

are given the option of choosing from three different types of class numbers for composers. For example, Beethoven's class number is created by adding one of the following to the base number 789: 15, .B33, or .BEE. Thus, Beethoven's class number could be one of these: 789.15; 789.B33; or 789.BEE. Obviously, a library has to choose one of these methods and use it consistently.

The basic idea of the new 789 class is sound and it should be enormously useful, but there are some problems. How is it decided which composers get their own subclasses and how are the class numbers constructed? The editors' solution has been to print a list of around 300 composers' names in the schedules, along with the appropriate class notation, and instructions to "class a composer not named in this list in 789 without further subdivision" (p.58). One would assume that the decisions on inclusion and exclusion should be based on "literary warrant," which is to say that if a sufficient number of monographs have been published about a composer, then that composer is included in the list. Now this gets to

be a very tricky business when we are dealing with a classification system that is international (for example, composers thought to be important in France may be hardly known in, say, the United States, Australia, India, or Iceland). In the end, the only generally acceptable solution will be some sort of open system that will permit the addition of names at any time and be such that *all* composers in 789 are given a subclass.

These problems related to class 789 should not obscure the fact that this is the best version of the 780s ever published. Within the limitations imposed by an international general system, there is not much more that could have been done to modernize the 780s.—*Gordon Stevenson, State University of New York, Albany.*

Seminar on AACR2: Proceedings of a Seminar Organized by the Cataloguing and Indexing Group of the Library Association at the University of Nottingham, 20-22 April 1979. Ed. by Graham Roe. London: The Library Association, 1980. 92p. \$17.50.

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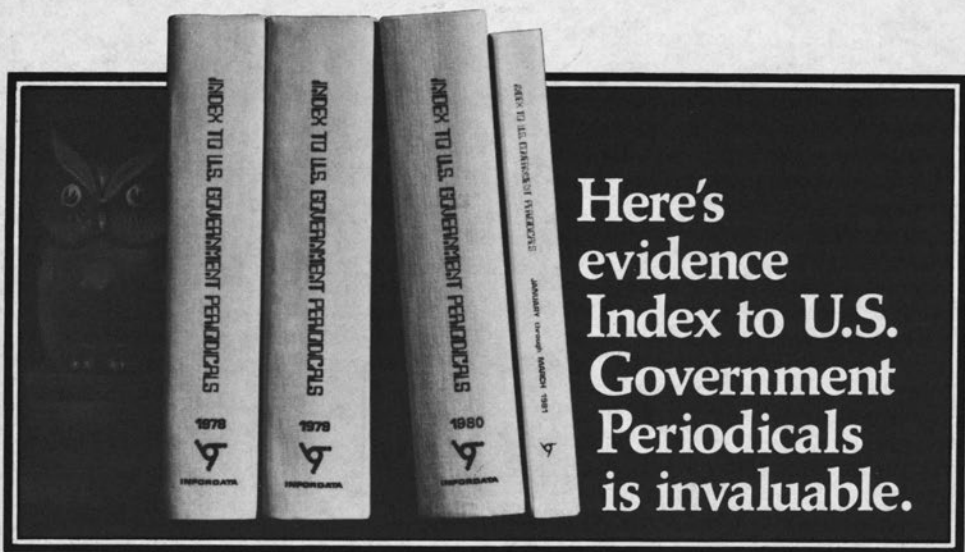


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ISBN 0-85365-593-6. Available in U.S. from Oryx Press.

In this very slim volume of proceedings, the Library Association's Cataloguing and Indexing Group attempts to cover a very broad topic, namely the principles and applications of the second edition of the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*. The group's April 1979 seminar at the University of Nottingham featured eight papers; in addition to opening and closing presentations, papers were read on the use of the new rules for cataloguing monographs, music, audiovisual materials, maps, and serials. There was also a report on the status of cataloguing codes in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Finland presented by Karen Lunde Christensen of the Bibliotekscentralen in Copenhagen. These published proceedings have been augmented by an appendix that contains two more papers derived from a 1978 Library Association meeting, outlining the major ways in which AACR2 differs from AACR.

Both opening and closing remarks labor hard to defend the cataloger and assert the importance of his or her role in contemporary library practice. As for AACR2, the opening paper (by Norman Roberts at the University of Sheffield) is quite positive and optimistic, praising the new code for its clear principles and international outlook and downplaying its economic side effects. The quality of the papers dealing with specific material types is generally good, but presumably because of the newness of the code at the time these papers were written, they only skim the surface of the issues to be examined. While the paper on the Nordic countries' response to AACR2 provides interesting information, its inclusion in this volume does not help it maintain a sense of focus. The decision to add the two 1978 papers further detracts from the published work's focus, and the information contained in these two papers was widely available elsewhere by 1980, this book's publication date.

The value of *Seminar on AACR2* doubtless lies in its ability to serve as a record of the initial reaction to the revised code in the United Kingdom. It is also a very readable book, and the style of the speakers is warm and sometimes pleasantly informal. For those who are trying to build collections reflecting the history of cataloging or compara-

tive librarianship, this is likely to be a sensible item to acquire. It will not, however, be of much practical use to the 1981 cataloger who already has a number of more up-to-date and thorough discussions of AACR2 on which to rely.—Karin A. Trainer, *New York University*.

Downing, Mildred Harlow. *Introduction to Cataloging and Classification with 58 Exhibits*. 5th ed. Revised and enlarged in accordance with AACR2 and the 19th edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Co., 1981. 320p. \$14.95. LC 80-20299. ISBN 0-89950-017-X.

Slocum, Robert B. *Sample Cataloguing Forms: Illustrations of Solutions to Problems of Description (with Particular Reference to Chapters 1-13 of the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, Second Edition)*. 3d ed. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1980. 121p. \$11.00. LC 80-21507. ISBN 0-8108-1364-5.

Mildred Harlow Downing's *Introduction to Cataloging and Classification* "is intended, as were previous editions, for students beginning the study of cataloging and classification" (p.iii). That any introductory survey of cataloging and classification should make generalizations is understandable; that this work contains many misleading statements is not.

The most serious of these appears on pages 43-45 where the use of standardized punctuation as prescribed by the ISBD standards is discussed under the section on the ISBN. Question four (p.47), "How does ISBN punctuation clarify the content of the descriptive catalog record?" confirms the author's confusion on these points. Some of the other errors include: the ISBDs are referred to as manual (p.6); the Statement of Responsibility Area in AACR2 is discussed as the "Statement of Authorship Area" (p.16); a definition of a periodical is given as the definition of a serial (p.37); an example of a traced subject series (p.39) appears in the exhibits as an example of an untraced publisher's series (p.193); the beginning cataloger is advised not to make a title-added entry when a subject heading and the title are the same (p.53), but there is no indication that this applies only to a dictionary card catalog; and two invalid Library of