ers, smart phones, E-book Readers, to Ultra Mobile PCs (UMPCs). He gives price ranges and suggested vendors. At the end of the chapter he talks about uses within the library, archiving, and when to adopt a particular technology. His rule of thumb is to support technologies that most of your patrons are using, and he goes on to suggest that the approximate time to implement this support is when 50 percent of your households own the technology. Strauber concludes with suggested sources for additional information and trend spotting.

Eric Schnell defines a “mashup” as “a hybrid application whose content and functionality result from combining together third-party data sources” (64). I find the examples of mashups easier to understand than the definition. Schnell talks about ChicagoCrime, a database that combined police data from reported crimes with Google Maps. The final product consisted of a mapping site that illustrated where crimes were committed. Also, the avian flu site sponsored by the journal Nature combines information about avian flu outbreaks from the World Health Organization and United Nations data with Google Earth. Schnell says mashups are very dynamic and especially useful for unique customer subgroups. He lists development tools and examples of the burgeoning use of mashups within the library scene. Finally, Schnell covers the special challenges associated with mashups: intellectual property versus fair use, data security, changes in application programming interface, and the verification that the data used in a mashup is genuine. He contends that the technologies involved need to be simplified in order for mashups to develop into practical, standardized tools.

Brian S. Mathews defines and discusses online social networking and lists its core features. These include user profiles, friending, groups, individual messaging, announcements, message boards, photos, blogs, ice-breakers, search functions, and privacy controls. Besides citing the well-known sites such as MySpace and Facebook, Mathews talks about the business site LinkedIn and the journal site LiveJournal. He gives an honest appraisal of what he labels the “dark side” of the social Web, including online predators, stalking, addiction, and potential invasion of privacy, and he lists the pros and cons librarians cite about the place of social networking in the library. Finally, he lists the steps and sequence a library may wish to follow when entering the social networking environment.

The book also includes detailed discussions of folksonomies, tagging, virtual worlds, gaming, and digital storytelling. Notably missing in this otherwise thorough compilation is a chapter on blogs. For incorporating the many uses and contributions of blogs see Library 2.0: A Guide to Participatory Library Service by Michael E. Casey and Laura C. Savastinuk.

Library 2.0 and Beyond provides a foundation and starting point for librarians, teachers, and instructors who wish either to understand more about the various technologies their patrons are using or who wish to begin implementing them. The lists of required technologies and potential vendors would be particularly helpful. The book also offers sufficient explanation for the reader wishing to learn more about the technologies. I feel confident that I now can read with more understanding articles and blogs regarding these technologies because of the thoroughness of the definitions and discussion in the book. The book also could serve as a handbook for anyone using the Web site 43 Things (www.43things.com). The chapters are self-contained, so they would make a good “on-desk” assignment, and the book could be kept as a reference in a departmental library.—Cleo Pappas (cleop76@uic.edu), University of Illinois at Chicago.

Reference


Metadata: A Cataloger’s Primer is edited by Richard Smiraglia, a noted expert on knowledge organization. Smiraglia states in the introduction that the purpose of this text is to “provide a learning resource about metadata for catalog librarians and students” (1). While this may seem like an audience that has very different interests, this book is directed at practitioners with limited or no experience with metadata schemas and related concepts, as well as neophytes. The book is divided into two parts: part 1 is titled “Intellectual Foundations” and consists of articles that introduce metadata concepts and applications; part 2 is titled “How to Create, Apply, and Use Metadata,” and covers Dublin Core, Extensible-Markup Language (XML), Encoded Archival Description (EAD), and the Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard (METS).

Part 1 provides an overview of introductory and theoretical material and original research, and includes contributions by Jane Greenberg and Lynne Howarth. Part 2 serves as an instruction manual and cites a number of metadata texts that are widely used. Smiraglia suggests that readers consult them as a point of reference. It should be noted that the cited texts are dated from 1999 through 2004. Metadata applications and practices are continually evolving, and information quickly becomes outdated. The cited texts
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 Schema (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 (mbecko@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 first-hand 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 outdated 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