Book Review

Michael Fernandez, editor

Cataloging and Classification: An Introduction, Fifth Edition. By Athena Salaba and Lois Mai Chan. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2023. 773 p. $110.00 hardcover (978-1-5381-3291-3); $75.00 softcover (978-1-5381-3292-0); $71.00 e-book (978-1-5381-3293-7).

The fifth and latest edition of *Cataloging and Classification: An Introduction* successfully brings a classic cataloging textbook fully into the present day. Originally published in 1980 by Lois Mai Chan, it was last updated with the fourth edition in 2016. The new edition, with Athena Salaba now as the lead author, largely preserves the outline of previous editions: six main parts encompassing Introduction, Record Production and Structure, Resource Description and Access, Subject Access and Controlled Vocabularies, Organization of Library Resources, and Encoding and Records of Bibliographic and Authority Data. It also adds some small but welcome updates to the sections on metadata schemas and encoding to adjust for standards that have come further into use or become fully outdated, and introduces a completely new part 7, "Cataloging Ethics." Its biggest accomplishment is a major revision and expansion of part 3, "Resource Description and Access (RDA)," to include full coverage of Official RDA, introduced since the publication of the previous edition. Where that edition had four chapters on Original RDA, the new edition condenses these slightly into two chapters, rearranging rather than excising content, and adds two fully new chapters on Official RDA that walk readers through its elements, structure, and potential usage in metadata descriptions.

The mandate of updating a classic text to incorporate standards still in a state of flux is an ambitious one, and Salaba's handling of the chapters on Official RDA is deft. The text provides good coverage of the structure and elements in the Official Toolkit (especially considering that Official RDA has yet to be widely implemented), and both the Original and Official RDA sections benefit greatly from the expanded chapter 5, "Foundations of Resource Description," on the functional requirements (FR) family of conceptual models and their successor, the IFLA Library Reference Model (LRM). Discussion of RDA elements is consistently tied back to IFLA LRM principles, helping readers understand the conceptual model behind Official RDA and how it both continues and diverges from Original RDA. In addition to the extensive chapters on RDA, *Cataloging and Classification* does an admirable job of presenting the standards used most frequently in library cataloging while still providing robust coverage of alternative standards and options. The discussion and examples include nods to specialized communities—such as coverage of music and map cataloging instructions in RDA—and discussions of Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) and Art & Architecture Thesaurus (AAT) in part 4, "Subject Access and Controlled Vocabularies."

The historical background in chapter 1, "Information Resource Management: Description, Access, Organization," is a helpful if somewhat passive overview of the interconnected developments and trends in librarianship and the internet; most of the named persons given credit for historical actions are men in the technology industry, while library trends simply "emerge." The new chapter 19, "Ethics and Critical Cataloging," is a welcome addition. As it lays out, "critical cataloging" has a legacy stretching back decades, so its inclusion in cataloging textbooks is far overdue. The chapter provides a high-

level overview of historical and current trends, and is a good starting point for a student or a reader unfamiliar with the movement. Salaba is upfront that it is not meant to be exhaustive, but "to bring awareness of the issues rather than offer a detailed discussion of each case"; however, one cannot help wishing for slightly more depth or historical context for the examples given (644). The chapter is disappointingly brief: at seven pages, not including notes, it is barely longer than a six-page example BIBFRAME record presented earlier in the book (136–42).

Despite the strength of the text overall, there are some distracting factual and typographic errors throughout. Some outdated information is unavoidable and is out of the author's control: longtime cataloging resource Cataloger's Desktop, referred to several times throughout the text, was merged into a new service called Classification Web Plus midway through 2023, probably around the time the book was being printed.[1] A more surprising example of outdated information is found in chapter 6's discussion of Original RDA, where distribution statement, manufacture statement, and copyright date are described as successively becoming "core" if the preceding element or a publication statement are not identified, a notoriously frustrating bit of guidance that was eliminated from RDA in 2015 (172–73).[2] There are also a number of typos, each of which would be minor on its own, but collectively are jarring and can distract from the reading experience. Probably the most obvious instance is a section heading for the "R3 Project" (322); the discussion of the 3R Project is otherwise correct, but the typo is repeated in both the table of contents and the index. Other typos are less widespread but no less noticeable, such as "RA" for "RDA" and "BICOP" for "BIPOC" (326, 648).

These errors aside, the new edition maintains the status of *Cataloging and Classification* as a foundational text in the field of librarianship. Like many textbooks, it can at times feel like an overwhelming amount of information as it attempts to introduce an entire discipline. However, in an educational setting, it would provide excellent context for discussions and exercises based around real-world cataloging tasks. It would also be of use to a more experienced librarian hoping to shore up their knowledge of cataloging fundamentals. A companion website assembled by Salaba brings together additional resources to allow readers to explore selected topics, including helpful summaries of each chapter in addition to extensive bibliographies (with multiple lists on ethics, bias, and critical cataloging to supplement the slightly anemic chapter 19).[3] Overall, this latest edition of *Cataloging and Classification* is a worthy addition to any cataloging education or reference shelf.—*Sarah Hovde (shovde@umd.edu), University of Maryland Libraries*

References

1. "Cataloging Distribution Services Announcement: Cataloger's Desktop," Library of Congress Cataloging Distribution Service, May 2023, https://www.loc.gov/cds/downloads/CDAnnouncementfinal.pdf.

2. "LC Summary of RDA Updates for April 2015 Toolkit Update," Library of Congress Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate, pp. 2-3, accessed May 2, 2024, https://www.loc.gov/aba/rda/pdf/summary_rda_changes_2015.pdf. See highlighted guidance for RDA 2.9, 2.10, and 2.11.

3. "Cataloging and Classification: An Introduction," Athena Salaba, accessed May 2, 2024, https://www.catclassintro.org/.