

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Functions and objects of author and title cataloguing; a contribution to cataloguing theory, by A Domanovszky. Budapest Akademiai Kiad, 1974. 174p. ISBN 963-05-0381-6. [Reviewed by B Guha]*

In any discussion of cataloguing theory, Dr. Domanovszky's views command a respect which very few can aspire to attain. His strong views and convincing logic were very much in evidence at the Paris Conference on Cataloguing Principles and contributed much to the deliberations of the Conference. Even there the brilliance of Domanovszky could be seen only in bits and spurts. The present work unfolds an integrated view of some of the basic ideas that the author holds on author-title cataloguing.

Dr. Domanovszky believes that 'author-title cataloguing... cannot do without an elaborate theoretical basis, and, that what cataloguers have achieved by now in the way of building up such a theory is in many respects still rather far from satisfactory'. This belief, which forms two premises, has prompted him to undertake the present study. The subject matter of the study is centred round two ultimate 'aims'. Firstly, an attempt has been made to improve, the present state of theory, especially, in the context of 'functions and objects of author-title cataloguing'. The second aim is to verify the two premises from which the author started the investigation.

The functions of the catalogue, in a way, form the very basis of cataloguing theory. Hence, the author goes on to investigate whether we are clear about the functions. It is shown that the 'denotation of the term [function] is still very far from being unequivally fixed'. By the term 'objects of cataloguing' the author means those objects about which information is conveyed by library catalogues, and not the objectives of catalogues. Domanovszky recognises three catalogue-functions and three denotations of the term 'object of cataloguing'. He introduces a complex idea which he calls 'objects of a function' meaning thereby those objects about which information should be conveyed within the range of a function. Each book in the library, it is held, has to be recorded in a manner suitable for serving three totally

different purposes. At the same time there may exist in the same book two or more objects to be catalogued.

After providing a brief historical outline of the development of the functions of the author-title catalogue (Chap 3) the author goes on to develop his meticulous logic for formulating the three functions of the catalogue. The first function as it emerges and finally stated is "The fundamental sector of the first function consists in conveying information about all primary elemental objects, i. e., physically separate items... The complementary sector of the first function consists in conveying information optionally i) about secondary elemental objects, i. e., about intellectually separate and self-contained components ... (e. g., about the individual papers contained in the report of a symposium) or about subordinate constituents of the contents of primary elemental objects (e. g., about appendices, accompanying studies, prefaces, epilogues, commentaries... the author of all of which is not identical with the author under the name of whom the respective primary elemental object is entered); and finally, 2) about tertiary elemental objects, i. e., about specific aspects of primary or secondary elemental objects (e. g., about a translatorial, editorial or reviser's performance of a person different from the author... in the production of a primary or secondary elemental object...).

The above version of the first function, even though quoted partially, appears to be quite complex. But the utility of the above statement of function can be realised when we recall that none of the statements of functions or objectives of the catalogue, made since the days of Cutter to the Paris Conference, can really cover all the cataloguing practices that we have developed. For example, none of the functions can provide a logical basis for the mentioning of the contents of a composite book in its main entry nor the preparation of analyticals. Yet, every code provides such prescriptions. The first function of the catalogue, so meticulously developed by Dr. Domanovszky, for the first time, takes care of such cataloguing practices. A good part of the study is actually devoted to the development of the first function.

Dr. Domanovszky enunciates, as mentioned earlier, two more functions of the author-title catalogue. They are very much related to the first function. In fact, they follow logically from the first function.

The study, because of its very nature, is difficult-reading. It has to be very carefully read. In fact to those for whom cataloguing means only a set of rules and their applications, this publication will hardly be of any consequence. However, the present reviewer believes that in India we have been attaching greater importance to the theoretical foundations of cataloguing compared to a number of other places. This has mainly been due to the efforts of S R Ranganathan. Hence, it can be reasonably hoped that Domanovszky's scholarly study will be of interest to quite a few Indian interested in the theoretical foundations of cataloguing.

*Cataloging phonorecordings, problems and possibilities*, by Jay E Daily. New York, Marcel Dekker, 1975. IX, 172p. (Practical library and information science ed by Jay E Daily, vol. 1). \$13.75 ISBN 0-8247-6196 [Reviewed by B Guha]

Quite a few publications by the same author have come out in recent years. In the area of cataloguing the author has made significant contributions by introducing fresh ideas and new points of view. The present volume is no exception to that.

It is well known that one area in cataloguing for which the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules have been found to be woefully inadequate is the cataloguing of phonorecords. The inadequacy has been expressed in our professional literature from time to time. It has often been complained that the AACR has missed the subtle difference between printed music and its recorded performances. As a consequence phonorecordings have been treated as "just-like-books" in the AACR. This is reflected most in "its blindness to the importance of the name of the performer in the identification of a phonorecording".

According to Dr. Daily "the performer distinguishes this method of storing information from all others".

On the genesis of the present work, Dr. Daily has said that his students at the Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences, Pittsburgh, "have taught him to respect the problems of cataloguing phonorecordings enough that an explanation in detail is possible". The present work embodies those details. Dr. Daily, however, does not want to advocate a method of cataloguing through this publication. He offers it as a means of understanding what the possibilities are in phonorecord cataloguing.

The book explains clearly the essentials of the various elements that should be used to identify

the contents of or the phonorecording itself. Everything that is discussed, is well supported by appropriate examples. In fact, the book provides a very good collection of examples of varieties of phonorecordings. For cataloguers some knowledge of music is said to be a definite advantage, and the author provides some basic knowledge of music and phonorecordings in the first chapter, very thoughtfully entitled 'Written on the wind'. A list of uniform titles and subject headings is also provided.

The items of information that are necessary to describe fully a phonorecording are divided into ten distinct fields. The sequence of these fields is suggested and the contents of each field are elaborated with considerable detail. This is a good way to make the students and cataloguers understand the problems involved.

Each of the ten fields that have been prescribed for a complete entry can either be searchable or unsearchable. This introduces a very useful way of thinking about the kinds of information to be included. In a computerised system, a searchable field means the computer will be able to locate specific items within the field, while an unsearchable field means the information will be produced only if other information or the complete entry is sought. While in a manual system, the searchable fields indicate what additional entries or added entries should be made.

The first three fields, which are all searchable, are: title, author or composer, and performer. Three separate chapters are devoted to these three items. The next five fields, that is four to eight, are all prescribed to be unsearchable. The nature of information to be mentioned in these fields is more for the identification of each item. Field four is to contain the names of producer or distributor; field five will have the identifying number; field six may contain physical descriptions such as speed, size, etc; field seven may take the series number; and field eight is reserved for additional description, if necessary.

The last two fields, number nine and ten, are reserved for information that will be made into entries in a manual system or that are completely searchable in a computerized system. Field nine is to have the contents, especially for a collection of works. Field ten is to record the points of access or tracings.

The work provides an excellent account of the problems of phonorecord cataloguing and suggests the most logical solutions. The prescriptions suggested can be easily fitted within the framework of any catalogue code. They are again suitable for large and smaller libraries and also manual and computerised catalogues.