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EL-SHERBINI, Magda. *RDA: Strategies for implementation*. London: Facet Publishing. 2013.
394 pages. ISBN-13 978 1 85604 834 7. £49.95.

Since it was mooted nearly ten years ago, RDA has loomed large in the mind of certainly this cataloguing librarian, so it was with interest that I cracked the spine and delved into this book. *RDA: Strategies for implementation* finds its place within Facet Publishing's diverse offerings on cataloguing and classification. It aims to be a comprehensive overview of Resource Description and Access, the successor to the cataloguing standards of AACR2, and to provide strategies for implementing RDA. El-Sherbini writes that "it is a practical handbook addressed to those who have heard of RDA but are not sure what to think of it." I agree that most cataloguers will find it a useful reference when first implementing the changes required by RDA, and then in day-to-day cataloguing practice.

The author aims to provide a comprehensive overview of RDA, starting with its historical background. This includes its relation to the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR). With this theoretical grounding, El-Sherbini then provides guidance on training staff in using RDA and gives detailed examples of cataloguing different types of resources. It hopes in this way to be a good resource for implementing RDA in any library.

The book consists of nine chapters, a bibliography and an index. Each chapter is well-referenced with both a list of references and a list of additional resources, allowing the reader to explore further any topic of interest. The first chapter covers the history and development of RDA, including a discussion of the changing nature of resources that required a new cataloguing code, not just an update to AACR2. The author's personal experience in developing RDA shines through in the detailed description of the development process. The second chapter is a detailed analysis of the similarities and differences of AACR2 and RDA. This is presented in a table with detailed examples of how an element would be described in AACR2 and in RDA. This runs to nearly thirty pages, and lends itself to dipping in and out. Chapter three examines the various issues involved in moving an institution's cataloguing practices to RDA. These run the gamut from changing in-house guides, to conducting staff training, to solving technical problems such as changing the OPAC displays and downloading records from the Library of Congress Catalog. In the next chapter, FRBR is explained in detail including the different group entities, their attributes and relationships and how they relate to user tasks. As this is a new, but eminently practical way to conceive of describing resources, this chapter addresses each concept comprehensively, but is also well-paced. The author effectively uses diagrams to illustrate certain points, for example Figure 4.2 defines the cut-off point where an expression of a work becomes a new work. Chapters five and six get into the nitty-gritty of applying RDA. For example, in RDA there are no standard abbreviations; abbreviations are only recorded when used in the resource being described. These chapters also give equal attention to non-print resources, for example giving instructions for cataloguing every type of sound recording. The author does a good job relating these specific instructions to its theoretical

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underpinning in RDA or FRBR. Chapter seven explains how to use RDA Toolkit, the subscription website containing the RDA instructions and other related materials for cataloguing. Chapter eight provides sample RDA catalogue records for various types of resources. The final chapter contains checklists for original and copy cataloguing and for authority control so that a cataloguer may ensure their compliance with RDA.

The book covers a wide-range of topics involved in implementing RDA. It is a hefty tome at nearly four hundred pages, A4 sized. In terms of readability, certain chapters lend themselves to be read completely (1, 3, 4, and 7), while the rest are better used as reference, to be dipped into to explore specific areas of interest. It is very successful in meeting its aims, as I came away with a better understanding of RDA and FRBR, and how my library might implement it.

Should you, reader, buy this book? This is a book written by a cataloguer for cataloguers, so the reader must have a good appreciation of accuracy and details to not be put off by it. It also seems to expect the worst stereotypes of cataloguers (i.e. resistant to change, bogged down in minutiae) and especially chapter three is written with the expectation that cataloguing staff will be resistant to change. Amusingly, the author at one point suggests providing snacks such as popcorn at training sessions to improve the mood. As suggested by the affection for popcorn, the book also has a deep American bias. Nearly all the suggested resources for this book are American, for example email listservs and Library of Congress training resources. Even considering these aspects, I believe that this book could serve as a useful resource to help a cataloguing department implement RDA, with awareness of the needs of your own team.

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