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SHEARER, James R. and THOMAS, Alan R., Eds: **Cataloguing and Classification: trends, transformations, teaching and training**. New York; London: The Haworth Press, 1997. 210p. ISBN 0-7890-0339-2. (Also published as Volume 24, Nos 1/2, 1997 of Cataloging and Classification Quarterly).

Wonder age of electronic information and its Internet has ushered in another golden era for classification and cataloguing studies. Their time of uncertainity is quite past now. Information technology has exercised profound influence on technical services, though their purpose remains the same - namely, processing for bibliographic control and information retrieval. It has simply opened up vast oppportunities. The thrust area of this anthology is education and training in cataloguing and classification. As the subtile indicates the collection takes up many wide-ranging current issues in this area.

This highly composite book has, besides the editors' introduction, twelve chapters broadly divided into three major sections. The first section "Cataloger" has four papers on topics: Cataloguing career; Influence of new opportunities on technical services; Implications for the education of cataloguers; and Patterns of employment of cataloguers in the USA and the UK. (The term cataloguing includes classification and subject indexing work throughout this book). There are only two papers in the next section - "Future of Classification Systems". The first paper highlights the historic cooperation between DDC, UDC and BC-2 for revision, modernisation and compatibility among them; the second paper advances some suggestions for subject analysis in the environment of present day academic schedules and fuzzy disciplinary boundaries where traditional methods of subject analysis no more longer produce effective results. The third section "New Technology and its Implications" has five chapters ranging from research in Cataloguing (in face of the new IT), new thinking in technical services in the Web-based culture, models for meeting users' needs, the evolving OPACs, and lastly an interesting chapter on the Internet and the Cataloguers which lists many useful Websites along-with their URLs for the Cataloguers. The closing section "A Director's Perspective" has one chapter on the future of the cataloguers in face of economic constraints but many technological opportunities; the author advises librarians to develop and expand skill with automation, networks and softwares.

The range of issues covered is much wider, straddling classification, cataloguing theory and research; impact of new technology and the education of the cataloguers. Some of the significant topics covered across its pages are: holistic view of library services,

cataloguing outsourcing, library vendors, curriculum issues in cataloguing education, theory versus practice in cataloguing teaching, classification organization and conferences, vocabulary control, chronology of cataloguing, organizational culture, meeting users' needs in the networked environment, Web software standard ANSI/NISO Z39.50 and descriptive cataloguing tools on the Internet. Obviously, the range is current and wide. As a result the collection as a whole lacks a sharp focus and is lopsided in coverage - the contributors were allowed to follow their own interests. (Introduction, p. 1-2).

Nevertheless current issues have been probed with a critical understanding of the past making a meaningful peep into the future.

In view of significant changes in professional practice, outlook and policies, it lays bare many significant issues for us to ponder; and provides susbtance for design and development of curriculum in this area. In brief, it is an action agenda for technical services in the digital age. These stimulating readings open the vision to the new opportunities available. It has aptly been said in the last chapter that "a new future awaits the energetic, imaginative catalogers not afraid of a challenge". (p. 202, Richard W. Meyer).

The work has been well edited for uniformity of text presentation and references. Each chapter begins with an abstract, the text has been divided into sections with apt feature headings, and ends with a clear conclusion. Each chapter has been profusely documented, and references, both print and networked are uptodate. The index is relative; and production standards are commendable. This timely anthology makes an interesting and profitable bedside reading.

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KEENAN, Stella: **Concise Dictionary of Library and Information Science**. London, Melbourne, Munich, New Jersey: Bowker-Saur, 1996. x,214p. ISBN 1-85739-022-9

Stella Keenan, for close to half a century a variously and widely experienced professional and from 1984-1989 Secretary-General of the FID, is now a freelancing information consultant. Her vast experience straddles the twin fields of library and information science and covers teaching, research, management and field work. The work reviewed here draws heavily from her rich and varied experience as well as

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from some currently available wider lexical and textual sources.

There are already many glossaries and dictionaries of library and information science, but this is a unique one. In fact, it is an interdisciplinary dictionary for library and information science professionals, while other works are restricted strictly to library and information science terms. It lists about 3000 terms divided into seven sections, each devoted to a precise theme:

Section A   Information sources (pp. 1-15)
Section B   Information handling and retrieval
             (pp. 16-56)
Section C   Computers and telecommunication
             (pp. 57-139)
Section D   Resource management (pp. 140-159)
Section E   Research methodology (pp. 160-168)
Section F   Publishing (pp. 169-184)

The entries in each section are preceded by a brief preface explaining the relevance and scope of the section. The above core part is followed by a cumulative index (pp. 185-211). In most cases, it will be necessary to locate a term through this index. The division of the work into sections, though making consultation a bit circuitous, nevertheless provides a context and coherence in browsing through the work. Some homonymous terms such as xerography, cluster, justification etc. occur in different sections and have been given meaning in that context. Listed at the end are some major terminological and important textual sources as well as standards for cross-checking the meanings of some of the terms. From peripheral fields such as research methodology, publishing, computing and telecommunications, only those terms, have been included which may be of use to library and information professionals. Natural these terms have been defined from the information-professional viewpoint. In other areas of information and library science per se the terms have been judiciously selected; terms from traditional librarianship have not been included in this lexicon. All terms have been defined freshly and clearly. Definitions of terms are generally one or two lines long. Each entry term is given in boldface, and a dash precedes the meaning of the term. In the explanation, if any word is defined elsewhere in the dictionary, that word, too, is printed in boldface,

> e.g., silicon chip - Wafer of silicon providing a semiconductor base for a number of electrical circuits.

This means that the terms 'semiconductor' and 'circuits' have been defined, too, (at proper places) in the dictionary. Acronyms have been defined under both forms to avoid 'see' cross-references. For example, G(giga) p.88 and Giga (G) p.89; Central Process-

ing Unit (CPU) p. 67, and CPU (Central Processing Unit) p. 73 have been defined exactly in the same wording.

This dictionary will be of immense use to library and information professionals as well as to computer and publishing professionals who have to deal with library and information workers. This book, in resplendent binding, meets high production standards, although being a bit costly for its size. Nevertheless, it is a work of immense reference value for a variety of users.

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EVANS, G. Edward, HEFT, Sandra M.: **Introduction to Technical Services**, 6th ed. Englewood, Colo: Libraries Unlimited, 1994. XXI, 534p. (Library Science text series). ISBN 0-87287-966-6

This book , now in its sixth edition (1994), has an interesting history going back to 1971. This comprehensive text deals with a subject which has undergone a sea change with the coming of automation in libraries and the proliferation of information and library networks. The six editions of this popular book document the changing scenario of technical services in libraries.

The book lists, in all, nine functions of a library, viz., identification of items of reading material such as books, their selection, acquisition, organization, preparation and storage (as technical services); as well as their interpretation, utilization and dissemination (as readers' services). Storage also includes preservation (p.4). The book does not cover the technical functions of storage and preservation, while the public services are described in a companion volume: G. Edward Evans, et al.: *Introduction to public library services*, 5th ed., Englewood Colo: Libraries Unlimited, 1991. However, it must be admitted that automation has blurred the traditional division between technical and public services, thus leading to integrated library services. This has a visible impact on the internal organization and administration of a library. Some libraries are modifying the traditional internal organization to move forward to an integrated service approach. At the same time it should be clearly realized that not the "what", but only the "how" of library technical services has changed with automation.

Besides a very useful appendix on "automating small libraries", the book comprises 21 chapters di-