

BOOK REVIEW

Mary Beth Weber and Fay Angela Austin. Describing Electronic, Digital, and Other Media Using AACR2 and RDA: A How-ToDo-It- Manual and CD-Rom for Librarians. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2011. 301p. ISBN 9781555706685. Reviewed by Beverley A. Wood.

The authors of *Describing Electronic, Digital, and Other Media Using AACR2 and RDA* have achieved with this work their stated goal of providing a source of useful information and ideas for persons cataloguing or in their words, “creating descriptive records” for digital and non-tangible resources (p. xiii).

Mary Beth Weber and Fay Angela Austin’s How-to manual provides the user with multiple guidelines and relevant examples to make it easier to transition from the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, Second Edition (AACR2) to Resource Description and Access (RDA) for resource description. Whether the user is an experienced cataloguer, a cautious occasional cataloguer or a timid novice, the manual aims to make the transition as seamless as possible. With this practical resource, Weber who had written two previous works on the cataloguing of non-print resources (1993 and 2002) along with her Rutgers colleague Austin, provide yet another very timely work as many libraries begin the transition to the new cataloguing standard.

The book gives examples of resources catalogued using both RDA and AACR2 side by side so that the user can compare the required elements in each standard and note the similarities and differences. For the newbie cataloguer, juxtaposing the records done using the different standards allows for the acquisition of foundational background knowledge; and for the more experienced cataloguer this serves as a means of highlighting the need for the new cataloguing standard. RDA was created because AACR2 could no longer accommodate the descriptions required for new and emerging technologies. This book then is primed to demonstrate why RDA is relevant to the needs of the cataloguer working in this new electronically charged environment.

The organization of the book chapters facilitates the ready reference ideal. There is an introductory chapter which speaks to the future of resource description and which details essential information required for creating descriptive records using RDA following the Functional Requirements for

Bibliographic Records (FRBR) model. It gives an overview of the FRBR model and shows its relationship to RDA.

Chapter one provides an explanation of 'essential background' elements needed in describing the Work Expression Manifestation and Item (WEMI) concept in RDA. This chapter identifies and discusses core elements specific to the cataloguing of non-book resources. It is here too that the metadata schemas to be used in the book, the three most commonly used formats - MACHine Readable Cataloguing (MARC), Metadata Object Description Schema (MODS) and Dublin Core (DC) -are introduced and explained. Beginning with Chapter one and in each subsequent chapter are provided, in the margins, examples which illustrate concepts being discussed. Also found in the margins are Authors' Note and the Quick Tip which give additional guidelines, factual information and pointers to the cataloguer to augment that provided, to offer clarification and advice on treatment of the resource being discussed.

The next eight chapters each treat a different resource – cartographic materials (excluding globes), sound recordings, videos, electronic resources, electronic integrating resources, microforms and multimedia mixed kits and materials. While Weber and Austin note that the book does not address printed music, also noticeably absent is the treatment of electronic serials. This limitation however does not detract from the strength of the book. Useful illustrations are well tagged and are coupled with sample MARC, DC and MODS descriptive records.

Each chapter concludes with sources of additional information in a section called 'Resources for Catalogers'. These resources include articles, websites, email lists, webcasts, conferences among others mentioned. The FISO checklists (referring to the Find, Identify, Select and Obtain concept of FRBR) are meant to remind the cataloguer that the purpose of resource description is to aid the user's access to the needed resources. As a supplement to the book, there is also a companion website and an accompanying CD-ROM. These are two very useful tools which advance the ready reference agenda of the work.

This is one of the first published practical works to guide cataloguers in the transition to RDA. For persons cataloguing non-print materials using RDA, *Describing Electronic, Digital, and Other Media Using AACR2 and RDA* is timely and well placed to be a go to manual.

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