

# Book Reviews

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**IFLA cataloguing principles: steps towards an international cataloguing code: report from the 1st IFLA Meeting of Experts on an International Cataloguing Code, Frankfurt, 2003.** Edited by Barbara B. Tillett, Renate Gömpel and Susanne Oehlschläger. München: K.G. Saur, 2004. 186 p. (IFLA Series on Bibliographic Control; vol. 26) ISBN 3-598-24275-1.

Cataloguing standardization at the international level can be viewed as proceeding in a series of milestone conferences. This meeting, the first in a series which will cover different regions of the world, will take its place in that progression. The first IFLA Meeting of Experts on an International Cataloguing Code (IME ICC), held July 28-30, 2003 at Die Deutsche Bibliothek in Frankfurt, gathered representatives of almost all European countries as well as three of the four AACR author countries. As explained in the introduction by Barbara Tillett, chair of the IME ICC planning committee, the plan is for five meetings in total. Subsequent meetings are to take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina (held August 17-18, 2004) for Latin America and the Caribbean, to be followed by Alexandria, Egypt (2005) for the Middle East, Seoul, South Korea (2006) for Asia, and Durban, South Africa (2007) for Africa. The impetus for planning these meetings was triggered by the 40th anniversary of the Paris Principles, approved at the International Conference on Cataloguing Principles held in 1961.

Many will welcome the timely publication of the reports and papers from this important conference in book form. The original conference website (details given on p. 176) which includes most of the same material, is still extant, but the reports and papers gathered into this volume will be referred to by cataloguing rule makers long after the web as we know it has transformed itself into a new (and quite possibly not backwards compatible) environment.

The book is organized into four sections: introduction and results; presentation papers; background papers; and an appendix. The introduction by Barbara Tillett serves as a summary and report of the IME ICC meeting itself. The statement of the purpose of

the meeting bears reporting in full (p. 6): "The goal for this meeting was to increase the ability to share cataloguing information worldwide by promoting standards for the content of bibliographic records and authority records used in library catalogues." The next item is a report summarizing the cataloguing code comparisons prepared prior to the conference. As a mechanism for discussion, 18 codes were compared with the Paris Principles, the extent of compliance or divergence noted and discussed by representatives from the respective rule-making bodies. During the meeting the presentation of the comparisons took up half of the first day, but for the detailed responses one must return to the IME ICC website. The published summary is very dense, and difficult to follow if one is not very familiar with the Paris Principles or the codes being compared. The main outcome of the meeting follows, this is the *Statement of International Cataloguing Principles* (draft, as approved Dec. 19, 2003 by IME ICC participants), accompanied by a useful Glossary. The most important contribution of this volume is to serve as the permanent and official record of the Statement as it stands after the first IME ICC meeting. Subsequent meetings will surely suggest modifications and enhancements, but this version of the Statement needs to be widely read and commented on. To this end the website also makes available translations of the Statement into 15 European languages, and the glossary into four languages. Compared to the Paris Principles, this statement covers some familiar ground in the choice of access points and forms of names, but its overall scope is broader, explicitly referring to the role of authority records, entities in bibliographic records and relationships. It concludes with an appendix of "Objectives for the construction of cataloguing codes."

The next section collects three papers, all presented at the meeting by the people best placed to address the topics authoritatively and comprehensively. The first is by John D. Byrum, of the Library of Congress and Chair of the ISBD Review Group, who clearly and concisely explains the history and

role of the ISBDs in "IFLA's ISBD programme: Purpose, process, and prospects." The next paper, "Brave new FRBR world" is by Patrick Le Bœuf, of the Bibliothèque nationale de France and Chair of the FRBR Review Group (a French version is available on the website). Drawing from his extensive expertise with FRBR, Le Bœuf explains what FRBR is and equally importantly is not, points to its impact in the present context of code revision, and discusses insights relevant to the working group topics that can be drawn from FRBR. Closing this section is Barbara Tillett's contribution "A Virtual International Authority File," which signals an important change in thinking about international cooperation for bibliographic control. Earlier efforts focussed on getting agreement about form and structure of headings, this view stresses linking authority files to share the intellectual effort yet present headings to the user in the form that is most appropriate culturally.

The section of background papers starts most appropriately by reprinting the *Statement of Principles* from the 1961 Paris Conference and continues with another twelve papers of varying lengths, most written specifically for the IME ICC. For the published report the papers have been organized to follow the order of topics assigned to the five working groups: Working Group 1 Personal names; WG2 Corporate bodies; WG3 Seriality; WG4 Multivolume/multipart structures; and WG5 Uniform titles, GMDs.

Pino Buizza and Mauro Guerrini co-author a substantial paper "Author and title access point control: On the way national bibliographic agencies face the issue forty years after the Paris Principles," which was first presented in Italian at the November 2002 workshop on Cataloguing and Authority Control in Rome. Issues that remain unresolved are which name or title to adopt, which form of the name or title, and which entry word to select, while choice of headings has become more uniform. The impact of catalogue language (meaning both the language of the cataloguing agency and of the majority of users of the catalogue) on these choices is explored by examining the headings used in ten national authority files for a full range of names, personal and corporate. The reflections presented are both practical and grounded in theory. Mauro Guerrini, assisted by Pino Buizza and Lucia Sardo, contributes a further new paper "Corporate bodies from ICCP up to 2003," which is an excellent survey of the surprisingly controversial issue of corporate bodies as authors, starting with Panizzi, Jewett, Cutter, Dziatzko, Fumagalli, and Lubetzky, through the debate at the Paris Conference,

to the views of Verona, Domanovszky and Carpenter, and work under the auspices of IFLA on the Form and structure of corporate headings (FSCH) project and its review, as well as a look at the archival standard ISAAR(CPF). This paper is the only one to have a comprehensive bibliography.

Ton Heijligers reflects on the relation of the IME ICC effort to AACR and calls for an examination of the principles and function of the concept of main entry in his brief paper "Main entry into the future?" Ingrid Parent's article "From ISBD(S) to ISBD(CR): a voyage of discovery and alignment" is reprinted from *Serials Librarian* as it tells of the successful project not only to revise an ISBD, but also to harmonize three codes for serials cataloguing: ISBD (CR), ISSN and AACR. Gunilla Jonsson's paper "The bibliographic unit in the digital context" is a perceptive discussion of level of granularity issues which must be addressed in deciding what to catalogue. Practical issues and user expectation are important considerations, whether the material to be catalogued is digital or analog. Ann Huthwaite's paper "Class of materials concept and GMDs" as well as Tom Delsey's ensuing comments, originated as Joint Steering Committee restricted papers in 2002. It is a great service to have them made widely available in this form as they raise fundamental issues and motivate work that has since taken place, leading to the current major round of revision to AACR. The GMD issue is about more than a list of terms and their placement in the cataloguing record, it is intertwined with consideration of whether the concept of classes of materials is helpful in organizing cataloguing rules, if so, which classes are needed, and how to allow for eventual integration of new types of materials.

Useful in the code comparison exercise is an extract of the section on access points from the draft of revised RAK (German cataloguing rules). Four short papers compare aspects of the Russian Cataloguing Rules with RAK and AACR: Tatiana Maskhoulia covers corporate body headings; Elena Zagorskaya outlines current development on serials and other continuing resources; Natalia N. Kasparova covers multi-level structures; Ljubov Ermakova and Tamara Bakhurina describe the uniform title and GMD provisions. The website includes one more item by Kasparova "Bibliographic record language in multilingual electronic communication." The volume is rounded out by the appendix which includes the conference agenda, the full list of participants, and the reports from the five working groups.

Not for the casual reader, this volume is a must read for anyone working on cataloguing code development at the national or international levels, as well as those teaching cataloguing. Any practising cataloguer will benefit from reading the draft statement of principles and the three presentation papers, and dipping into the background papers.

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**BATLEY, Sue. *Classification in Theory and Practice*. Oxford, England: Chandos Press, 2005. 181 pp. ISBN 1-84334-083-6.**

According to the author, there have been many books that address the general topic of cataloging and indexing, but relatively few that focus solely on classification. This compact and clearly written book promises to “redress the balance,” and it does. From the outset the author identifies this as a textbook – one that provides theoretical underpinnings, but has as its main goal the provision of “practical advice and the promotion of practical skills” (p. vii).

This is a book for the student, or for the practitioner who would like to learn about other applied bibliographic classification systems, and it considers classification as a pragmatic solution to a pragmatic problem: that of organizing materials in a collection. It is not aimed at classification researchers who study the nature of classification *per se*, nor at those whose primary interest is in classification as a manifestation of human cultural, social, and political values. Having said that, the author’s systematic descriptions provide an exceptionally lucid and conceptually grounded description of the prevalent bibliographic classification schemes as they exist, and thus, the book could serve as a baseline for further comparative analyses or discussions by anyone pursuing such investigations.

What makes this book so appealing, even to someone who has immersed herself in this area for many years, as a practicing librarian, a teacher, and a researcher? I especially liked the conceptual framework that supported the detailed descriptions. The author defines and provides examples of the fundamental

concepts of notation and the types of classifications, and then develops the notions of conveying order, brevity and simplicity, being memorable, expressiveness, flexibility and hospitality. These basic terms are then used throughout to analyze and comment on the classifications described in the various chapters: DDC, LCC, UDC, and some well-chosen examples of faceted schemes (Colon, Bliss, London Classification of Business Studies, and a hypothetical library of photographs).

The heart of the book lies in its exceptionally clear and well illustrated explanation of each of the classification schemes. These are presented comprehensively, but also in gratifying detail, down to the meaning of the various enigmatic notes and notations, such as “config” or “class elsewhere” notes, each simply explained, as if a teacher were standing over your shoulder leading you through it. Such attention at such a fine level may seem superfluous or obvious to a seasoned practitioner, but it is in dealing with such enigmatic details that we find students getting discouraged and confused. That is why I think this would be an excellent text, especially as a book to hold in one hand and the schedules themselves in the other. While the examples throughout and the practical exercises at the end of each chapter are slanted towards British topics, they are aptly chosen and should present no problem of understanding to a student anywhere.

As mentioned, this is an unabashedly practical book, focusing on classification as it has been and is presently applied in libraries for maintaining a “useful book order.” It aims to develop those skills that would allow a student to learn how it is done from a procedural rather than a critical perspective. At times, though, one wishes for a bit more of a critical approach – one that would help a student puzzle through some of the ambiguities and issues that the practice of classification in an increasingly global rather than local environment entails. While there is something to be said for a strong foundation in existing practice (to understand from whence it all came), the author essentially accepts the *status quo*, and ventures almost timidly into any critique of the content and practice of existing classification schemes.

This lack of a critical analysis manifests itself in several ways:

- The content of the classification schemes as described in this book is treated as fundamentally “correct” or at least “given.” This is not to say the author doesn’t recognize anomalies and shortco-