are perhaps useful for background and historical perspective, but have limited usefulness in the current environment.

Smiraglia’s introduction is inclusive and covers markup languages, various metadata schemas (Cataloging-in-Publication, Text Encoding Initiative, Dublin Core, the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, and MARC21). The chapters in part 1 are lengthy and cover metadata and bibliographic control in extensive detail. There is some overlap in concepts and examples between these chapters. Part 1 includes metadata applications in a health care agency and an analysis of Etruscan artifacts in an archaeology museum. Both are interesting departures from the typical library and archive applications of metadata.

Part 2 is a hands-on guide to creating and applying metadata. The chapters in this part of the book include contributions by recognized metadata experts Anita Coleman, Patrick Yott, and Michael Chopey. Coleman’s chapter addresses use of Dublin Core records for the library catalog and is a bit dated. Dublin Core is required for participation in the Open Archives Initiative-Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH), yet is only one choice of metadata schema used by libraries. Many libraries use metadata from a variety of schemas, or prefer richer descriptive schemas such as the Metadata Object Description Schema (MODS) or Metadata for Images in XML (MIX).

The introduction to Coleman’s chapter notes “Professional positions like Metadata Architect and Metadata Librarian are increasingly common. . . . Some libraries are even replacing job titles such as Cataloger with them” (154). This has become the norm as there are numerous metadata cataloger positions and many departments that provide bibliographic description and access have been renamed as Cataloging and Metadata to reflect the range of their work. Her explanation of metadata elements and examples is helpful and will be useful to librarians who use Dublin Core. The appendix to her chapter includes a metadata-creation form that is quite long. It is not clear whether this form is available online, which would make it much more useful to metadata creators than a print form.

Alexander Thurman’s chapter on metadata standards for archival control provides a concise overview of EAD and includes useful information in the appendix. The appendix contains a guide to a manuscript collection, a statement of collection scope, and index terms. The remainder of the appendix is devoted to a sample EAD record, which will be useful to those wishing to use this schema or to learn about it.

Patrick Yott’s introduction to XML is a refreshing departure from how chapters in this type of text are typically written. He provides an overview of XML in easy-to-understand language and illustrates with examples that cite pop music legends Robert Fripp and Brian Eno. Part 2 concludes with chapters by Linda Cantara on METS and Michael Chopey on how to plan and implement a metadata-driven digital repository. While both chapters are well written, the authors have approached their topics differently. Cantara’s chapter is streamlined and narrowly focused on METS. Chopey’s is extensive and examines the steps and processes necessary for planning and implementing a repository.

One of the main drawbacks of this book is that it was published in 2005 and has limited utility in 2008. Metadata applications and concepts have greatly evolved over the last three years. Most people in librarianship have been exposed to metadata in some context, whether as a user or as a participant in a digital project. There are numerous texts on metadata, as well as classes and groups devoted to various aspects of metadata (e.g., collection development, metadata creation, and digital preservation). This text is helpful as an introduction to metadata, yet some of the concepts and ideas presented in it are dated and may not be relevant to current standards.—Mary Beth Weber (mbfecz@rci.rutgers.edu), Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.


This past spring the 2008 Public Library Association conference included a session called “Dewey or Don’t We?” This phrase sums up the lukewarm feelings that many professionals feel toward the Dewey Decimal Classification system (DDC). Library journals and blogs are abuzz with firsthand accounts of libraries replacing DDC with more “user-friendly” systems. Library schools, professionals, and patrons continue to question its value in the library, especially with the ever-increasing body of digital information. Is Dewey necessary in our libraries or has it become an outmoded relic of our past? Is there a future for Dewey?

Moving Beyond the Presentation Layer: Content and Context in the Dewey Decimal Classification System explores the past, present, and future of the Dewey Decimal Classification. It answers and addresses many of the concerns regarding the future of DDC in a digital environment. The collection of articles in this publication not only examines the development and function of DDC, but also discusses projects that have relied heavily on DDC and the way modern libraries are adapting it to fit their needs. While
the writing is somewhat scholarly, the articles included in this publication explore the uses of DDC in a variety of contexts and applications.

The topic is timely. In 2007, the Maricopa County Library District and Phoenix Public Library in Arizona made library headlines when they decided to stop using DDC and replace it with BISAC (Book Industry Standards and Communications). This sparked heated debate about the future of DDC in today’s libraries. This debate is ongoing, and there is an ever-increasing number of libraries who are adopting other types of classification systems. *Moving Beyond the Presentation Layer* is making an appearance on the market at a time when professionals need to examine whether DDC has a future in the digital information environment, or if it is a classification system best restricted to the physical library.

At first glance, *Moving Beyond the Presentation Layer* gives the appearance of a textbook. Its unadorned cover may lead readers initially to hesitate to read what appears to be a collection of scholarly articles. The numerous pages advertising additional *Cataloging and Classification Quarterly* publications interspersed with the title page and sundry other Web site/Internet resources for bibliographic access to the journal serve to compound the situation. However, once the reader moves beyond this, the book follows a traditional layout that includes a table of contents, information on the editors, a preface, bibliographic references, and an index. In addition, through use of appropriate white space and clear, neat font, the reader is not further challenged by significant blocks of text, which are often associated with scholarly publications.

The preface, co-authored by the editors, provides insight into the nature and purpose of this publication.

*Moving Beyond the Presentation Layer* is broken down into three sections: an introduction, an international perspective, and a Web perspective. Each section comprises articles on topics relevant to the broad areas that each section tries to examine. Articles cover such topics as an introduction to DDC from its online inception, challenges that have been encountered and continue to be encountered, application of DDC on a world stage, and projects that have heavily relied on DDC. As a result, the strength of *Moving Beyond the Presentation Layer* lies in the depth and breadth of knowledge that has been gathered together in this work.

Drawing from a group of scholars within the cataloguing community, the authors explore DDC from a variety of perspectives. Taking advantage of this diverse body of knowledge, each author writes on a different aspect of DDC. For example, in the first section of the book, “Content and Context: An Introduction,” Karen Markey introduces DDC to readers. She explores in depth the birth of online classification systems, the DDC Online Project, and the expertise and evaluations involved in creating online, accessible bibliographic records. The strength of Markey’s article lies in the analysis of classification as an online tool for end users. Markey takes the time to examine the research that has been conducted in this regard, the evolution of information-seeking behavior in end users, and the role classification plays in information retrieval.

Also noteworthy is the article on teaching DDC. The Library of Congress recently created the Task Force on Competencies and Education for a Career in Cataloging to critically examine the education of catalogers. An important aspect of a cataloger’s education includes the examination of classification systems and their future in a digital environment. With libraries moving away from DDC, catalogers, as well as practicing professionals, need to be well-versed in the theory, application, and adaptability of DDC in order to knowledgeably defend or object to the use of this classification system in their libraries.

In a world where most people believe Dewey is not taught outside of elementary school, how can we make DDC relevant and stress its importance to students? Arlene Taylor explores the challenges of teaching DDC to students. Taylor also looks at the challenges of content and the importance of teaching subject analysis when determining content and assigning a DDC number. Her response provides a thorough examination of techniques for teaching DDC, including overcoming logistical problems such as access to WebDewey for educational purposes.

The third section examines several notable projects that have relied heavily on DDC in a digital environment. Recently, Library and Archives Canada (LAC) undertook a project using DDC to access and retrieve online information about Canada. The challenges that co-authors Dean Zeeman and Glenyss Turner faced in molding DDC to their needs at LAC is discussed in this section. These projects provide a glimpse into the potential and future of DDC in a Web-based and digital information environment.

Overall, the insight that *Moving Beyond the Presentation Layer* provides is relevant and provides a critical examination into DDC in the context of its present challenges. Each article explores DDC’s flexibility and relevance through illustration by the projects that professionals are currently undertaking that involve adapting DDC to suit their needs. *Moving Beyond the Presentation Layer* provides professionals with an opportunity to acquire this unique collection of scholarly articles. The body of knowledge and exploration of DDC projects provides foundation and guidance into how DDC can be altered and applied to satisfy the needs of users and to fill the diverse needs of libraries today. As a result, this
publication would be an asset to the professional collection of any librarian, scholar, or cataloger. Because of the theoretical foundation provided, it can also easily be used as a textbook. Moving Beyond the Presentation Layer is highly recommended for any professional looking to explore DDC’s functions, strengths, and weaknesses. The compendium provides insight into an advanced and ever-changing classification system that is not static, but rather is limited only by our own definition of classification systems and their application.—Laurel Tarulli (tarulll@halifax.ca), Halifax Public Libraries, Lower Sackville, N.S.


This publication represents a valiant effort to assess the status of digital preservation efforts in fifteen national libraries in Asia, Australia, Europe, New Zealand, and North America from legal, organizational, and technological standpoints. The author is an employee in the Research and Development Division of the Digital Preservation Department of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB, the National Library of the Netherlands), and the work is based on a study sponsored by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions-Confederation of Directors of National Libraries (IFLA-CDNL) Alliance for Bibliographic Standards (ICABS). Unfortunately, the research, which dates back to 2004, may be too old to be of much use to those seeking current information about digital preservation standards and best practices, and the in-depth profiles of the fifteen national libraries probably will be of little interest to librarians working in other types of organizations.

The book resembles a much more detailed version of the type of study conducted and published by the Association of Research Libraries in its SPEC Kits series. Part 1 consists of introductory matter describing the study’s purpose and methodology, a glossary of “Practical Definitions” of terminology used in the study, and a forty-five-page analysis of the survey results. The majority of the work profiles the fifteen national libraries surveyed, including their organizational charts and a table highlighting international collaborations among them. A brief list of references, an extensive list of acronyms, and a five-page summary of a National Library of Australia study from 2005 make up the appendices. Unlike in many other scholarly publications, the survey itself is not provided as an appendix. The work is sparsely illustrated, with just two pages of “bird’s-eye views” of operational digital repositories in the world over time and two pages of photographs humorously depicting the challenges of long-term storage and permanent access.

Even in 2008 I was interested in the analysis, despite the fact that it relied on dated findings: the questions raised (if not the responses) remain relevant. Under a working definition of digital preservation as long-term (five years or more) activities “concerning the maintenance and care for/curation of digital or electronic objects, in relation to both storage and access” (20), it documents many key issues surrounding digital preservation in the legal landscape and in library operations and services, and highlights international research and development efforts that may affect the field in the future.

A primary legal issue for the national libraries concerns legal deposit legislation, the requirement for publishers to deposit copies of their publications at the national library of the country in which they are published. In most nations, this legislation needs to be updated to include born-digital publications, which raise a host of new issues regarding copyright (digital publications can be distributed more readily and widely than physical publications) and preservation (long-term preservation of digital objects of necessity involves copying them, so digital rights management protections and laws limiting the making of copies for specific purposes inhibit digital preservation). The author cites the Library of Congress’s Section 108 Study Group, the report for which has since been released, as a sign of imminent progress for one nation on this issue. Although legal deposit legislation is not an issue I have had to grapple with, the question of what we have the right to copy and make available is relevant to all engaged in digital projects, so I appreciated the study’s inclusion of these legal questions.

The descriptions in the analysis of the organizational structures and funding streams of digital preservation activities in the national libraries, while not replicable by the rest of us, were nonetheless instructive. Verheul’s findings with respect to national libraries’ interdepartmental collaboration in the digital context, regardless of where digital activities are primarily positioned within the organizational structure, echo my experience in my own institution: these activities cross traditional boundaries of collections, technical services, information technology, and administration.

The survey inquired about each national library’s existing and planned digital repository systems, their design, development, implementation, and production, as well as the services performed by them, in terms of archiving and access. Special attention was paid to each repository’s adherence (or intention to adhere) to the Reference Model for Open Archival Information System (OAIS), a framework developed by the Council of the Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems that provides a common vocabulary for long-term pres-