

fully, *their* job would be much reduced so that they could get on with building the collection (the library): "... if the library is well organized, the user can somehow find what he wants!" (70) — But there are two diametrical ways of construing this pregnant sentence: Is what the user needs *here*, has it been selected? And, can the most relevant (for *this* user) among the totality of items be made to come forth merely by application of a (national and thus un-individualized) system? *N.D. Stevens* cautions against even hoping for this second possibility: online searching gives faster results than the card catalogue, but the reference person is still essential: "We should not expect to substitute efforts at subject analysis on the part of catalogers for those broader professional skills", i.e., of the reference person (111).

*C. Ishimoto*'s paper is only implicitly relevant to the problem of function-relationship, by demonstrating some of the difficulties of reference use of *AACR2*-generated entries (thus casting doubt on one part of *N.D. Stevens*' contention that known-item searches are largely successful). Her most telling points exemplify parallel cases solved differently by (different) *AACR2* principles: the most important of all principles, predictability, is thus destroyed in the expectations of referencers as well as users.

*S. Stevenson* and *G. Deiber* drive the point home: patrons ask for ILL of items held at their own library, because they do not find entries for such items in the split files caused by adoption of *AACR2* (no mention, unfortunately, is made of such other factors in failure as filing-rules, which might well confuse users even prior to code-changeover). "A total of 32% of the errors" arose from "patron ineptness or carelessness" (91), i.e., from non-comprehension of *AACR2* forms or choices of entry, or of the resulting split files.

*D. Karpuk* argues that in serials work, "service as the ultimate goal" (102) should mandate integration of the acquisition, cataloguing, and reference functions.

(*N.D. Stevens*' and *F. Miksa*'s papers have been dealt with in their agreement/disagreement with earlier papers.)

*S. Berman* points out several deficiencies in standardized cataloguing: the library concerned with service must go beyond such lacks; must repair several "bad ideas"; must let *ALA* and *LC* know about local dissatisfactions with their products and decisions; must 'do it right' locally if national change cannot be brought about. He wonders whether *PRECIS* could solve the *LCSH* problem, but fears that the bureaucracy would only drag it down too.

*R. Gray* argues that the relation between cataloguing and reference is not mere interaction but "synergism" (he does not mention the third sector, collection development), thus each professional *should* do both cataloguing and reference — but then he backs away from his own argument as being utopian, not efficient (Cochrane's paper earlier in the volume, on the other hand, calls a similar shift "more realistic" (47)). The idea in his title, "Classification Schemes as Cognitive Maps", in that the mapping function derives from context and stability — and thus he attacks many recent relocation-changes in *DDC*, e.g., the placement in the OOOs (which should be nothing but a *form*-class)

of topics. (I fear that he sees earlier editions of *DDC* as good cognitive maps just because of their familiarity and because of their superiority in collocation over that of the *LC* classification.)

*J. Humphry* and *J. Kramer-Greene* reply to *Gray* that such changes are supported by a majority of the vast apparatus of users involved in such decisions about relocation.

Can we do reference work without cataloguing having been done? Surely not. Does the quality of reference work depend on the quality of the antecedent cataloguing? Yes, to a large extent. Is cataloguing in American libraries being done at a high enough quality; and if not, is there a reason for this lack? Not really; and the reason is largely the standardized systems in use. What is to be done? —

What, indeed? To me, this volume gives no clear answer (though the ideas about integration seem the most promising, but not sufficiently defended, emphasized, or developed). But it is good that the questions have been raised, and that several directions have been suggested in which answers can be sought.

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**KAULA, P.N.: A Treatise on Colon Classification** New Delhi: Sterling Publishers Pvt. Ltd. 1985. XV, 314 p. Rs. 150.

Colon Classification is veritably considered the pet child of Ranganathan's brain. To get it due popularity, Ranganathan wished a popular yet authoritative "help book" explaining its mechanism and working to librarians of all ranks and intellect. He wished his famous disciple Professor P.N. Kaula to do that wished book. For one reason or the other, that project could not mature in Ranganathan's own life time. Nevertheless, such a book has always been at the top of Kaula's priorities; and now in his formal retirement from the Banaras Hindu University, it seems the first task he attended to. The result is the handsomely produced volume under review.

Prompted by the prominent place given to the Colon Classification in the curricula of Indian library schools, there have been published more than half a dozen books to explain the ins and outs of the system. This still is the first book on the CC from a person who remained so close to Ranganathan.

Kaula informs that he "had a series of letters from Ranganathan on the working of Colon Classification in particular. The bound seven volumes of the communication between the author and Ranganathan contain a number of letters elucidating, interpreting and the application of the numbers worked out through his scheme" (Preface, p. ix). Then outside the DRTC, who could be considered more authoritative than Professor Kaula? Inspite of this, he has taken full note of the work done by others and asserts that "the present work provides a different approach in analysing theory behind Colon

Classification" (Preface, p. vii). The approach is different indeed. This new and latest book on the CC has been aptly entitled "A Treatise". It combines the theory of the scheme with the process of number building, and describes at length its current status. Syndetic study of theory and practice has a two-pronged effect: practical examples illustrate the abstract theory; and the theory in turn imparts a technical and logical rationale to the practice. Theory is profusely illustrated; and practice is amply theorised. Interdependence of theory and practice is wholesome for the work.

The whole book comprises 58 chapters and has been divided into four parts. Part I (pp. 1–128), consisting of 16 chapters, is a thorough theoretical study of the scheme. It explains the various aspects, concepts, devices, structure, postulates, notational techniques and the book number system. The language is lucid, simple and straight-forward. An effortless lecturing tone and informal language is easily perceptible, despite a full chapter (No. 2; pp. 6–11) on the formal terminology of classification. The book in essence is the epitome of his teaching the scheme to various classes of library science students since 1951. Frequent use of flow charts and tables was made to make the text easy to understand. Examples are abundant, original and home made.

Part II (pp. 129–242), which is the central section from the practical aspect consists of 38 chapters – one each to the recognized main class and generic class, obviously arranged in the order of the main classes of the CC. Every chapter begins with a note on the facet formula of the concerned main class and explains the nature of every facet in the facet formula. Every chapter is suffused with examples typical of the main class, canonical class and further subdivisions. Class numbers illustrating some exceptional rules are also there exemplifying the intricacies and versatility of the scheme. Number building has been made quite transparent by showing first the facet analysis and then giving the worked out class numbers. This method, which seems quite educative to the beginners, has been patiently followed throughout this part. There are more than 250 solved examples here.

Part III (p. 242–274) containing three chapters devotes itself entirely to the latest version of the scheme; its current status; and to the enlisting and explaining of those features of the scheme which endow it with an edge over the other general schemes of classification. One full chapter highlights the special features of the

coming 7th edition. And one chapter demonstrates as to how it is better equipped than other systems of classification. This part provides vital information to library planners, decision makers, administrators and educationists. It is a very valuable and interesting part.

A select but succinct bibliography (Part IV, pp. 275–309) appended at the end is another worthwhile feature of this book. It has about 350 entries culled from periodical literature, conference proceedings and dissertations. For this purpose 14 journals (9 Indians and 5 foreign) have been scanned ranging from the pre-partition times (*Abgila, Modern Librarian*) to the newly emerged journals. The bibliography is up-to-date to 1984, though not much micro-literature has come during the last 3/4 years. The bibliography has been arranged by a depth classification version of the library science schedule based in Colon Classification. Class numbers have not been provided though feature headings are there. The arrangement is quite helpful. It is quite revealing to know that P.N. Kaula is the author of no less than 32 items pertaining to different aspects of the scheme. This impressive number does not include the dissertations supervised by him. He is a prolific as well as authoritative writer on the subject.

Various aspects of the CC studied explained and evaluated in this book will interest varied audience – from a scholar to a school librarian. The work is not partisan, despite the fact that it has been written by a staunch disciple of Ranganathan. Explication, description and explanation, not propaganda is the aim of this work. It has been achieved through its simplicity. It has something to offer to every category and level of readership. It is indeed a culmination of Kaula's "work with the Colon Classification as a user, as a revisor, as a designer and as a teacher of classification" (Preface, p. X).

Publication of different books on CC has led to different interpretation of some rules in the CC by different authors. Consequently interpretation of some rules has become controversial and debatable. I hope this book proves helpful in the arbitration of some long standing disputes. Authority and authenticity are its hallmarks.

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## INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

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