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# Book Reviews

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***Managing eBook Metadata in Academic Libraries: Taming the Tiger.*** By Donna E. Frederick. Amsterdam: Chandos, 2016. 280 p. \$78.95 paperback (ISBN: 978-0-08-1001516). Chandos Information Professional Series.

This volume is part of the Chandos Information Professional Series, designed to provide easy-to-read and practical coverage of subjects that are of interest to librarians. The book is written for newer librarians and librarians transferred to technical services, but it is meant to be useful to anyone working with e-books and the metadata associated with them. The approach of the book is to guide the reader through the various definitions, concepts, and approaches related to metadata management so that they can be applied in the reader's library. This is not a how-to guide on managing e-books, but rather a guide to help the reader examine the metadata and e-book environment at their own library and create their own management plan using the principles, practices, guidelines, and standards presented in the book.

The book is divided into nine chapters, taking readers from basic concepts to special topics in e-book metadata, and it includes a bibliography and index. Frederick uses the introductory chapters to define the terms used throughout the book (e.g., e-books and metadata) and offers the perspective that e-books are a disruptive technology for academic libraries, or, a tiger that needs to be tamed by designing a library specific method for managing e-book metadata. Frederick uses analogies and real library situations to explain library technical processes to a new or new-to-technical services librarian.

For the purpose of this book, e-books are defined as electronic monographs including digitized documents, maps, and music scores, streaming music, video, audio, and podcasts. "Metadata are structured information which represents a resource or service. This information is used to store, discover, retrieve, use and/or manage that resource in the present and over time" (3). The introductory chapters outline the best practices for planning metadata and also offer practical advice, such as to avoid customizing e-book records for user-friendly display in the integrated library system (ILS) or library management system (LMS), but instead to customize the ILS or LMS to display all e-book records in a user-friendly way. Frederick not only introduces the reader to thinking holistically about managing e-books, but also reveals the reality of working with e-books in academic libraries. Librarians often have to learn through their own trial and error. Mistakes made in the past will

be discovered and new mistakes will be made as librarians traverse this complex metadata environment.

The book contains helpful questionnaires to guide the reader in asking the appropriate questions of their own library to collect information regarding the cycle of e-book metadata from selection and acquisition to discovery and maintenance over time. Managing e-book metadata in academic libraries is not just about batch or bulk loading bibliographic discovery records into the catalog, but a comprehensive system supporting a greater range of library processes.

Of particular note is chapter 4, which focuses on the often overlooked metadata of acquisitions. E-books appear on the surface to be acquired just like hard-copy books, but librarians must also consider access fees, licenses, renewals and cancellations, consortia purchasing, demand- or patron-driven acquisition, and platform and vendor changes. Frederick outlines five principles for creating acquisitions metadata and provides hints to applying those principles. Although the principles may seem like common sense, they are often not followed in practice, and the book does an excellent job of reminding librarians why it is important to use controlled vocabularies, provide clear guidelines and instructions to staff for creating and using the metadata, focus on future as well as present needs, and always keep the big picture—the library's larger systems—in mind. In addition to acquisitions metadata, access metadata must be recorded following the same best practices, making sure the people involved with creating and using the information know where and how it is recorded.

Frederick anticipates that many experienced librarians will skip directly to chapter 6, but the introductory chapters should be considered essential reading as they inform the reader of how "managing record sets is integrated within the framework of a larger eBook metadata management plan" (144). Catalogers must keep in mind that e-books cannot be physically browsed for, so high-quality discovery metadata are essential whether creating original records, copy cataloging, or loading record sets. Record sets from vendors or publishers typically need to be customized with a program like MARCEdit, but generally the quality of record sets provided by vendors and publishers has increased significantly over the years. The record sets cannot just be loaded and forgotten about, so the metadata-management plan must address tracking of the record sets. "This process of recording information for tracking purposes is somewhat similar to what libraries have done historically to deal with

the check-in of their print journals” (151). The book focuses almost exclusively on MARC metadata, and it also introduces readers to Knowledge Bases and Related Tools (KBART) for use within discovery services.

E-book metadata maintenance extends beyond discovery metadata into preparing for and troubleshooting platform changes, loss of rights, access issues, and subscription changes. Preservation metadata are also discussed for e-books with perpetual access from vendors in light and dark archives and for locally hosted digital monograph collections (e.g., electronic theses and dissertations). Even though the deselection process for e-books is underdeveloped, Frederick uses a case study to illustrate the challenges of deselection and deduplication with an emphasis on the need for well-planned acquisitions and access metadata to assist in decision making.

*Managing E-book Metadata in Academic Libraries: Taming the Tiger* is an excellent introduction to e-book metadata management; it offers practical advice on the management of all types of e-book metadata and working through the issues that come with e-book collections. Readers will be prepared to tame the tiger in their own libraries by knowing what questions to ask and what information needs to be gathered to create their own e-book metadata-management plan. Frederick often reminds the reader that they are not alone and provides resources and toolkits shared openly by librarians and other tiger tamers to help one another. By focusing on principles, best practices, guidelines, and standards, the author has written a book relevant to academic libraries of all sizes, as well as a great introduction for students to the complexities of managing e-book metadata.—Jennifer Fairall ([jfairall@siena.edu](mailto:jfairall@siena.edu)), Siena College Library, Loudonville, New York

**Metadata.** By Marcia Lei Zeng and Jian Qin. Chicago: ALA Neal-Schumann, 2016. 555 p. \$84.00 softcover (ISBN: 978-1-5557-0965-5).

The second edition of Qin and Zheng's *Metadata* is a welcome and thorough update of an already valuable text. The authors have expanded on the first edition in a way that reflects a detailed understanding of an often complex subject. Metadata are a constantly shifting landscape with new schema and tools emerging and fading at an amazing pace. Qin and Zheng deal with the subject deftly, providing content that is clearly situated in its own context that will serve as ample reference material even in such a fast-paced landscape. In addition, the book is complemented by valuable online content that includes a metadata tutorial, chapter outlines, and exercises. The website includes a section with similar content to the first edition of the book, allowing users to compare the structure of both editions and to benefit from additional practice exercises. Additionally, the links available in the online appendixes are invaluable for readers,

providing an extensive reference source for further research and work in metadata.

One of the best features of the text is that it is highly structured. This reflects the authors' thorough understanding of the subject matter; the book is as navigable as any strong metadata record. Chapters are subdivided frequently, making them easy to reference and creating digestible sections for readers that may be encountering this highly technical subject for the first time. *Metadata* provides a strong introduction to the subject of metadata in general and its role with the library and information community. Terms are explained thoughtfully, with special attention to why they matter to library and information science professionals. Broad concepts are complemented by detailed examples. Definitions are presented clearly and reviewed in further chapters, enabling each section to stand on its own while the text can still be taken as a whole without feeling redundant. It is refreshing to see authors use such a wide variety of schema in their examples; discussions of library metadata often mention any number of schema while continuing to provide concrete models of only one or two. Qin and Zheng tackle Metadata Object Description Schema (MODS), Metadata and Encoding Transmission Standard (METS), Categories for the Description of Works of Art (CDWA), and Dublin Core, just to name a few. Their discussion of the difference between a schema and how it is encoded is also one of the clearest and detailed that this reviewer has ever encountered. In addition, significant attention is paid to Resource Description Framework (RDF), including its evolution from a standard for describing web content to its current role in describing and encoding information about almost any person, place, or concept and the relationships it has with others. The authors also devote an entire chapter to interoperability, which is a growing concern for institutions looking to integrate various schema without having to start from scratch. Qin and Zheng provide a detailed examination of the challenges and opportunities that occur when trying to integrate data from multiple schema into a cohesive repository. Again, discussions of these concepts often attempt to explain the various complications while failing to provide examples that illustrate them; *Metadata*, in contrast, balances the two exceedingly well. The visualizations employed by the text are useful and build on one another and provide examples using real objects. Metadata texts for libraries and archives can sometimes default to using print book examples to illustrate how schema work, and while that is somewhat useful, it does not illustrate the real complexity of using various metadata schema to describe museum objects or digital files. Qin and Zheng include multiple demonstrations of how to apply various schema to different types of resources, which creates a more holistic understanding of the subject.

The text is not only valuable for those looking for an A-to-Z examination of the role and use of metadata in library