sites, and e-journals. As she notes in the preface, the AACR2 rules have evolved, particularly for electronic resources, and new Library of Congress rule interpretations have been issued as well. Thus, this book presents the most up-to-date standards and provides current illustrative examples to reflect these changes.

The book begins with a review of the organization of information and of cataloging in general. Experienced catalogers probably will benefit most from chapters three through seven, which cover the cataloging of sound recordings, video recordings, electronic resources, resource integration, and remote access e-journals. Each chapter begins with a summary of the changes and challenges of the particular format, then goes on to provide a detailed step-by-step guide to the MARC fields, rules for descriptive cataloging, and subject access. Examples abound within each chapter, illustrating the principles for each format. When covering sound recordings, the illustration of the cataloging record for the Beauty and the Beast soundtrack includes the cataloging record, the list of fields, and a lengthy discussion section to refine the fields, codes, and applicable rules. Each chapter also includes a list of references and bibliography of suggested readings, creating a densely packed and organized handbook on the topic.

This book fills a niche as an updated resource for cataloging nonprint materials. The 2005 publication Unlocking the Mysteries of Cataloging: A Workbook of Examples does include such examples as sound recordings, musical scores, and cartographic materials, but Hsieh-Yee’s book is more extensive and even includes a discussion of metadata issues. Technical services staff in all types of libraries, as well as students and faculty, will welcome this comprehensive, authoritative, and valuable addition to the library literature.

—Barbara Hillson, Fenwick Reference, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia


The most interesting chapter was on the “Background of Poetry” and lists exemplary books. Information is also furnished about online poetry resources. The chapter concludes by focusing on the selection of poetry to enhance a collection and by providing the reader with poetry selection tools.

Promoting the poetry genre is the topic of the fourth chapter. Vardell suggests workable ideas ranging from captivating displays to the pairing of poetry with nonfiction texts for integration across the curriculum. The author explains ten poetry involvement strategies and designates specific poems for getting students actively engaged.

The final chapter supplies ten follow-up questions for poetry discussions to aid librarians and teachers seeking to promote critical thinking skills. Her concept of poetry discussion groups in which each member plays a role is sure to be popular with students, teachers, and librarians.

Vardell also presents numerous ideas for intertwining poetry with the fine arts. Writing and publishing poetry with children is addressed, along with the electronic resources for publishing the students’ products. The book index and list of noteworthy children’s authors with their Web addresses are added bonuses. The extensive bibliography of poetry and the documentation of research complete this practical, informative tool for educators.

—Jamie Johnson, Library Media Specialist, McKinley Elementary School, Norman, Oklahoma


Though college and university libraries serve their patrons most effectively with a reference interview leading to specific information, public libraries have become more valuable as their use of readers’ advisory (RA) services increases. Sarick’s book, now in its third edition, is an RA classic that is also an extremely practical handbook for librarians.

“Readers’ advisors want to formalize the way we naturally think about books so that it becomes easier to recognize elements of appeal more consistently and to describe books in terms that allow readers to decide if certain titles will meet their needs at the moment” (43). To accomplish this, Saricks presents a way of thinking through the process. After a short history, the book outlines reference sources currently available, both online and in print. A chapter on “Articulating a Book’s Appeal” includes such technical evaluations of a book as “Is there more dialogue or more description?” and “Do characters act or react to events?”—reminding me of time spent as an undergraduate English major—yet these are all good questions to consider before attempting to describe a title to a patron. Next, “The Readers’ Advisory Interview” is discussed. Because most librarians were not educated in this technique (even though the reference interview is similar), and many staff in public libraries have not had the benefit of a library school education, this chapter should be required reading if we intend to serve our patrons well.

The most interesting chapter was on the “Background for Readers’ Advisors.” Saricks gives the reader a way of ap-