

classification schemes. The terminology and tone of the book are easy to understand and straight-forward. The examples and outlines from the various classification systems are very informative. Of particular interest are the flow charts that McKnight includes throughout the book. The section on DDC includes a flow chart from the DDC manual, and McKnight creates flow charts in the LCC chapter for classifying jazz ensembles and choral music. It would be interesting to see if other music catalogers have created flow charts for other class numbers in LCC. Although the main focus of this book is music classification systems, it would have been nice to see mention of the fact that classification numbers can be found on some subject authority records and in the *Library of Congress Subject Headings*. Even though the number of examples is sufficient, an appendix at the end of the book with further examples from each classification system would have been a bonus.

The introduction to the book, as well as the history and background of each classification system, are particularly helpful. Notes at the end of each chapter and the selected bibliography at the end of the book are valuable resources for finding additional cataloging tools. The book does include an index.

While this book is for the beginning and less experienced music cataloger, even the more seasoned music cataloger should find it of interest. Since many of us catalog in only one classification scheme throughout our careers, the opportunity to learn more about differing classification schemes is not to be missed. This book is a welcome addition to any music cataloger's reference shelf.—Margaret Kaus (mkaus@utk.edu), George F. DeVine Music Library, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

***The Ultimate Digital Library:
Where the New Information***

Players Meet. By Andrew K. Pace. Chicago: ALA, 2003. 168p. \$35 (ISBN 0-8389-0844-6) LC2002-15527.

It's a tall order to convince traditionally minded librarians that the corporate world has the right idea, but Andrew K. Pace has undertaken the task with conviction. Pace is head of systems at the North Carolina State Universities, and a background with both systems vendors and academic libraries lends the authority of experience to his voice, though the vendor in him often wins out to make his ideas relatively commercial compared to current library practice. As a result, the book may stir up some animosity in librarians of a traditional turn of mind, but Pace's intention is to wake up our sleepy profession to the possibilities available to those who embrace change and technology with the ultimate goal of serving users.

Embracing change and technology, though, requires radical change in ideology. For instance, Pace dismisses librarians' insistence that "information wants to be free" as petty jealousy over the success of competitors like Amazon.com. In defense of this stance, Pace comes to the conclusion that "It is not that information wants to be free; librarians want information to be valuable, and this is where libraries come in, by adding the value of subject expertise, collection, and organization" (135). But as one reads through pages of praise for personalized Web portals, one begins to conclude that added value consists primarily of attractively streamlined presentation of information over the Internet. The book advocates the adoption of any dot-com strategies that will boost the library's Internet presence, barring only those that violate the principles of privacy and anonymity.

Though Pace adheres to librarians' moral concerns, he's not afraid to take shots at traditional tools of the trade, particularly where technical

services are concerned. Dismissing the MARC format as cumbersome at best, he advocates a catalog fashioned after Amazon's—cover images, reviews, and popularity ratings included. This streamlining approach seems to contradict his notion that libraries should be prepared to provide information quickly, cheaply, *and* thoroughly. If he concedes that "cataloging is the closest thing to science in library science," (47) and yet dispenses with thorough methods of description, would he dismiss the notion of library science as well?

Perhaps the library science degree program for Pace's librarian of the future would be better termed "Library and Information Business." Schools would tailor their programs to feed into the job market for vendors, and those vendors would offer scholarships to students in exchange for work. Future librarians would learn Internet marketing strategies to sell users information for which they pay only the trouble of visiting the library's site (we hope). With greater understanding of the Internet and the vendors that provide library Web presence, LIS students would be equipped to provide appealing access to information-rich collections. Pace is absolutely correct in saying that libraries have a corner on the market as far as information is concerned, yet they lose users to fee-based Internet services because of the lack of sophistication in digital library services. If libraries would adopt features from the commercial information market, their added value of absolute adherence to privacy and even anonymity would give libraries the edge in the "information economy."

Though Pace rests his arguments on the existence of an information economy, he seems to lack an appreciation for the ambiguity of that designation. Claiming that information is now a commodity, he grants that libraries have always had the most information, but then proceeds to

attack libraries for unappealing presentation of their wares. But if information were truly a commodity, then wouldn't an information-rich MARC record be more valuable than the surface-level description in the Amazon catalog? One might conclude that information is not the commodity in demand here; instead, entertainment is the product for which people are willing to pay, whether it comes in the form of a colorful Internet portal or an animated personal information servant. On the other hand, if Pace is correct about the information economy, then it is reasonable to conclude that libraries stand to gain from its existence, because libraries have always held more information than Internet information brokers. The key is to make digital services sophisticated enough to be commensurate with the strength of the collection. In other words, libraries should try to beat corporate competitors at their own game rather than provide an alternative to the game. Pace paints a bright picture of the library's future business model, but what would be the consequences of adopting business practices in one of the few information institutions that has not succumbed to the lure of capital?

Pace has chosen to take a largely ideological approach to the digital library, and as a result, the book will be helpful to those who are in the beginning stages of planning for a digital library—these ideas are certainly thought-provoking, and often deliberately controversial. The book would be an excellent discussion tool for the classroom as well; even if instructors may not buy into some of the populist ideas, it should rouse enough heated opinions to create a good debate. As far as implementation goes, the book seems well suited to large libraries with the ample resources to try some of his suggestions.

There is a distinct current of conflict running through this book; sometimes the author expresses sympathy

with traditional library views, in other places he berates libraries for a staunch snobbery that prevents them from adopting commercial practices. All this makes for a reactionary tone that creates occasional inconsistencies in the author's message. That said, the book will stand out among its peers on the same subject because of its refreshing wit, its forbearance with regard to weighty technical information, and its relative freedom from theoretical speculation.—*John Leslie (jleslie@olemiss.edu), University of Mississippi, Oxford.*

Digital Preservation and Metadata: History, Theory, Practice. By Susan S. Lazinger; annotations by Helen R. Tibbo. Englewood, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 2001. 359p. \$55 softcover (ISBN: 1-56308-777-4) LC 2001-50390.

We have grown accustomed to "fixity" or the permanence of text in the print world. Now we must adjust to the "malleability" or changeability of electronic information. Susan Lazinger's book discusses why we need to preserve the intellectual integrity of electronic documents.

Lazinger, a professor at the School of Library, Archive, and Information Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, discusses digital preservation as an issue of concern among libraries, companies, organizations, and individuals in contemporary society. She presents methods of safeguarding resources and dealing with obsolescence to responsibilities, methods of preservation, cost, and metadata formats. She provides useful information about national and international institutions that have established frameworks for digital libraries and archives.

The book is divided into two parts, I—Issues and Models, II—Formats, and Standards. Each chapter is divided into numbered sections, which facilitate locating information. An extensive bibliography is provided

at the end of each chapter with the exception of chapter 9, which is a descriptive list of associations, organizations, and programs that support cultural heritage initiatives. The complete bibliography and the index follow chapter 9. Lazinger emphasizes the immediate need for organizing and preserving the wealth of information on the Web before it inadvertently disappears.

Chapter 1 is devoted to the reasons digital preservation is such a vital issue. The uncontrolled accumulation of data soon will lead us to useless data because searching is difficult, discouraging, and a process of diminishing returns. Electronic texts can easily be edited, improved, manipulated, and revised. However, they have lost their assurance of "preservability." The medium of the data is at risk and the even larger problem of intellectual preservation increases more and more. Lack of metadata and systems documentation, and electronic data in forms that cannot be preserved, are problems. The software or hardware has become obsolete or the digital resources have been designed to prevent any copying. Also, a lack of mechanisms allowing institutions willing to be caretakers of our electronic resources to do so is another serious consequence. All of these jeopardize our digital heritage.

In chapter 2, Lazinger stresses the initial step of identifying material worthy of preservation, whether print or electronic. Digital resources require decisions not only about which items to keep but also about which elements of the resources should be preserved, that is, not only what should be preserved but also how much of each item should be preserved. Features such as links to other documents and interactivity will be lost unless decisions are made to keep them. Intended change or well-meant change may be confused with the unauthorized tampering with data. Digitized material is material convert-