carried over to the digital realm in a consistent way.

Despite the many metadata schemes already developed and standardized, there are still instances when it is desirable to create a specialized metadata scheme. The steps in developing a metadata scheme are thoroughly outlined in chapter 10. Examples of such schemes also are provided, including DC metadata documentation from the Collaborative Digitization Program, OhioLINK, and Indiana Memory, and MODS documentation from the Digital Library Federation's Aquifer project. These examples are invaluable resources for anyone trying to develop their own documentation.

The final chapter is devoted to a discussion of linked data and the Semantic Web. Although as yet one see few practical applications of linked date, monitoring concepts and development in this emerging field is important.

In addition to the extensive references at the end of each chapter, a robust bibliography and an index appear at the end of the book. The book is generously illustrated with more than one hundred figures and tables. Sidebars illustrating concepts, clarifying definitions, and providing examples are present throughout. The book is clearly written and accessible to students learning about metadata for the first time, but also rich enough to be useful for the experienced practitioner.

Metadata for Digital Collections is well suited for both practicing professionals and students. It provides an excellent grounding in all aspects of applying metadata in a digital library setting and would be a useful addition to any professional library. It also would be appropriate for use in a library or information science course for students who are learning about the organization of information.
—Rebecca L. Mugridge (rlm31@psu.edu), Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania

Graphic Novels and Comics in Libraries and Archives: Essays on Readers, Research, History, and Cataloging. Edited by Robert G. Weiner. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2010. 276p. $45.00 paper (ISBN 978-0-7864-4302-4).

This new collection, which details the current state of comics in libraries, deserves attention. Its chapters cover diverse ground, its writers exude earnestness and enthusiasm, and its research is seminal yet exploratory. Amid the proliferation of introductory and reader's advisory guides and works on comics for literacy and instruction, the present volume is one of just a handful to address comics and librarianship more broadly, with twenty-nine individually authored chapters covering most facets of library work. Editor Robert G. Weiner (Texas Tech University) is no newcomer to the subject matter, having written considerably on it in addition to having worked with comics in both public and academic library settings.

Readers will wish to explore these essays selectively, choosing those that align with their own contexts and interests. *Graphic Novels and Comics in Libraries and Archives* is certainly not a book to read cover to cover, as its redundancies will appear overwhelming (including nearly two dozen only slightly different takes on the terminology of "graphic novels" versus "comics"). In addition, some chapters seem aimed at novices whereas others at librarians with considerable background knowledge.

Part 1 offers chapters on the history of comics in libraries. Although the first chapter's basic primer and idiosyncratic annotated list offers nothing new, the second chapter provides a full history of Manga in Japanese libraries, an overview for which English readers will be thankful. Amy Kiste Nyberg's "How Librarians Learned to Love the Graphic Novel" employs a literature review construct to neatly summarize the history of U.S. librarian attitudes and activities with regard to comics.

The next four parts discuss comics and graphic novels in particular types of libraries, with seven chapters focused on academic libraries, three on public libraries, two on school libraries (elementary and high school levels), and one on Pennsylvania-related comics in the archival collection of the State Library of Pennsylvania. Some common themes resonate throughout many of these essays, especially issues related to selection, cataloging, and methods of physical placement of graphic novels. Readers often will find differing solutions to similar problems in this volume, affirming the value of local context in one's own decision-making. Yet readers also will note the emergence of some best practices, a profitable thread for subsequent research in this field.

The much larger section on academic library contexts opens with an overview of graphic novels as popular culture collections, offering tips for faculty buy-in, selection, funding, cataloging, and preservation. More focused chapters discuss course reserves, selection, public relations, and special collections. Especially in these chapters, the reader finds the common apologetic tone regarding comics in libraries alongside numerous real-life examples of the use of comics within the disciplines. Gwen Evans's contribution, "The Library after Dark," gives extended treatment of Bowling Green State University's student–librarian partnership to create a comic book to promote library collections and services, one of several such innovative productions that has excited the library science blogosphere recently. Many readers will turn first to the two chapters on the comic art collection at the Michigan State University (MSU) Libraries, which feature its bibliographer, Randy Scott. In the first article, Scott provides an overview of the collection; the second article is an interview with Scott. MSU's collection is arguably the most significant in

academic libraries, and Scott adroitly situates it within the broader national context of comic research collections.

The weakest section of this volume is part 7, "Nomenclature and Aesthetics." As already mentioned, the nomenclature discussions herein quickly wear thin, offering neither fresh theoretical insights nor strong support for particular practices. Randy Scott, in fact, smartly dismisses the issue thus: "'Graphic novel' is the new pretentious word for 'comic book'" (128). The final chapter of this section should be ignored by all; its authors, a pair of philosophy graduate students, seem not only unversed in library practice but unaware of relevant and comics-related work occurring within their own discipline.

Part 8 collects two brief articles seemingly as an afterthought. The first article on meta-comics, despite its straw-man approach, explains a potentially confusing aspect of comics culture to the uninitiated. The second article covers the highlights of free online comics ("webcomics") and basic library approaches to managing such content.

A section on cataloging describes the issues and provides practical potential solutions. The last section of the book presents basic studies of Canadian and Association of Research Libraries holdings, the latter perhaps providing a starting point for future, longitudinal study of the penetration of graphic novels into research library collections. Finally, Weiner's three-page afterword recounts his personal history with comics in libraries. This autobiographical account is reflective of broader trends in the field and would be most beneficial if read first.

Full indexing will aid librarians in finding chapters relevant to their interests. Chapters include references, but not suggested readings. Those seeking to track down particular graphic novels discussed in the book may run into difficulties because of frequently misspelled or otherwise incorrect titles. The present volume, read judiciously, will prove quite useful.—*Darby Orcutt (darby_orcutt@ncsu.edu), North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina*

Conversations with Catalogers in the 21st Century. Edited by Elaine R. Sanchez. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Libraries Unlimited, 2011. 283p. $50.00 (ISBN: 978-1-5988-4702-4; eISBN: 978-1-5988-4703-1). Libraries Unlimited Library Management Collection.

This collection of "conversations" is initiated by Michael Gorman's foreword in which he affirms the importance of catalogs and catalogers. "High levels of precision and recall, the two ways in which we judge any information retrieval system, are dependent on controlled vocabularies and national and international standards—they cannot be obtained by other systems not involving human intervention" (viii).

The book is divided into four sections. The first section is on the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd edition* (*AACR2*) and *Resource Description and Access* (*RDA*).[1] The authors of the three chapters in this section raise substantive concerns about the practicality of *RDA*. The authors wrote their chapters, however, before *RDA* was published and before the announcement of the U.S. *RDA* test results. Nevertheless, some of the authors' concerns also were expressed by the testing librarians, resulting in the decision by the U.S. national libraries not to implement *RDA* until its instructions are rewritten in "clear, unambiguous, plain English."[2] Also in this section Elaine Sanchez, editor of the book, reports on her extensive survey of 459 respondents (91 percent from U.S. libraries) about their views of the new cataloging code, the training that would be needed to implement it, its cost and cost effectiveness, and whether *AACR2* should be maintained in parallel with *RDA*. In this chapter I first noticed my one criticism of the book: some of the figures have print so small they are difficult to read.

Although I found useful ideas in all five chapters of the next section, "Visions: New Ideas for Bibliographic Control and Catalogs," I will limit my discussion to just three contributions. Ed Jones makes a strong case for the importance of identifiers in library catalogs. He uses the definition of an identifier found in the 2009 *Statement of International Cataloguing Principles*: "A number, code, word, phrase, logo, device, etc., that is uniquely associated with an entity, and serves to differentiate that entity from other entities within the domain in which the identifier is assigned."[3] The earliest identifiers and the ones all catalogers will be familiar with are Library of Congress Control Numbers and International Standard Book Numbers. Jones states that while identifiers are now used to satisfy two of the user tasks outlined in the Functional Requirements of Bibliographic Records—that is, find and identify—"with the growing integration of OPACs into the World Wide Web, they would soon satisfy all four (find, identify, select, and obtain)" (99).

Also in the second section is a chapter by Bernhard Eversberg in which he outlines a new format to replace MARC for both bibliographic and authority data. He has implemented the format using the Allegro software package, and he provides a link to sample records in a demonstration database. I particularly noticed his use of single quote marks around initial articles in titles to remove the article from indexing. With MARC, initial articles can be coded to be skipped only when they begin a field; Eversberg's method allows initial articles to be skipped when they begin subfields as well.

Martha Yee contributes to this section by looking into the future and seeing the benefits of a single shared catalog. Neither WorldCat nor the Semantic Web meets the eight specifications that she outlines. Her