Book Review

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Introduction to Cataloging and Classification

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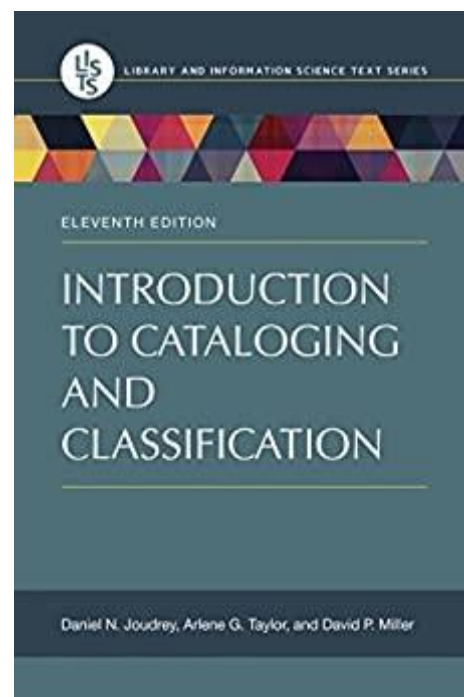E-mail: satija_mp@yahoo.com

ABOUT THE BOOK

Book Title	Introduction to cataloging and classification
ISBN	978-1-59884-857-1
Publishers	Santa Barbara, CA; Denver, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited an imprint of ABC-CLIO.
Authors	Daniel N. Joudrey, Arlene G. Taylor and David P. Miller
Edition	11th
Year	2015
Pages	1048
Format	Paperback
Language	English
Price	INR 3,486.50

BOOK REVIEW

This book, also known as ICC11, in its 11th edition makes a history of sort reminiscent of Gray's *Anatomy*. No other LIS book has been issued in so many editions; more editions are likely to appear at appropriate intervals as two of the present authors are young. Original author Mr. Bohdan S. Wynar has retired and on the way other expert teachers have associated with it to keep it up-to-date and in print in such a

turbulent KO field. The knowledge organization (KO) field on which it dwells upon is continuously changing, and changing breathlessly fast since its very first edition in 1964. To check its obesity only current concepts and methods have been discussed in this lengthy book. Its second unique feature, though not so enviable, is its obese size—but something inevitable given the vastness of this composite subject field and authors' endeavours to be comprehensive and exhaustive. No non-reference LIS text has appeared in such a big size. Since the death of Professor Lois Mai Chan (1934-2014) this book has no rival even. Thus its popularity is assured.

The whole text has been contained in six parts of twenty four chapters in all. Four appendices, though peripheral, add considerable value to this book. The first two are on the RDA which also occupies the bulk of the core text in chapters' four to eight of section two. A glossary of more than four hundred terms, both historical and current, used in the book have been lucidly explained in from one sentence to a paragraph. It is useful to understand new and knotty concepts. The fourth appendix is a broadly classified bibliography of more than four hundred bibliographic items, both classic and current. It is a guide to delving deep into any of the topic discussed in the text.

The first part of two chapters dwells on the generalities of information organization, on the forms of catalogues and a brief history of cataloguing codes and standards. The second part of seven chapters details about the description and access resting on the RDA. It is so much detailed that it could have been a separate full book on this new cataloguing code. The only chapter in part three is on name, title and subject control authorities, and on creation and maintenance of authority files in the digital environment.

The fourth section, the largest, comprising of ten chapters, is on subject access which includes vocabulary control systems and methods, and major classification systems. This includes LCSH, the Sears List, some thesauri and switching languages. The library classification systems described are

the DDC, LCC; other briefly describes systems are as Bliss' BC, Cutter's EC, and Brown's SC—the later two being of historical value could have been bypassed. The UDC, one of the three big trio with LCC and DDC, has been short changed by tucking it with its original parent DDC. Indeed, it deserved a full chapter of its own. Ranganathan's Colon has been cursorily discussed under faceted classifications. The CC, the quintessential example of a faceted system, deserved discussion in detail. Happily, there is a chapter on book numbers and call number. The fifth section dwells on MARC and other metadata systems with a full chapter on ISBDs. The last section of only one chapter, a very important and unique one, aptly concludes the book. It is on the administration of the cataloging department in a big library which also expectedly explains copy and cooperative cataloging.

Each chapter is divided into sections with apt feature headings printed in bold typeface. Examples and illustrations abound. All chapters uniformly end with conclusion, notes and suggested readings—latter have been consolidated in a long list of readings given as appendix at the end of the book. Accordingly the table of content is analytical listing all the sections, making it a sort of a broader classified index.

The book is up-to-date so much so that most of it had to be rewritten for the changing topics and many others new emerging so fast. It makes the ICC11 *de facto* a new book. The major developments in the KO field have been appropriately incorporated. These are new terms which are emerging faster than ever, new conceptual bibliographic model such as the FRBR, new standards such as the RDA, the vocabulary control systems and procedures, and lastly the KO system being made available in new modes such as the LC authority lists are available in open access mode; new fields are being created in MARC to accommodate new elements of metadata. Nevertheless, the MARC, tied to books only, seems on the way out slowly and slowly.

This lucidly written book assumes no prior knowledge on the part of readers, and thus can be equally used by the novice and the

expert. All this makes it a very readable and dependable text to learn, apply and teach the dynamic field of knowledge organization to which the book holds a plain mirror as it is today. This tome of a book in handsome getup is highly recommended to these stakeholders.

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