of educational materials organization, the specificity of the articles offers a narrower view. All are well-written and edited for ease of understanding.—Eileen Quam (eileen.quam@state.mn.us), Minnesota Department of Administration, Office of Technology, Saint Paul


The editor has divided this compilation of articles regarding the cataloging of audiovisual materials into four sections. The first section, “Cataloging Audiovisual Formats,” contains chapters devoted to issues related to the cataloging of specific audiovisual formats (or categories of those formats). Authors were selected to cover popular music recordings (e.g., rock, country, rap, jazz, blues, and similar or related styles), non-musical sound recordings, video recordings, remote-access electronic resources, three-dimensional artifacts and realia, and kits. Audiovisual formats not specifically covered in this section include graphic materials, maps, and microforms. (Although there is a chapter on microcomputer software in this section, the article is focused less on cataloging than on the historical development of related cataloging rules, which is discussed more thoroughly in section 2.)

The chapters in the first section focus primarily on descriptive cataloging issues related to the format, identifying the distinctive aspects for each format such as general material designations (GMDs), sources of information, notes common to the format, as well as access points. Although several of the essays identify or address “problems” related to cataloging the format, sometimes these problems are merely “differences” found in cataloging these materials rather than real problems. Rule citations to the appropriate chapters in the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2d ed. rev. (AACR2) and related Library of Congress Rule Interpretations (LCRIs) are found throughout, as are examples illustrating the use of MARC 21 content designation. Catalogers using this book for instructional purposes should be especially pleased to find full-record examples with MARC coding in several chapters.

The clear standout in this section is the chapter “Video recording Cataloging: Problems and Pointers” by Jay Weitz. Given his role as the video-recording specialist at OCLC, where he handles database cleanup, problem reports, e-mails from catalogers, and so on, and his experience giving workshops related to video-recording cataloging, Weitz’s understanding of the issues and real challenges related to cataloging this format are clearly evident as he addresses the trickiest issues, not only related to AACR2 chapter 7 (the Archival Moving Image Materials rules used by many film archives are not addressed), but also problematic issues such as when to input a new record and topics raised by the “notorious misbehavior of publishers” (68).

One of the risks of presenting up-to-date discussions of cataloging issues is that they are sometimes in such a state of flux that they become outdated soon after publication, by no fault of the authors or editor. The best example found in this volume is Nancy Olson’s chapter on “Cataloging Remote Electronic Resources.” Although still an interesting read, changes to both chapters 9 and 12 of AACR2 subsequent to the publication of this book will require additional investigation by catalogers requiring current information.

The second section of the book is devoted to the “History of Audiovisual Cataloging.” Although the editor included only one article in this section, Jean Weih’s “A Somewhat Personal History of Nonbook Cataloging,” the article on “The Microcomputer Revolution” by Ann Sandberg-Fox found in section one might be considered more appropriate in this second section instead. Both are historical surveys by true pioneers in the field of audiovisual cataloging, made all the more interesting by the inclusion of personal reminiscences of the authors during their many decades of involvement in the development of cataloging rules at the local, national, and international levels. Although the title of this book focuses on the “current,” these two historical entries are valuable additions.

Section three is devoted to subject access issues related to audiovisual cataloging. The first is an excellent article on the history, use, and future of the Thesaurus for Graphic Materials (TGM), one of the major thesauruses used for indexing visual materials. Valuable for its information on the development and use of TGM, this article is also a must read for anyone contemplating developing a new specialized thesaurus in order to understand the scope of issues involved in such an undertaking. Lian Ruan’s article on “Providing Better Subject Access to Nonprint Fire Emergency Materials for Illinois Firefighters” will be informative to those cataloging agencies where, due to a level of collection specialization not covered by general subject lists such as the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH), a multithesaural approach is required, incorporating and integrating terms from established thesauruses and locally developed terms into a single system. Martha Yee’s contribution is the final one in this section, in which she compares two different genre and form lists (LCSH and Moving Image Genre-Form Guide) as to their suitability for moving image and broadcast materials, complemented by comparisons to a third
list, *Moving Image Materials*. The questions raised by Yee’s comparisons reveal some of the thorniest issues related to form/genre implementation, especially those concerning incorporating form/genre terms into topical subject lists. Those involved in the development and application of form/genre headings should find this an informative discussion.

The final section of the book addresses “AV and AV User Groups by Library Type” with four articles covering different types of libraries: academic, public, school, and special (medical). The article on “User-friendly Audiovisual Material Cataloging at Westchester County Public Library System” by Heeja Han Chung discusses the nonstandard cataloging practices that some libraries adopt in order to provide more user-centered displays in their public catalogs and to provide functionality their users need. One issue mentioned in the article, the adoption of “understandable” GMDs and SMDs and their role in library catalogs, continues to be a hot topic, and this discussion should provide illustrative examples to those currently involved in the revision of cataloging codes.—David Reser (dres@loc.gov), Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Briefly Noted**


Tony Stankus has written numerous informative articles and books on the journal industry and this one is no exception. This book contains a collection of articles that were simultaneously published in *Science and Technology Libraries*. This book teaches the reader about the different issues to think about when dealing with electronic journals. Some of these issues include the publishing cycle, the hardware and software needed to actually view a journal that is electronic, and the suppliers of the journals. Each of the articles has an extensive bibliography that is easy to skim, because it is organized by topic. Stankus includes resources from literature in business, publishing, computing, and librarianship. One of the most helpful sections is the rankings of journals for a variety of disciplines in the sciences that are provided with the corresponding Web sites, although when dealing with Web sites, we have to accept that some of the links will no longer be valid. This book is a great resource for those that have to work with electronic journals on a daily basis or want a better understanding of the trends and issues. It is especially useful for a library school student first learning about the collection and delivering of electronic journals.—Tamika Barnes (tamika_barnes@ncsu.edu), North Carolina State University, Raleigh.


The editors, Karen Calhoun and John Riemer, did an excellent job in bringing together a team of authors who were intimately involved in the Cooperative Online Resource Catalog (CORC) project. They ably convey the issues and discuss the projects that were part of CORC. The first group of articles in CORC: *New Tools and Possibilities for Cooperative Electronic Resource Description* gives an overview of CORC. The second group documents the technological, organization-al, and standards issues of the project, and the final group of articles chronicles several CORC projects from their implementers’ points of view.

The CORC project began as a project of the OCLC Office of Research. In January 1999, the project came online. It offered librarians an “unparalleled opportunity to innovate” (1). The project, “designed to encourage and enhance the description of Web resources to better serve patrons” (6), was a rapidly developed project where librarians, as users, played an integral part in a product’s development.

CORC ceased to be a project in July 2002. Lest one think that the time researchers and implementers spent on their respective assignments and projects was for naught, think again. The innovations and technological advancements made during this project were all made available through OCLC’s new cataloging interface, Connexion.

This book was written prior to the end of the project. One can sense the excitement that many of the authors, particularly the implementers, felt at being part of such a collaborative, futuristic project. It is not only worth reading the book just to feel that excitement, but also to be able to understand what can be accomplished when a group of researchers and librarians put their heads together for a common goal.—Betsy Friesen (b-frie@tc.umn.edu), University of Minnesota, Minneapolis


There is some useful information in this book, but it does not speak to any contemporary issues in information storage and retrieval. If you are looking for a chatty narrative about the development of some Western encyclopedias, ancient libraries, and medieval scholarship, or you are look-