

vancements in information technology, has become the guiding principle of the post-Industrial Age. He described information capitalism and the growing global class division between the info-rich and the info-poor. In their efforts to decrease the distance between these two groups, researchers have discovered that the simple introduction of telecommunication programs in third-world countries was not enough to guarantee access. In some cases, ICT actually served to maintain socioeconomic inequalities. This volume presents the most recent steps taken by international agencies, NGOs, and universities toward elimination of the world's information class struggles through the employment of culturally sensitive strategies.

Dr. Hakikur Rahman, a researcher with the Sustainable Development Networking Programme (SDNP) in Bangladesh, edited the volume's thirteen articles and organized the book into four thematic sections: "Education and Learning," "Science and Research," "Social and Human Science," and "Information Networking and Knowledge Management." His own article on the Reflect ICT approach serves as chapter two and reports on the experience of the SDNP in using ICT to empower marginal communities through collaborative learning. Reflect ICT is a participatory approach designed to enable people in economically marginal communities to move from passive reception to becoming effective advocates for the enrichment of their own lives. Rahman writes with authority on matters of computer education, especially distance education, as he was previously director of the Computer Division of the Bangladesh Open University.

Enabling social groups to make informed decisions is empowerment. The key to the sustainable development of empowerment, made evident in many of these case studies, is embedding information technologies into existing and traditional social structures. This sensitivity to sociopolitical context, however, does not guarantee success in connecting ICT and

poverty reduction. It is also important that organizations maintain the flexibility to learn and to quickly adjust to the effects of ICT usage.

The book acts as a resource kit for policy formulation in the hope of creating a more evenly distributed knowledge society. Access to ICT is not merely a question of physical infrastructure, but a process of human development. The book may be of use to librarians, museum officials, and information studies faculty. For researchers studying the impact of ICTs in marginal communities, it offers an essential collection of guidelines, best practices, and case studies developed in the past ten years. It is also well suited as a reference source on policy and human resource development for improvement of the skills of local community members by increasing their access to information. —*Thomas Lannon, New York Public Library.*

Printing Places: Locations of Book Production & Distribution Since 1500. Eds. John Hinks and Catherine Armstrong. New Castle, Del.; London: Oak Knoll; The British Museum (Print Networks), 2005, 208p. \$45 (ISBN 1584561652; 0712349065). LC 2006-271247.

This volume is the latest installment in the *Print Networks* series devoted to publishing the proceedings of the annual Conference on the History of the British Book Trade. Comprising fourteen papers from the 2002 conference held at Exeter, it takes as its Leitmotif the significance of location as a factor in the history of British printing, publishing, and book-selling. The presence of a single unifying theme does not, however, imply uniformity in outlook. Rather, the authors, whose ranks include academics, librarians, and a former bookseller, use a broad array of methodological approaches in treating their respective subjects. The theme of location correspondingly takes on variable significance in different articles: in some, it lies at the very heart of the author's investigation, whereas, in others, it functions as

the setting against which an interesting phenomenon of the provincial book trade is framed and analyzed. Indeed, one of the book's great merits is to foreground the diversity of ways in which the concept of "location" can be used within the history of the book trade, encompassing not only the geographical, but also the social and cultural dimensions of book production and distribution.

The individual articles, which are arranged *in grosso modo* by the chronological order of the topic treated, cover a wide spectrum of subjects. After a brief general introduction by the editors, Lucy Lewis opens with a bibliographical study of the 1525 Tavistock edition of Boethius's *Consolation of Philosophy*, "one of the earliest productions of a provincial press anywhere in England." Discussing this edition's physical format, typographical layout, textual history, and use by readers, she nicely illuminates its place in the English reception of Boethius's famous work. In the following essay, Catherine Armstrong offers a model of the communications circuit by which knowledge of the New World was disseminated in seventeenth-century England: she ably presents a typology of the texts about the American colonies then available to the reading public, discusses the venues in which they were published, and reconstructs the various pathways (booksellers and pedlars, oral recitation) through which their contents were circulated through London and beyond. The subsequent piece by David Stoker examines publishing conditions at Norwich in the seventeenth century, surveys publications that mention Norwich booksellers in their imprints and analyzes these to uncover trends in their content and distribution over time.

The next three essays deal with various aspects of the periodical press. Taking a biographical approach, Stephen Brown offers a glimpse into the seamier sides of periodical publishing in late-eighteenth-century Edinburgh by examining the tumultuous life of one of its more colorful characters, the journalist and self-taught

printer, James Tytler. Ian Jackson presents a penetrating longitudinal study of advertising in two eighteenth-century provincial newspapers, using quantitative and content analysis of advertisements to trace shifts in the newspapers' "sphere of influence" over time to examine the rhetorical strategies used in advertisements and to consider the social, political, and economic impact of advertising in the provinces. The following essay by Lisa Peters treads similar ground, giving a lively, if somewhat superficial, content analysis of the medical advertising in the Wrexham press during the late nineteenth century.

The following essays tackle various aspects of the provincial book trade of the early-to-mid nineteenth century. David Hounslow's overview of the activities of two printing-cum-book-selling houses, based respectively at Gainsborough and York, paints a detailed picture of their booklists and business practices (especially their use of false imprints) and relates the latter to general trends in the contemporary book trade. Taking a topographical approach, K. A. Manley traces the geographical spread of commercial circulating and subscription libraries in the southwest of England; enlivening the essay are brief biographical sketches of the library proprietors and descriptions of their lending policies. Nicely complementing Manley's study is Ian Maxted's survey of "the production and publication of topographical prints in Devon," in which he discusses the artists, printers, and publishers (both local and London based) involved in the creation of prints relating to the Devon countryside, and sketches the social and business milieu within which they operated.

With the following essay, we return to the north of the British Isles. Drawing on resources in the archives of John Murray (Publishers) Ltd. and the collections of the National Library of Scotland, Peter Isaac reconstructs in detail both the business arrangements and personal relations between the prominent London publisher John Murray (II) and his agents

in Edinburgh, tracing the history of the partnership over a sixteen-year period (1819–1835). Ian Beavan contributes a brief appendix to Isaac's study, offering evidence that the partnership extended as late as 1843 and discussing the failed attempt of a rival Glasgow firm to secure distribution rights from John Murray's son in that same year. Alice Ford-Smith follows with an essay on the fascinating, if macabre, subject of the trade in execution broadsides (i.e., broadsides reporting on the trials and executions of criminals) in Nottingham and Birmingham, incisively analyzing the contents, circumstances of publishing, and general social context of these curious documents.

The book's final two essays take us into the high Victorian period and early twentieth century. Stephen Colclough re-examines W. H. Smith's rise to dominance in the bookstall business along the London and North Western Railway, throwing new light on the socioeconomic profiles of the book and newspaper vendors whom Smith displaced and analyzing the business strategies that Smith's company used to sell printed materials at railroad stations. Graham Law deals with distribution of a different sort, discussing how three minor, but popular, regional authors of the Victorian era—David Pae, James Skipp Borlase, and J. Monk Foster—made use of syndication to ensure the wide circulation of their serial novels in Scottish and north English newspapers: these serial novels, he argues, "both reflected and contributed to a sense of a broad 'Northern' cultural identity" in the face of the powerful trend toward a "national" and increasingly imperialist English identity promoted by the all-influential London press.

Although the summaries presented above do not begin to do justice to the wealth of information and insight contained in each essay, they should amply indicate that, as a whole, *Printing Places* is a very good book indeed. The broad range of themes it covers and the variety of methodologies its authors employ should appeal to scholarly readers inter-

ested in fields as diverse as the history of the book and book trades, English literature, and English social history. All the authors make excellent use of primary and secondary sources and their careful documentation of these will provide researchers with much grist for their mills. Some of the essays employ illustrations, including facsimiles, graphs, and tables: in general, these are well chosen and enhance the authors' presentations of their subject matter. This is not to say that the book's presentation is flawless in all respects: weak points include a rather skimpy index restricted to proper names and the occasional presence of typographical infelicities, some of which may give the reader cause for perplexity. However, such blemishes do not vitiate the overall value of the book, which should find a place on the shelves of any academic or rare book library collecting in the history of the book and related fields. —*Thomas Dousa, Indiana University.*

Metadata : A Cataloger's Primer. Ed. Richard P. Smiraglia. N.Y.: Haworth (published simultaneously as *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*; v. 40, no. 3/4), 2005. 303p. alk. paper \$59.95 (cloth) \$39.95 (paper) (ISBN 9780789028006;9780789028013). LC 2005-9646.

After reading this book I felt like Mick Jagger, not because I couldn't get any "satisfaction," but because I had "mixed emotions." I really felt that some of the chapters were so clear, informative, and even fun; and yet found other sections almost unreadable. The book is arranged in two parts. The first section deals with the theoretical foundations of metadata structure and creation. The second part is concerned with some of the actual metadata schemes used today, such as Dublin Core and EAD (Encoded Archival Description), and how a "cataloger" would apply them. The text also includes an understandable and instructive introduction that actually contains a quick, fun, and thought-provoking exercise that teaches you how to