as well as its difficulty in structuring information hierarchically. Ridley suggests that we move toward a "work-based system" that accommodates three hierarchical levels: work, manifestation, and copy. He also suggests that we move toward a more commonly used format such as an SGML application. Finally, he addresses the problem of character sets, urging adoption of Unicode to correct the inadequate display of language scripts in current systems.

This volume contains ideas and recommendations with which the cataloging community must acquaint itself to ensure that *AACR2* does not stagnate, but becomes the rational, responsive, and flexible tool that it must be to sustain intelligent cataloging practice in an international context. The conference organizers are to be congratulated for selecting contributors who have produced works of such importance to the cataloging community.—*Allyson Carlyle (acarlyle@u.washington.edu), School of Library and Information Science, University of Washington, Seattle.*

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Management of Serials in Libraries. Thomas E. Nisonger. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 1998. 433p. $55 (ISBN 1-56308-213-6) LC98-28879.

Serials always have been known for their complexity and for the many challenges they present to the people who manage them. Today, the challenges are no longer simply changes in title, frequency, and numbering schemes; there are also changes in format, methods of acquisition, and methods of delivery. Add the Internet, licensing contracts, and dwindling budgets, and the serials specialist faces a mind-boggling management task. In today's serials environment, old and familiar problems remain, and they are accompanied by an entirely new set of complexities.

In his new textbook, Thomas Nisonger covers all of the above issues and more. *Management of Serials in Libraries* is a well-researched, comprehensive, up-to-date look at serials management issues. The emphasis is on collection management. This book appears on the heels of several other publications that also address the uniqueness of serials and the special handling that they require. Two recent notable works are *Serials Management: A Practical Guide* by Chiou-sen Dora Chen (1995) and Marcia Tuttle's *Managing Serials*, with chapters by Luke Swindler and Frieda B. Rosenberg (1996). Chen's publication, as its title suggests, is a concise guide of 186 pages that provides basic, straightforward information for efficient serials management. In contrast, Nisonger's book is not a guide, but rather an in-depth study of serials with an intent "to educate rather than train" (xxi). As the author himself suggests, his book nicely complements Tuttle's work by providing separate, detailed chapters on electronic journals, serials automation, citation analysis, and collection management issues.

Nisonger has an admitted bias toward academic libraries because they reflect his background and concerns as an associate professor in the School of Library and Information Science at Indiana University; however, the book is also intended for use by serials managers in public, school, and special libraries. It is written from "the perspective of a library and information science educator rather than a library practitioner" (xxi). Throughout his book, Nisonger consciously and effectively strives to create a balance in describing how serials are actually managed

versus prescribing how they ought to be managed.

The book consists of ten chapters. Brief annotations that introduce each chapter and bold sub-topics within chapters allow easy browsing. Many of the chapters (and some of the sub-topics) end with a convenient summary and/or conclusion. An unannotated bibliography complemented by a list of further reading follows each chapter, and at the end of the book, the author provides a bibliography on serials in general. Immediately following the introduction, common abbreviations and acronyms are spelled out. This is a helpful feature, though there is no formal glossary that would be handy for quick and easy reference to serials jargon. Nisonger notes that this omission is intentional because terms needing explanation are defined as they appear in the text. The three useful appendixes are annotated bibliographies of sources for serials statistics and of pertinent serials bibliographies, and a list of Web sites relevant to serials.

As is traditional with most books about serials, the first chapter is devoted to definitions and descriptions of different types of serials, including electronic journals. Chapter 2 is an interesting account of the historical development of both print and electronic serials. In this chapter, the author highlights the impact of serial costs on library budgets. Nisonger's personal interest in collection management issues is revealed by his extensive coverage of the subject in two distinct chapters. These chapters highlight such topics as selection, deselection, document delivery, holdings gaps, treatment of unbound issues, and multiple copy and location decisions. He discusses microevaluation (a title-by-title approach to the make-up of the collection), and macroevaluation (a look at the collection in its entirety). Brief arguments relating to the concept of access versus ownership are presented with Nisonger's conclusion that, in the context of collection management, a desirable solution would be an appropriate balance between the two.

Nisonger prefers to use the term *collection management* rather than *collection development* because the word *management* can be more closely associated with the control of funds allocated to the serials collection. According to the author, budgetary concerns are more than ever a major factor in collection management decisions. Whereas a serials manager at one time needed only to decide whether or not to subscribe to a specific title, the serials manager of today must also take into consideration options for print-only subscriptions, electronic-only subscriptions, combined print and electronic packages, and document delivery services. Nisonger states that "interest in serials collection management has increased in recent years because of continuously escalating serials cost in tandem with stagnant library budgets, the emergence of new electronic formats, and an increased emphasis on access rather than ownership" (53).

In logical order, chapters on citation analysis, periodical use, and journal ranking studies follow. Nisonger defines citation analysis as a component of bibliometrics, "the application of quantitative techniques to bibliographical units, such as books or serial articles" (121). For use in collection management, citation analysis assumes that a cited item must have been used as a reference source in research for an article. Examination of citation patterns helps librarians meet the research needs of their patrons. The author explains in great detail the use of *Journal Citation Reports,* published by the Institute of Scientific Information, as it relates to serials collection management. He also describes Bradford's Law, a pattern in the use and citation of journal articles, and its application to collection management issues.

Unlike other recent works on serials, Nisonger devotes an entire chapter to periodical use studies. He delves into the purposes of such studies and into various methods for carrying them out. He then describes how to tabulate the final results (cost per use) of the study and concludes with some facts about major periodical use studies that have been conducted over the years. Because of general interest in this topic, questions about different aspects of periodical use studies appear frequently on electronic discussion lists.

Any serials manager considering a use study will find this section of Nisonger's book an invaluable aid in planning and implementation.

Fundamental information about serials processing, electronic journals, and serials automation make up the remainder of the book. In the epilogue, Nisonger explores trends that may cause familiar issues of serials management to change even more in the future. He raises the question of the future of libraries in the context of the much broader question—what defines a library?—and then proceeds to question the future of the serial in its traditional format. Nisonger presents thought-provoking issues that deserve consideration by any dedicated serialist.

It is obvious in the vast number of notes and references that this book is based on complete and careful research in the customary sources and also in non-traditional sources, including electronic discussion lists, electronic journals, and the Web. The result is a well-organized source of information about the past, present, and future impact of serials on libraries. But first and foremost, Nisonger provides an in-depth look at current developments and available options in a rapidly changing environment for overall management of serials. This book is a worthy addition to the book shelves of "library practitioners whose professional duties involve serials . . . as well as library and information science teachers and researchers" (xviii).—*Sylvia O. Martin (martin@library.vanderbilt.edu), Vanderbilt University Library, Nashville, TN*

Visualizing Subject Access for 21st Century Information Resources. Eds. Pauline Atherton Cochrane and Eric H. Johnson. Champaign, IL: Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, 1998. Clinic on Library Applications of Data Processing; no.34 (1997). 176p. $30 (ISBN 0-87845-103-X).

This collection of conference papers is an excellent resource. Aptly titled "visualizing" subject access, the collection is not an attempt at a final word on the subject, but is instead a set of works in progress, case studies, current experiments, and theoretical analyses of how subject content can be "seen." Included are twelve short papers, three abstracts (two with more complete Web sites), and opening and closing summaries. While this work does not satisfy the unrealistic desire for a single, complete solution to problems of subject access, the individual authors hold out the hope that many provisional solutions and continued creative experimentation will allow us to make significant progress. The authors are both older and younger scholars in the field and a cross section of information theoreticians, computer interface specialists, librarians, library school faculty, and vendors. While it is not possible to achieve in print the synergy of the conference milieu or the range of demonstration formats included in the conference presentations, the editors partly bridge this gap by providing Web addresses that extend some of the presentations, though they fall short of the yet unrealized multimedia electronic book in which real audio and video might work this magic. Here are some highlights from the print version of the conference.

A key paper is "Information Analysis in the Net: The Interspace of the Twenty-First Century," in which Bruce Schatz boldly predicts that within ten years "people will be able to solve real information problems themselves" (111), correlating information and doing analysis rather than merely searching. His vision is a system that draws on smaller and larger repositories, automatic as well as human indexing, interactive vocabulary switching, and "peer-peer not client-server" communications (123). Schatz uses the term "telesophy" to express a vision of the future knowledge community, growing and connected by an integrated conduit where the switching and technology are seamless and invisible to the average user, as in the current telephone system. Drawing on the history of development over the last ten years, his own work, and current experiments in progress, Schatz makes his predictions seem reasonable rather than far-fetched