

opposition to AACR2 was widespread on the grounds of cost of implementation and lack of conviction that the new rules greatly improved on AACR1—invited readers to submit their opinions. Issue 21 contains replies received.

As this review is being prepared, OCLC is "flipping" headings to AACR2 forms, and libraries everywhere are gearing up to cope with changes now less than a month away. If the editors hoped to stem this tide, they have probably failed. However, the issue makes interesting reading, and future revisers of catalog rules should take note.

Thirty-one persons responded. Eighteen were from small to medium-size university libraries. The rest represented special, college, and very large research libraries and one was a vendor of data-base services. Most writers were catalogers and heads of cataloging, with a sprinkling of library directors and heads of technical services. Thirteen took the opportunity to let off steam about the rules themselves. Six others, while generally positive about the code, favored deferring all or part of AACR2 until on-line authority control is in place, in order to lessen the devastating effect of massive changes on file maintenance. Only eleven were supportive of full implementation of AACR2 in January 1981, several on the grounds that it's far too late rather than because of overwhelming enthusiasm for the rules.

Not surprisingly, Michael Gorman, one of the editors of AACR2, takes to task "no-neck administrators" who prefer "dumb headings" to the cost of change. Several others, however, point to equally "dumb" portions of the code. Jim Thompson comments that, between the ambiguities and inconsistencies in AACR2 itself and the decisions on applying it at the Library of Congress, "it will be virtually impossible for a cataloger in any other library to create a record which another cataloger can accept with confidence." The hope that AACR2 would increase standardization seems not to have been achieved.

AACR2 may have had more input from the field than previous code revisions, but until publication only a few persons had seen a complete draft. Patrons, those for whom cataloging presumably is done, were

not consulted at all. Administrators and others ask why impact studies were not done *before* adoption and why so much time and effort should be invested in the card catalog just before it ceases to exist.

Those who took up ACN's invitation are, for the most part, thoughtful, rational librarians who will comply somehow with AACR2 because they have no choice. Most of them are dependent not only on the Library of Congress but also on data bases such as OCLC and RLIN. Not complying would be even more expensive. However, they raise serious questions about the wisdom of this step at this time.

Since rule revision is an ongoing process, AACR2 will not be the last code. In the future, drafts of proposed changes should be distributed and publicized more widely. Those who are highly critical then have the responsibility to express their concerns while there is still time.—*Mina H. Daniels, State University of New York at Albany.*

Osborn, Andrew D. *Serial Publications: Their Place and Treatment in Libraries.*

3d ed. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1980. 486p. \$20. LC 80-11686. ISBN 0-8389-0299-5.

Eighteen years elapsed between the first and second editions of this book, but only seven years between the second and third editions. This is a recognition of the local, national, and international developments in librarianship, technology, and economics that have affected serials purchasing, cataloging, and accessibility. A thorough effort has been made to update names and editions in the text and in the chapter bibliographies, leaving the basic organization of the text unaltered. Osborn mentions the "growth of understanding in serials management," the financial crisis of the seventies, and progress in automation. However, the text does not give a full and integrated discussion of the concerns foremost in the minds of those working with serials and administering the overall collection: automation of local records, economics and budgeting, full text retrieval, and nontraditional formats including electronic journals.

The book still offers the best available introduction to the basic traditional procedures of serials processing within libraries.

The elusive definition of a serial is made in twenty pages of exceptions and illustrations. This thorough exposition is excellent because it is both enlightening for those who have never worked with serials and thorough enough to satisfy those who have had extensive experience in coping with them.

The chapter on serials selection gives basic principles which are true in their most general form. Collection development librarians will find little guidance here, other than an admonishment—based on a 1966/67 survey—that *New Serials Titles Classified Subject Arrangement* is not used extensively enough. Sources for current awareness beyond NST-CSA have been added to this edition but many have been excluded. The time-honored principles of completeness of files and the use of microforms in moderation are stated but not discussed in light of continuing realities of inflationary prices, inadequate budgets, and space problems. The earlier dictum that the bulk of a serials collection should come via gift and exchange has now been revised to apply only to research libraries. An area in need of expansion is the section on cooperative acquisitions. There is no mention or discussion of the prospects, problems, or needs that have brought about the proposals for a National Periodical Center and other large-scale network proposals.

One of the book's strengths is the thorough description of acquisitions procedures, especially manual check-in procedures, but the information on payment and budgeting is very brief. Moreover, there is no discussion of how to develop, implement, or manage the serials budget, which the author contends should be separate from other materials. A section on cancellation was added to this edition, but it is only a look at what had happened in the seventies.

The chapter on computer check-in has been totally rewritten because of recent advances. Yet underlying the chapter is a tone of misgiving about the advantages of automating serials files. Osborn's objection is high cost, and that is certainly a valid concern. However, he seems to think of cost in terms of the check-in function alone and maintains that the extras will have to justify the cost. That is also true, but what he considers extras are the real reason for

automating: accessibility, claiming, linking of titles, integration of files, and management information.

The chapters devoted to cataloging were revised to include changes caused by the second edition of the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules* and the developments linked to computers. Added to the solid introduction to descriptive and subject cataloging is a comparison of the approaches to serial cataloging in AACR1 and AACR2. He lauds the allowance of increased title entry in AACR2 and its realization that libraries require different levels of cataloging, but he criticizes the AACR2 "preoccupation with card and computer cataloging for serials."

Discussion of computer cataloging is confined for the most part to a separate chapter. Although Osborn acknowledges the strengths of OCLC and CONSER, he is still skeptical of the role computers should play in serials cataloging. It is his contention that most serials need only level I cataloging, and that for most libraries, book catalogs would be sufficient for their needs. Sup-

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plementary records that exist already for check-in and binding need not be duplicated in a card catalog.

Description of computer cataloging is limited to OCLC, CONSER, and computer-generated book catalogs. While these are adequate, it is unfortunate that discussion did not go a step further to investigate the integration of all serials processes in a single computer system, pros and cons. An area that deserves attention in future editions is reorganization of serial departments and redesign of work flow required by automation.

The section on binding remains little revised, but library binding is certainly a tradition and slow to change. However, this section contains an unnecessarily long historical look at bindery procedure in libraries, especially LC. Very little attention is given to developments in binding technology that now provide multiple options at variable costs for preservation of collections, and there is little discussion of the alternatives to binding. Microforms are not considered as an alternative or as a conservation mechanism, but as a necessary evil that is welcome only in moderation. Comments such as "when microforms must be resorted to" are indicative of that view, which may be justified in many specific cases, but should not be the tenor of the discussion.

There is much in this book that is very good, very true, and required reading for all students of serials. I regret that more of the present and future were not incorporated into it.—*Sharon Bonk, State University of New York at Albany.*

**"Current Library Use Instruction."** A. P. Marshall, issue ed. *Library Trends* 29:1-172 (Summer 1980). \$5. ISSN 0024-2594.

This issue of *Library Trends*, edited by A. P. Marshall, contains eleven articles under the rubric of "Current Library Use Instruction." Overall, a great deal of what is said in this issue has been said before—and in some cases it has been said better elsewhere. Marshall states in his introduction that if some new thoughts or converts to library use instruction result from the issue, the effort is not wasted. Four articles stand out as having the potential to meet Marshall's hopes.

**"Library Use Education: Current Prac-**