in-house training. Part of the intention of RDA was to allow

online catalog interfaces to display records in a more meaningful way. This third chapter includes a section that demonstrates how RDA can affect interface displays in a positive way. RDA has required the establishment of new MARC fields, and those are described in this chapter along with suggestions for implementation.

With chapter 4, El-Sherbini changes gear somewhat to present the theoretical underpinnings of RDA. The Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) conceptual model was presented at an International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) conference in 1997 and has been used as the basis for development of RDA. El-Sherbini does an excellent job of explaining the FRBR model of entities, attributes, and relationships, and demonstrating its application through illustrations in this chapter.

Chapters 5 and 6 contain the meat of the cataloging instruction. Chapter 5 addresses manifestations and items, and chapter 6 addresses works and expressions. Each chapter provides a robust set of instructions, referencing the RDA rule and MARC tag as appropriate. Chapter 6 includes a thorough discussion on relationships, a key concept in RDA.

The RDA Toolkit is an online resource that many, if not most, catalogers will use to access RDA and many accompanying resources. In chapter 7, El-Sherbini provides instructions for using the Toolkit, including logging in, using its FAQ and help features, browsing the Toolkit using its tabs, and the quick and advanced search options. Many screenshots illustrate each section discussed. This chapter should prove immensely useful to catalogers, managers, and trainers.

El-Sherbini devotes chapter 8 to dozens of examples of RDA records. These examples illustrate types of resources that catalogers would likely face, including print monographs, serials, visual materials, maps, globes,

sound recordings, scores, integrating resources, computer files, and more. Each sample record has an accompanying notes section in which El-Sherbini points out significant issues. For instance, with the print monograph example, she notes the differences in transcription practice, abbreviation, source of cataloging information, and the new MARC fields for content, media, and carrier type. These notes are very useful and will be an excellent resource for trainers.

Chapter 9 includes a brief selection of checklists that catalogers, managers, and trainers will find very helpful. It includes checklists for copy and original catalogers, and one for authority control.

RDA: Strategies for Implementation is well organized, with many illustrations, tables, and screenshots that demonstrate the rules, the theory behind the rules, and the Toolkit developed to support use of RDA. Each chapter includes a list of references and additional resources that readers can use to investigate topics further. The book also includes a bibliography and index.

RDA: Strategies for Implementation will be an excellent resource for catalogers who are in the midst of implementing RDA. It will also be useful for managers and trainers, who can use the many tips for implementation and the checklists. Libraries that have already implemented RDA would also find this book useful to have in their cataloging reference collections. There are a few flaws in the book, including typos and other errors. Since the book was completed in January 2012, subsequent changes to RDA and policy decisions that occurred since then are not represented. One example is the Program for Cooperative Cataloging's (PCC) decision about the use of MARC field 264 for publication data, which this book does not address. This book would be an excellent addition to personal or professional collections in any library.—*Rebecca L. Mugridge*

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References

1. *RDA: Resource Description & Access* (Chicago: ALA; Ottawa: Canadian Library Association; London: Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, 2010).
2. *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*, 2nd ed., 2002 rev., 2005 update (Chicago: American Library Association; Ottawa: Canadian Library Association; London: Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, 2002).

Cataloging Collaborations and Partnerships. Edited by Rebecca L. Mugridge. New York: Routledge, 2014. 317 p. \$145 hardcover (ISBN: 978-0-415-71235-4).

Libraries have a long history of collaboration with other libraries, especially with regards to cataloging. This book contains many articles originally published in *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly (CCQ)* volume 51, issue 1–3, which discuss collaborative efforts of cataloging units within libraries. The articles are broken down into the following broad categories:

- “Collaborations in Cooperative Cataloging and Authority Initiatives”
- “Collaborative Cataloging Initiatives”
- “Collaborations in Merging and Migrating Online Catalogs”
- “Collaborative Development of Training and Documentation”
- “Collaborative Approaches to Special Projects”

As acknowledged by the editor of this work, there is not a lot of published information on collaboration within cataloging units. To help increase the amount of library literature on this topic, the editor of this book placed

a call for articles that were brought together into a triple issue of *CCQ*. This book brings to light a representative sampling of the different types of collaborative cataloging efforts that are currently underway in libraries. While there are many collaborative projects mentioned in this book, the following is a summary of a few of these ideas.

The first section of the book discusses different projects that have been completed to enhance authority initiatives. This includes information on how the Library of Congress worked with different libraries to develop the Library of Congress Genre/Form Terms (LCGFT) as well as the Electronic Cataloging in Publication (ECIP) Cataloging Partnership Program.

The second section gives some examples of cataloging initiatives with regards to bibliographic records. One of the projects includes the idea of “insourcing” the cataloging of music items within multiple libraries of the University of California system. Another cooperative cataloging project discussed is with the University of Montana working closely with the US Government Printing Office to catalog pre-1976 US Forest Service publications.

In a section on merging and migrating online catalogs, two different articles discuss the benefits and problems with combining multiple library catalogs into one system. These two use cases, completed in Florida and the West Indies, have similarities in that a major goal of each was to reduce the number of resources that each institution was committing to maintaining the same types of databases and systems. Combining their catalogs made it possible to have a centralized unit responsible for the management of their integrated library systems (ILS). Another interesting collaboration demonstrated in this section includes the migration to an open-source ILS at a library in the Galapagos Islands, which is mainly

staffed by volunteers.

There are four articles related to collaboration for training and development within cataloging units. One of the articles, discussing efforts to build a skills inventory and a set of best practices within OHIOLink, includes a useful section on ideas for implementing such a project. Subsections within this include helpful tools for planning, project implementation, methods of compensation, creating a memorandum of understanding, and evaluating the project. Another major training collaborative that is discussed involves catalogers from Uganda and Norway assisting a library in Sudan with the implementation of an open-source ILS.

The final section of this book includes several “special projects” and how they were accomplished through collaboration. This includes a chapter about research datasets being integrated into existing digital repositories at the University of North Texas, updating web searching for the University of New Mexico by collaborating with their information technology department, the use of electronic discussion lists to maintain bibliographic and authority files, and how a library’s ILS can be used as a source for providing outreach to an academic institution.

An important aspect of this book is that it provides many examples of how library cataloging operations have changed in recent years. Catalogers have to reach out to the broader library community to achieve their goals and to continually improve the services that they provide. This book presents many collaborative situations that can be applied to cataloging units in different types of libraries by showing how working with other groups can help with budgetary constraints, by completing large projects where catalogers may not have the correct expertise, and through demonstrating ways that catalogers can apply their current knowledge and skills to situations outside of traditional library cataloging.