

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 *Cataloguing 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 uncertainty 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 opportunities. The thrust area of this anthology is education and training in cataloguing and classification. As the subtitle 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 substance 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 upto date. 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 free-lancing 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