BOOK REVIEWS

Descriptive Cataloguing; A Student's Introduction to the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules 1967. By James A. Tait and Douglas Anderson. Second ed.; rev. and enl. Hamden, Conn.: Linnet Books, 1971, 122p. $5.00

This second edition contains some corrections to the errors made in the 1968 edition, and includes the changes and clarifications brought out by the *AACR Amendment Bulletin*. The number of exemplary title pages has been increased from twenty-five to forty, thus giving the student more practice in determining entries and doing descriptive cataloging. This reviewer believes that a more exact title would be "Descriptive Cataloging and Determining Entries and Headings," because this introductory text not only covers descriptive cataloging as defined and explained in "Part II—Descriptive Cataloging" of the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*, but also includes some of the basic rules for determining entries and headings in *AACR*'s "Part I—Entry and Heading."

There are three distinct sections: descriptive cataloging; determining entries and headings; and facsimile title pages for student practice. Descriptive cataloging is covered in just thirteen pages, but all the basic elements are there. The explanations are clear and examples are shown, but not in the context of a full card. (Unfortunately only one full catalog card is illustrated in the entire book.) It is in this section, more than in any other, where the differences between British and American cataloging become obvious. British descriptive cataloging varies in so many ways from its American counterpart that a beginning student in an American library school would be quite confused by these variations.

The next section consists of twenty-five pages and is devoted to the basic rules on entries and headings. Examples are used to illustrate the rules and the authors point out some differences between the British and American texts of the *AACR*. The remaining seventy pages contain the forty reproduced title pages which are followed by some commentary and a key corresponding to each title page. These title pages give the student a wide range of experience in transcribing the proper information onto the card and in determining main and added entries.

Even though this book is an excellent introduction to the rudiments of descriptive cataloging and the determination of main and added entries,

its use of British descriptive cataloging precludes its being widely adopted in beginning cataloging courses in American library schools.

Donald J. Lehnus

Centralized Processing for Academic Libraries. By Richard M. Dougherty and Joan M. Maier. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1971. 254p. $10.00

This is the final report of the Colorado Academic Libraries Book Processing Center (CALBPC) two-part study investigating centralized processing. Phase I, reported by Laurence Leonard, Maier, and Dougherty in *Centralized Book Processing,* Scarecrow, 1969, was basically a feasibility study, whereas this final report describes the beginning six months of operations that tested the Phase I recommendations. Partially funded by the National Science Foundation, the experiment measured anticipated time and cost savings, monitored acquisitions and cataloging operations, and tested product acceptability for six libraries participating in the 1969, six-month study.

Even though centralized book processing might hold little appeal for the reader, this volume nonetheless is valuable to technical service heads because of its above average sophistication in applying a systems analysis approach to technical services problems. The authors objectively report their findings, outlining in detail the mistakes, the unanticipated problem areas, and what they believed to be the successes.

From the start the authors encountered problems with scheduling. By the time the experiment began most participants had a large portion of their book money encumbered, and the center was forced to accept cataloging arrearages in addition to book order requests. Those who did send in orders did not conform to patterns predicted in Phase I. Instead, the center was used as a source of obtaining more difficult materials, including foreign language items. It was discovered that in actual practice CALBPC had no impact on discounts received from vendors. The vendor performance study lacked relevancy because it was based upon the date invoices were cleared for payment rather than the date books were received in house. In evaluating the total processing time, four libraries reduced their time lag by participating in the center's centralized processing, and the cost of processing the average book was reduced from $3.10 to $2.63.

The product acceptance study showed that the physical processing was only partially accepted with most of the libraries modifying a truncated title that was printed on the book card and book pocket as a by-product of the automated financial subsystem. Other local modifications were made on books processed by the center but that cost or local error correction costs were not reported in the study.

CALBPC's automated financial subsystem was beseiged with many problems resulting from lack of programming foresight and adequate consulting

by those who had previously designed such systems. Individuals interested in the automation of acquisitions should read this section of the report. CALBPC's problems were typically those of building exceptions to exceptions in order to accommodate unanticipated program omissions. Simply not recognizing that books could be processed before invoices were paid caused delays and bottlenecks of such magnitude that procedures had to be devised to circumvent requirements of the automated subsystem.

Many recommendations were particularly relevant to cooperative ventures. In formulating processing specifications such as call number format and abbreviation standardization, CALBPC had not anticipated the infinite local variations they would have to accommodate. They quickly recognized the need for both greater quality control to minimize errors within the system and better communications and educational programs for participants. A reoccurring message was that librarians emphasized the esthetics of catalog cards rather than the content, thus a recommendation was made to investigate whether a positive correlation exists between the esthetics of the product and the quality of the library service. The authors emphasized that a cooperative program depends more upon competencies and willingness of individuals than the technical aspects of the operations.

Some diversification of services was called for but no mention was made of the possibilities of an on-line system. It was felt that in future operations the center should accept orders for out-of-print and audiovisual materials. Those libraries participating in approval programs had received no benefit by having books sent first to the center, thus it was suggested that the center forward those libraries a bibliographic packet only and that the approval books bypass the center.

This well-documented study, half of which is devoted to charts and appendix materials, concluded its recommendations with a positive evaluation of the service the center had performed and suggested that public and school libraries should also be participants.

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