Book Reviews

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Self-Publishing and Collection Development: Opportunities and Challenges for Libraries. Edited by Robert Holley. West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University Press, 2015. 185p. $29.95 softcover (ISBN: 978-1-55753-721-8).

Self-publishing has exploded over the last ten years, resulting in an entirely new ecosystem of self-publishing platforms, marketing options, and collection development tools. Major companies such as Amazon provide a relatively easy way for individuals to format and upload writing for public consumption, and the public's demand for these materials is increasing. This demand has created a new and challenging set of problems for librarians who would like to leverage the growth of self-publishing to improve library collections and services. The essays collected in *Self-Publishing and Collection Development: Opportunities and Challenges for Libraries* make a convincing case that academic and public libraries have significant opportunity to participate in this new publishing landscape while making clear that, particularly for academic libraries, the acceptance and active collection of self-published titles is still something of a work in progress.

As editor Robert Holley lays out in the introduction, this volume may be "the first monograph to deal with self-publication and its present and potential impact on libraries" (1). As such, the essays contained within cover a lot of ground, but cluster around three ways for librarians to interact with self-publishing: as collection development/acquisitions specialists, as facilitators for patron publishing, and as publishers themselves. Chapter contributions from both public and academic librarians as well as vendors and authors provide a broad spectrum of perspectives on the challenges and opportunities of self-publishing.

Several chapters contain a brief history or overview of self-publishing, noting its recent growth and the traditional reluctance of librarians to collect self-published work. Multiple authors note that public libraries tend to collect more self-published works than academic libraries and that the term "vanity press" has gone out of favor. References to the "stigma" of self-publishing appear frequently. It is clear that each author is trying to provide context for his or her contribution, but tighter editing of these sections may have reduced some of the repetition, allowing more space for discussing the issues and experiences that were unique.

Within the cluster of essays dealing with self-publishing as a collection development issue, Bob Nardini of ProQuest Books presents a discussion of the challenge of applying traditional vendor services to independent publishers, highlighting the idea that many libraries may avoid collecting self-published books because there is no easy way to discover and acquire them. He imagines a future when vendors are able to create library profiles and bundle self-published titles for purchase in a way that is cost-effective and provides acceptable metadata for institutions. This is an interesting thought experiment, highlighting the fact that there are issues of quality control, scalability, and economy throughout the self-publishing and distribution process, and libraries are not the only institutions struggling to come up with workable solutions. This chapter serves as a useful glimpse into vendor priorities.

In contrast, the following chapter focuses on Ingram Content Group and reads much more like promotional material, including explicit directions for formatting and preparing material for upload to the IngramSpark self-publishing platform. This chapter sticks out in both content and tone, being more of a company overview and guide to getting started using the company's services than an academic exploration of self-publishing's impact on libraries. A few paragraphs outlining some of Ingram's partnerships with libraries eventually connect this section with the larger themes of the book.

Several chapters touch on the role libraries can play to facilitate patron self-publishing. Author Henry Bankhead outlines a successful partnership with e-book publisher Smashwords that allowed the Los Gatos Library to guide local authors through the publishing process and provide library access to their books via OverDrive. Public libraries likely already have a subgroup of patrons eager to write a novel, local history, memoir or family biography, and libraries can help patrons navigate self-publishing platforms and highlight the work of their patrons in the library. The chapters detailing individual author experiences with self-publishing reveal just how many options there are for those looking to self-publish and perhaps unintentionally underscore how much opportunity there is for libraries to guide potential authors through the dizzying maze of platform selection, book design, marketing and distribution.

The book is capped by a brief, yet wide-ranging and thought-provoking, bibliographic essay highlighting some of the recent research on the self-publishing landscape and its impact on libraries. Chapter author Joseph D. Grobelny writes that libraries have lagged behind book publishers and the public when it comes to interest in self-publishing but ends the volume on a positive note, writing that "it is worth taking the longer view that libraries will

most likely successfully adapt to the changed publishing environment" (177).

What is missing from this volume is in-depth discussion of academic libraries as publishers and the special considerations that might apply when publishing scholarly content via an open access journal or institutional repository. Two chapters deal with self-publishing as an acquisitions issue in academic libraries, but there are no chapters outlining university library publishing programs or the academic library's increasing role in the scholarly communication process. While both Donald Beagle and Grobelny mention the growing prominence of institutional repositories in academic libraries, the focus of the book as a whole is squarely on self-publishing through third-party vendors such as Smashwords, IngramSpark, and Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing. Several authors rightly point out that public libraries are much more active in this area.

Taken in its entirety, *Self-Publishing and Collection Development* is a wide-angle view of the ways that self-publishing can impact libraries. Chapters vary from resource-rich guides containing practical advice and descriptions of self-publishing experiences to more philosophical explorations of the challenges of discovering and acquiring self-published works. At times this breadth can be a bit disorienting, as chapters jump from collection development to programming development to vendor partnerships. However, this eclecticism means that there is in some sense "something for everyone," from librarians struggling to locate, acquire and properly catalog self-published materials, to those who are considering self-publishing their own writing.—*Rebecca Brody (rbrody@westfield.ma.edu), Westfield State University, Westfield, Massachusetts*

FRBR, Before and After: A Look at Our Bibliographic Models. By Karen Coyle. Chicago: ALA Editions, 2016. 179 p. $50.00 softcover (ISBN: 978-0-8389-1345-1). *Editor's Note: as of January 2016, the full contents of the book are available for Open Access with a CC-BY license. See Coyle's website (kcoyle.net) for details.*

While many in the metadata creation community are familiar with the Group 1–3 entities described in the *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records* (FRBR), the historical context for FRBR as a bibliographic model is less familiar.[1] In 1990, the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) sponsored the Stockholm Seminar on Cataloguing. One of the outcomes of this Seminar was the creation of the FRBR Study Group whose purpose was to identify a minimum set of data elements necessary to satisfy the needs of users. Using this element set in the creation of records would both further facilitate the sharing of bibliographic records and reduce the cost of cataloging for participating institutions. The FRBR Study Group's final report has far reaching influence, including serving as the

conceptual model upon which *RDA: Resource Description and Access*—the successor to the *Anglo-American Cataloging Rules* as the content standard used by many libraries across the world.[2]

In *FRBR, Before and After*, Karen Coyle puts FRBR into context, both historically and with regard to earlier bibliographic models. But Coyle's book is not merely an analysis of FRBR and whether the FRBR Study Group built a model that successfully meets the objectives set forth by IFLA. Coyle also asserts that bibliographic models inform, and are informed by, the technology being used most prevalently at the time of the model's creation. In the introduction Coyle lays out her argument, writing, "This book looks at the ways that we define the things in the bibliographic world, and in particular how our bibliographic models reflect our technology and the assumed goal of libraries" (xv). Coyle's book succeeds as an analysis of the relationship between bibliographic models and technology and as an analysis of the effectiveness of FRBR as a bibliographic model.

In part one, "Work, Model, and Technology," Coyle lays the foundation upon which her claims regarding FRBR as a bibliographic model are built. She begins by introducing readers to the concept of work; drawing from the fields of philosophy, semiotics, and information science and even advancing her own theory on the topic. Coyle moves on to discuss modeling, including both a general discussion on data modeling and a more specific conversation about library data modeling. Finally, Coyle addresses advances in library technology from printed library catalog cards through the rise of the Semantic Web.

In part two, "FRBR and other solutions," Coyle builds upon the groundwork laid in the first three chapters as she addresses FRBR as a bibliographic model. She begins by recounting the history that led to the development of the FRBR Study Group and their report. Coyle follows that up with a detailed explanation of the entity-relationship model, which is the model used in the development of FRBR. She then offers a brief explanation of what is being modeled in FRBR. In Chapter 8, Coyle uses the objectives that guided the work of the FRBR Study Group as a measure of the effectiveness of the bibliographic model they created. She then addresses a few of the fundamental problems she has identified with FRBR, including the concepts of inheritance and disjoint. Coyle concludes the book by discussing the future of bibliographic description and the application of the FRBR model in the Semantic Web environment.

In chapter 3 of *FRBR, Before and After* Coyle addresses the parallel development of cataloging standards and library technology standards, writing "there is no interaction between technology standards development and cataloging standards" (44). Prospective readers might imagine that Coyle's book could serve as a bridge upon which catalogers and library technologists could stand while building