and so on, as “Authors.” This report does not question that development.

All examples in this work assume labels, and most use “Author,” although there are examples in languages other than English, and one example uses “Personal Name” (6). The closest to an ISBD display is one labeled “Brief Description” (13), although elsewhere “Description” is used to label collation.

The Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, Second Edition (AACR2), their proposed replacement Resource Description and Access (RDA), and MARC21 could all mandate ISBD display. Instead, the RDA creators seem to have decided to relegate ISBD to an appendix as an option for description and display. That does not bode well for availability of ISBD-compliant software from vendors, who seem to find it preferable to make fun of ISBD punctuation and design over more elaborate labels to help the catalogue user. As Bernhard Eversberg has repeatedly stated in Autocat postings, labels work less well where not everybody speaks English, unless the patron has several sets of labels from which to choose. But even then, some data elements refuse to be neatly labeled. If MARC were to say “records are to be displayed in ISBD order and with ISBD punctuation,” that’s what everybody would do. There is a good example of a MARC display (fig. 14 d).

Included in this final report’s bibliography is the very useful work by Martha M. Yee and Sara Shatford Layne upon which an IFLA recommendation paper was based.1 On pages 114–15 of that report, Yee and Layne list field labels based on AACR2, MARC, and labels found in existing systems.

The November 24, 1998, Draft IFLA publication called “Guidelines for OPAC Displays,” prepared for the IFLA Task Force on Guidelines for OPAC Displays by Martha Yee, unfortunately was withdrawn. It is included in a paper that Yee gave at the 1999 IFLA Council and General Conference.2 It has helpful sorting suggestions missing from this final report.

My only reservation concerning Yee’s earlier recommendations is that I have found inverse chronological display, particularly under subject, to work best, regardless of subject matter. Most patrons select an item from among the first five or so displayed. Long arts and social science retrieval lists are helped by inverse chronological arrangement as are science ones. Authors whose surnames begin A–M, who circulate more frequently, are no more authoritative than authors whose surnames begin N–Z, who circulate less frequently. The same reservation applies to the final report. A sample display allows clicking for sorting results by ascending or descending date (10), but it is not the default subject set sort.

Another Yee paper that should become a landmark in our effort to find a tool to use in dealing with vendors concerning our requirements for good library online catalogue software, and patron friendly displays, and which is vastly superior for this purpose than IFLA’s final report is “Principles for the Display of Cataloger-Created Metadata” (February 15, 2002, draft), an expansion of her withdrawn IFLA paper.3 There are copious examples, including (Figure 14, p. 112) of ISBD displays.—J. McRee (Mac) Elrod (mac@slc.bc.ca), Special Libraries Cataloguing, Inc., Victoria, B.C., Canada

References

Brief Reviews


Fritz and Fritz stress repeatedly—and appropriately—that their book is intended as a general overview of MARC, not as a detailed MARC manual. Given its stated purpose, MARC21 for Everyone provides a remarkably thorough introduction to MARC coding for bibliographic records. Its only significant weakness is that it was published in 2003, and some of the information and examples are already outdated.

But is it really for everyone, as the title claims? And is it really a practical guide? The answer to both questions is yes, with some qualifications.

The titular “everyone” encompasses most library staff. Chapter 6 delineates “Who Needs to Know What” for staff in all areas of public and technical services, as well as systems and administration. The information in this book will satisfy the needs of most of these groups but not all. For example, the authors note that “catalogers need to know everything about MARC, in much more detail than we will cover here” (61). However, even for (new) catalogers, the work could be a useful introductory training tool.

The claim that MARC21 for Everyone is a practical guide is subject to a stronger qualification. The book is divided into Part 1, “MARC: The Underlying Fundamentals,” and Part 2, “MARC21 Codes You Should Know.” Part 1 contains background information on cataloging in general and MARC in particular. While not exactly impractical, it probably contains more historical information than some readers care to know, particularly those who want to understand just enough about MARC to perform their jobs.
On the other hand, Part 2 contains practical, nuts-and-bolts information about using and deciphering MARC coding. The authors’ intention is to “present [the reader] with the most common fields found in MARC21 bibliographic records” (63). In general they have omitted only relatively obscure fields. Part 2 consists of four chapters, each devoted to fields that serve the same function (for example, all the “indexed” or “heading” fields are discussed in Chapter 7). This organization makes the book much more user-friendly for beginners than would a strictly numeric arrangement. Readers who want to look up a particular field can use the index to do so.

The book’s added features, such as screen shots and tables, quizzes at the end of each chapter, and a robust glossary, help to make MARC21 for Everyone a valuable tool for learning (and teaching) MARC basics.—Sarah Yates, (yates006@umn.edu), University of Minnesota Law Library, Minneapolis.


Of greater scope than its subtitle suggests, From A to Zine: Building a Winning Zine Collection in Your Library, discusses not only establishing and building a zine collection, but also addresses issues of access, cataloging, circulation, preservation, publicity, programming, and outreach. Julie Bartel, the author of this slim yet unique volume, is the founder and coordinator of the Salt Lake City Public Library’s nearly decade-old zine collection. While zine collections remain uncommon, especially in public library contexts, Bartel frames both philosophical and pragmatic arguments in their support, offering firsthand examples of how zines have allowed unique engagements with users.

While public librarians will find this book most helpful, any librarian working with zines will find useful information as well as many highly valuable appendixes offering information including review sources, online discussion groups, libraries, and specialty stores. Readers would, however, appreciate a more nuanced discussion of e-zines. While correctly emphasizing the importance of tangibility and physical aspect in much of zine culture, Bartel’s overly dismissive stance towards electronic parallels (represented by a brief afterthought of a final chapter) leaves an inviting ellipsis for the next writer on this topic.—Darby Orcutt, (darby_orcutt@ncsu.edu), North Carolina State University, Raleigh.