Book Reviews

Margaret Rohdy, Editor

FRBR Seminar: Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records=Requisiti Funzionali per Record Bibliografici, Florence, 27–28 January 2000, Proceedings. Ed. Mauro Guerrini. Rome: Associazione italiana biblioteche, 2000. 156p., 160p., tête-bêche. L. 40,000 (ISBN 88-7812-067-7).

The FRBR (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records) seminar was held in Florence, Italy, January 27–28, 2000. The published proceedings contain texts in both Italian and English for each of the twelve papers presented.

The central focus of the seminar was the final report of the IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) Study Group on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (1998). The lead paper, by John Byrum and Olivia Madison, provides an extensive overview of the IFLA study—its background, method, and the key features of the FRBR model—as well as an update on a number of follow-up activities related to the study. The other eleven papers reflect a broad range of interest within the Italian library community both in the theoretical concepts put forward in FRBR and in its potential for practical application in the development of cataloging standards and the design of bibliographic systems.

A number of the papers provide interesting insights into the development of cataloging theory and standards over the past forty years. Several of the authors trace the progression of consensus-building initiatives from the International Conference on Cataloguing Principles held in Paris in 1961, through the International Meeting of Cataloguing Experts in Copenhagen in 1969 and the subsequent development and publication of the International Standard Bibliographic Descriptions (ISBDs), to the FRBR study. From several differing perspectives, the contributors to the seminar assess the relevance of the FRBR study to the challenges that libraries face today in providing cost-effective bibliographic access to an increasingly diverse and complex range of information resources.

Several of the contributors examine in detail the concepts articulated in the FRBR study. Their interpretations of some of the conceptual distinctions made in the study and of the implications of those concepts for the design of bibliographic tools add significantly to what is becoming a substantial body of analysis centered on the model developed for the FRBR study. Of particular interest are the observations put forward by Pino Buizza on the entity defined as "expression" in FRBR, the various dimensions of that entity, and the implications of expression-to-expression relationships for the organization of the catalog.

Byrum and Madison's overview, as well as several other papers from the seminar, highlight the extent to which the FRBR study has sparked or influenced related initiatives within the international library community. Among the current activities covered by Byrum and Madison are the review of the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR), the harmonization of the International Standard Bibliographic Description for Serials (ISBD(S)), with the descriptive standards used in the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) network, the analysis of authority data undertaken by the IFLA Working Group on Functional Requirements and Numbering for Authority Records (FRANAR), the integration of FRBR by library schools into their cataloging courses, and the revision of the ISBDs to reflect the FRBR recommendations for basic-level national bibliographic records. Isa de Pinedo reports on the translation of the FRBR final report into Italian and on an experimental application of the FRBR model that is being undertaken in conjunction with the revision of the Italian cataloging rules (RICA) and the enhancement of the system that supports the Italian national bibliographic service.

One caveat should be made about the published proceedings. All the papers except the one by Byrum and Madison were originally written in Italian, so most of the English texts in this volume are translations. The quality of the translation is mixed, and that, together with the complexity of the subject matter, sometimes makes for difficult reading. Nevertheless, the organizers of the seminars are to be congratulated on publishing English translations of the papers, making them accessible to a much wider audience than they would have been otherwise. The publication of the proceedings in both Italian and English marks a significant contribution to the international dialogue on the FRBR at both a conceptual and practical level.—*Tom Delsey (tjdelsey @attcanada.ca), Ottawa, Canada.*

Work Cited

IFLA Study Group on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic

Records. 1998. Functional requirements for bibliographic records: Final report. München: K. G. Saur. (Also available on the IFLA Web site at www.ifla.org.)

Moving Theory into Practice: Digital Imaging for Libraries and Archives. *Anne Kenney and Oya Rieger. Mountain View, Calif.: Research Libraries Group, 2000. 189p. $89 (ISBN 0-9700225-0-6)*

Digital Imaging: A Practical Handbook. *Stuart D. Lee. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2001. 194p. $55 (ISBN 1-55570-405-0)*

Libraries around the world are busy developing digitization projects for two crucial reasons—to improve access and preserve collections. These digitization projects vary in size and scope and are frequently coordinated efforts among numerous collecting institutions or library consortia. In the wake of this rush to digitize materials, the Web has several sites that offer useful information on digitization and imaging technology. Not only is the information available on Web sites scattered across the Internet, many of the current Web-based resources deal with specific digitization issues and collections. Fortunately, several print publications are now available, including Kenney and Rieger's *Moving Theory into Practice* and Lee's *Digital Imaging,* to better serve information professionals seeking an overview of digital imaging.

Although both resources offer insights on various aspects of digital imaging and project management, each book reaches for a different level of user; thus they contrast widely in scope and presentation. Kenney and Rieger are the editors and main authors of a resource that is a joint effort between Cornell University and the Research Libraries Group. The text includes the input of fifty highly respected contributors, and it is intended to guide professionals having some prior experience or knowledge of digital imaging. This book successfully combines the approach of a handbook for digitization project managers with the components of a technical manual. Chapters on digital benchmarking and quality control (which include quick overviews of color theory, resolution assessment, and applying other image-quality standards) are presented to instruct and guide readers on the complex processes of image creation and digitization technology. Other chapters round out the publication with discussion of such important management issues as improving delivery and access to digitized collections, the functions of metadata, and developing improved systems to handle image management.

As the sole author and editor of *Digital Imaging,* Stuart D. Lee's intention is to provide a digital imaging handbook for relative beginners. Lee presents introductory summaries of the main issues and considerations involved in digitization, but particularly focuses on providing his readers with a guide for initiating digital imaging projects. His book is laid out as a series of steps from the first questions concerned with beginning a digitization project —the why, where, and how of digitization—to the cataloging and delivery of a digital collection. Sprinkled within five larger chapters are examples, definitions, and explanations of essential concepts and issues involved in digital imaging technology, but with the focus on how they affect the management of a digitization project.

There are several notable and helpful features in both books. Kenney and Rieger's publication is very well organized; it is apparent that much thought went into planning how to present complex technical information in a clear, easy-to-follow style. Readers will appreciate the prudent addition of tables, graphs, photographs, and other illustrations that provide crucial examples for a text on the subject of digital imaging. Particularly helpful and informative are sidebars found throughout the book. Each separately authored sidebar focuses on a specific topic, and many of them are excellent summaries or offer useful advice on important aspects of digitization technology or image management. Lee's contribution is also quite easy to follow, and he is a master at taking rather intricate subjects and explaining them in layman's terms. The author's ability to simplify in a nonpatronizing manner is certainly an appealing aspect of an imaging handbook aimed at beginners. Another noteworthy feature of Lee's book is three appendixes that list Web sites, questionnaire forms, and references (many of them URLs), which the reader can access for a plethora of information on digital imaging.

Neither book covers one important area, the funding of digitization projects, beyond a cursory degree. Both books do discuss methods of calculating the costs of a digital project, noting that digitization can be quite an expensive enterprise for a library. Although each publication mentions funding mainly as a factor in formulating or restricting a digitization project, neither offers much in the way of information about the methods of obtaining funding or grants. While it is understandable that space is limited and certain issues could not be included in books on digital imaging, funding to pay for staff and equipment for digitization projects are prevalent concerns for many libraries. It would have been advantageous if the topic of funding and the process of securing grants had been further explored, perhaps by offering an index of Web sites for funding opportunities available from national, state, and local granting authorities.

Digital Imaging and *Moving Theory into Practice* are both instructional texts that present a wealth of information on digital imaging without overwhelming their respective