

Bade urges that cataloguers not turn down requests for help from other cataloguers even if these requests come through informal channels such as mailing lists. To this reviewer's knowledge, the average cataloguer possesses the knowledge and ability to apply all these recommendations.

Bade goes on to warn library administrators and database managers that the quality of cataloguing depends greatly not only on the knowledge and skills of the persons performing the task but is also dependent on the time allotted to complete it. The author questions whether we are capable of providing value added bibliographic information for our catalogues when that function is performed only as a copy cataloguing operation. What is the value added in such cases?

Bade finally invites the reader to consider whether we are information or misinformation providers. This reviewer would like to add that we put great efforts in our cataloguing rules, our tools, and believe in being accurate and attentive to appropriate details. Given that, how can we not care about the quality of the result of our work? Moreover, why do our cataloguing utilities not develop better cataloguing modules with spell checkers and other simple aids to help prevent inadvertent but potentially serious errors?

While Bade could surely write at length about the topic, he gets his point across in this short, succinct work. His findings could be disturbing reading for library administrators, for database administrators working with library catalogues, and for cataloguing instructors and their students. Many may believe that our bibliographic world is near perfect. Their world will never be quite the same after reading this. Bade's essay can also bring some comfort to professional cataloguers, who will find that they are not solely responsible for all the errors in cataloguing and authority records.

Although this work was written by an American cataloguer and is based on an American experience, its message should be inspiring for cataloguers of other nations also. The examples of errors that the author uses are found in all catalogues. There is little doubt that we could all provide additional examples of where we have made fools of ourselves when cataloguing.

Alenka Sauperl

Dr. Alenka Šauperl, Department of Library, Information Science and Book Studies, Faculty of Arts,

University of Ljubljana, Aškercova c. 2, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia. E-mail: alenka.sauperl@ff.uni-lj.si.

HUNTER, Eric J. **Classification made simple**. 2nd ed. Aldershot, Haunts (UK): Ashgate, 2002. xi,147p. ISBN 0-7546-0795-X (pbk).

The second edition of *Classification made simple* meticulously incorporates the new developments in the uses of classification that have taken place since the first edition, published in 1988. Once considered to have reached a dead end in the 1970s, classification has become popular again, finding new applications in the new environment of electronic and networked information. With a marginal addition of twenty pages, new examples and illustrations have been provided, and both the subject and the text itself have been brought to the cutting edge of our discipline. The main goal of the author, as is made clear from the short title, is to help us understand the elements and principles of classification. Hunter drives home in simple and clear language the primitive basics of classification with examples taken first from daily life and then from traditional libraries, online databases, and incipient efforts to organise resources on the Internet. The author has the uncanny gift of being at once simple, practical, and profound.

In this new edition, the thirteen chapters of the previous one have been expanded into sixteen parts. The use of classification on the Internet provides new examples of implicit and explicit classification in databases and OPACs. The textbook ends on an optimistic note, recommending the merits of classification in view of the inefficiency but high popularity of search engines.

Classification made simple begins with a discussion of unconscious uses of classification in daily life. Like the character in a play by Molière who discovers that he has been speaking prose all his life, we are made aware of our own use of classification processes in most of our daily activities. Classification can not be ignored (p.4), nor has it any substitute. The thoughts and presentation of techniques progress and become more technical as we wade through pages full of arguments and examples selected in two dozens existing classification and indexing systems; these range from the UDC and Colon classification to thesauri, from the Library of Congress Subject Headings to multilingual thesauri in education.