

on Jewish history located in more than eighty archives and manuscript divisions of libraries and museums in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Uzbekistan. The database includes inventories of Jewish collections as well as record lists and documents on Jewish history in government and private collections. The CAHJP has gathered a huge collection of copied material that includes over one and a half million pages of documents in microfilm, microfiche, and photocopies. Collections of these documents are being prepared for publication.

These two projects are thus creating a solid foundation on which to conduct research into the history of the Jewish people in Russia and states of the former Soviet Union.

The remaining articles in this collection pertain more to other types of library materials. S.M. Iakerson surveys Hebrew incunabula in the former Asiatic Museum (now Institute of Oriental Studies in the Russian Academy of Sciences); Benjamin Richler describes efforts to microfilm Hebrew manuscripts in the library collections of Eastern Europe; Alexander Frenkel surveys current Jewish book publishing in the countries of the former Soviet Union; Nikolai Borodulin provides a classified, selected bibliography of Slavic Judaica held at the Library of the YIVO Institute in New York; Vladimir Karasik describes and lists Russian Jewish periodicals in the Ukraine from 1860–2000; Stephen Corrsin describes bibliographical projects in Polish–Jewish studies since 1989, in particular the project of the journal *Gal-Ed*; and finally, Zachary M. Baker reviews resources on the genealogy of East European Jewry.

The archival and bibliographic sources of the Jews of Russia and other Slavic countries are extremely rich, but difficult to access. This book opens many doors to a world that was until very recently closed to westerners and still seems Byzantine in its complexity. The editor and authors of this important collection are to be congratulated for their pioneering work.

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**Authority Control in Organizing and Accessing Information: Definition and International Experience.** ARELENE G. TAYLOR and BARBARA B. TILLET, eds. Binghamton, NY: The Haworth Information Press, 2004. 651 p. ISBN 0-7890-2715-1. Co-published simultaneously as *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*, vol. 38, nos. 3/4 (2004) and vol. 39, nos. 1/2 (2004).

It was a daunting task to read more than 650 pages on authority control, made even more daunting as summer weather approached. Believe it or not, this outstanding volume on the new perspectives on authority control was difficult to put down. Many of the major figures in information science are included in the

compilation: Barbara Tillett of the Library of Congress; Michael Gorman of California State University, Fresno; Daniel Pitti of the University of Virginia. They made the task of reviewing easy, though it was difficult to summarize the book. The topics are comprehensive, the research is thought-provoking, and the information dense. As a result, only a few areas will be highlighted.

Co-published simultaneously in two volumes of *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*, this publication makes available the proceedings of the International Conference on Authority Control: Definition and International Experiences held in Florence, Italy in February 2003. The conference gathered international academic and professional experts to examine the current challenges and propose ideas for the future of authority control, a critical aspect of the descriptive process of controlling access to names of persons, corporate bodies, works, and subjects.

The volume is organized into five main themes, mirroring those of the conference: Section one focussed on “State of the Art and New Theoretical Perspectives”; section two on “Standards, Exchange Formats, Metadata”; section three on “Authority Control for Names”; section four on “Authority Control for Subjects”; and section five on “Authority Control Experiences and Projects.” The topics explored in the compilation provide in-depth coverage of subjects such as how to catalogue the Web, issues of improving precision and recall on the Web, joint international efforts to establish standard authority files to improve the semantic Web, sharing authority resources, and semantic interoperability between communities using XML encoding standards. International initiatives, case studies, research projects, and co-operative projects are presented, demonstrating the importance of authority control in a world of international communication and global technological connections (p. xx).

The compilation is of timely value because of the issues examined. Did any of us think we would be keyword searching millions of documents every day? Think of the e-mail and PDF and word processing documents you have on your desktop alone. Multiply that by all the creators, in a library, in an archives, or on the Web. Keyword searching works well – we all find search results with Google – but precision and recall are compromised. On the Web, where many information resources are increasingly unstructured, mechanisms that increase precision benefit access. It is authority control that improves access to the resources in our holdings.

The papers in this compilation remind us that the world of information is converging and becoming increasingly complex. It is no longer simply about cataloguing. Metadata, databases, interoperability, XML, Google and the complex relationships between partners within the information sectors, and controlled terms and authority control fit well into this new world. The chapter entitled “Authority Control in the World of Metadata” (p. 105) examines this very relationship. Technology allows us to recall or find resources and the standards of authority control allow users the precision of finding the

resources they want. This chapter focuses on the digital library and new resources that are emerging with the Web. Archives have been particularly affected by the transition to the Web environment. The chapter outlines a key issue of “metadata and the information society” for the digital library, or virtual exhibit, call it what you wish. This evolved from managing very well-defined entities and resources to a new, less defined concept, requiring a more dynamic environment. The new paradigm makes it necessary to extend the analysis from bibliographic descriptions and authority control to broader concepts to reconsidering new key related issues, for example, authentication of objects, and rights management in multi-media and cross-media environments (p. 113). This is a practice familiar to archivists who describe *fonds* and collections that contain many types of materials.

Chapters are devoted to the fundamentals of the second edition of the *International Standard Archival Authority Record* (Corporate Bodies, Persons, Families), known as ISAAR(CPF), and the new initiative of *Encoded Archival Context* (EAC), that move from high-level concepts of metadata and interoperability, to standards of specific relevance to archives. For archives, authority control is particularly core to description and the primary way to access the records (p. 187). These two standards are related, and both impacted by the global Internet. As the author says, “clearly as a tool to optimize access and search in archival description systems, the model offered by ISAAR(CPF) has remarkable similarities and concurrencies with authority control of authors’ names in library catalogues” (p. 191). Similarly, EAC is an international initiative within the archival community for encoding descriptions of record creators (p. 202). In this chapter, Daniel Pitti explains how archival authority control differs from library control in the need to control not only the heading, but also the biographical or historical description of the entities. Nevertheless, the two standards work together as content and encoding standards, and support the profession as it moves forward, interoperating and sharing archival and records-creator descriptions nationally and internationally (pp. 205–206).

A concept explored in numerous chapters is the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions’ (IFLA) *Universal Bibliographic Control* (UBC). This advocates the general principle that each country is responsible for cataloguing resources once, and the results of the descriptions are made available throughout the world. Globalization and the Internet have made UBC key to allowing users to access archival and library resources. Technology has had an impact on the principles as they were initially developed in the 1970s, and “this new perspective reinforces the importance of authority control, yet puts the user first. National bibliographic agencies still need to have their own authority records for their bibliographic control, but we can link them globally to create a virtual international authority file that will enable sharing of authority information” (pp. 32–33).

This fundamental shift in description, and the impact of technology, is an

underlying thread in nearly every chapter. It makes the book both a good read and timely in that it addresses recent issues affecting the information professions. Readers see how the big names are thinking about the problems that we are all facing.

Indeed one of the main strengths of the publication is the variety of topics covered. The presenters range from working professionals, to academics actively researching in various sectors of the information community. Several of the case studies are already being implemented in current international environments. A chapter entitled “The German Name Authority File (PND) in the Bavarian Union Catalogue” describes the issues and costs surrounding the implementation of a national authority file in Germany, outlining some of the issues about how to harmonize regional, national, and international standards for authority headings and on-line communication with databases (p. 426). The chapter entitled “Names of the Far East: Japanese, Chinese, and Korean Authority Control” introduces the issues and future solutions surrounding Chinese, Japanese, and Korean names (p. 251). Once again, the collection of case studies offers the reader current research and assessments of the implementations of real problems that we may very well be facing in our own environments.

To offer one criticism, perhaps even misdirected, the book should not be read in one sitting. Each chapter stands on its own, the papers having been collected as a summary of topical, cutting-edge research and experience.

The volume provides a holistic view of authority control and its many facets – the bibliographic angle, the archival angle, the museum angle, subjects, names, and more – and presents many of these elements as international case studies. Many of the papers conclude that IFLA should co-operate with the various information management communities, including the archival community and professional communities such as publishers, to fully develop shared international partnerships in authority control (p. 89).

*Authority Control in Organizing and Accessing Information* would make a great addition to libraries of professional institutions, as well as the personal collection of those interested in the topic. The papers offer comprehensive, global, and timely coverage, from general principles to specific niche areas. Each chapter stands on its own; collectively, the book supports and builds an understanding of the subject matter, leaving the reader significantly more knowledgeable.

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