Catalogue 2.0: The Future of the Library Catalogue. Sally Chambers, ed. Chicago: ALA Neal-Schuman, 2013. 240 p. ISBN: 978-1-55570-943-3 $90.00

Reviewed by Dale Askey, McMaster University (originally published, in German, in *BuB: Forum Bibliothek und Information*, 66. Jg. (2014), Nr. 7/8, p. 566-567; this is the English original which I self-translated into German for publication)

The first impression one may have when picking up this volume is that the title makes use of what is by now a fairly outdated designation for a new phase of digital technology, namely 2.0. Fortunately, there is nothing outdated nor tired in the content, which is instead a solid and far-reaching overview of not only the library catalogue, but the ancillary services and procedures that surround it in the library environment. Its level suits both those new to the topic or the profession, as well as more experienced librarians who simply need to fill in the gaps in their knowledge.

The contributions cover a wide swath of territory, some in a general sense such as Anne Christensen's thoughts on users' opinions of next-generation catalogue interfaces or Marshall Breeding's review of the current state of the European market for discovery interfaces. Other pieces take a more technical approach, such as Till Kinstler's exploration of the key differences between Boolean retrieval and vector space model and its importance for relevancy ranking. Rosemie Callawaert and Emmanuelle Bermès base their thoughts around current thinking in the technical services environment while explaining FRBR and Linked Data. Two internationally renowned experts--Karen Calhoun and Lorcan Dempsey--offer sage commentary on a broad spectrum of issues that start with the catalogue but range far beyond it. In a more narrowly focused chapter, Lukas Koster and Dreek Heesakkers describe their experiences creating a mobile version of the library catalogue at the University of Amsterdam; this piece should be required reading for anyone considering such a project for its clarity and honest analysis of impact.

As this brief summary illustrates, the authors chosen for this volume represent a diverse array of experiences, and each is known in various circles as an expert and insightful analyst. At least half a dozen countries on both sides of the Atlantic are represented, a mixture that widens the perspective and ensures that the approach is not so narrow as to require 'translation' to one's own environment. Speaking of translation, none are listed in the volume, so one must assume that the authors penned their texts in English, and did so well. The editorial work, from author and topic selection to ensuring that the tone and language mesh from piece to piece, makes the reading experience fluid and easy for a work with a polyglot basis.

One of the factors that makes this book succeed is the lack of hyperbole or sarcasm. Gone are any traces of knee-jerk "our OPAC sucks" polemics or anti-vendor screeds, and in place of that now tired rhetoric one finds clear-eyed, insightful analysis. Christensen's piece sets the tone well for what follows. In careful and succinct language, she enumerates the shortcomings of typical library catalogues, and then gently points out that their state is largely due to the fact that they have been under

vendor control until relatively recently. Only the emergence of technologies such as Solr--a comparatively recent development in the history of OPACs--has enabled libraries to create powerful interfaces on their own. Her thoughts on users, such as their lack of concern for the data accuracy that is so cherished by librarians, are based on her years of user studies while developing Beluga.

There are other such moments of clarity around critical concepts and insights scattered throughout the book. Kinstler does an effective job of highlighting how outdated the Boolean retrieval method has become in an era dominated by technology built on the vector space model. In general, his contribution lays out the important aspects that impact our ability to offer effective relevance ranking. Even for those familiar with the technology behind library catalogues, this is a critical chapter to read and understand.

Most people working in libraries have long since heard of FRBR, but even for those who think they know what it is, Callewaert offers a succinct tutorial on FRBR and explains why flat MARC records fail on the open Web without engaging in any "MARC is dead" ranting. She concludes her piece by asserting that for libaries, "the product creation is not the catalogue, but the raw material, data: data that needs to be easily (re)usable in the wider world." (112) This analysis sets the stage for the comments that Bermès shares on Linked Data and its promise for exanding radically the reach and impact of library metadata.

Calhoun perhaps best captures the core message of this volume, noting that "'catalogue 2.0' is not a catalogue at all, but a participating node (a repository) in a new library service framework for supporting scholarship and learning." As readers of some of her previous work would recognize, she does not shy away from asking questions that pick at the foundation of our work. In particular, she asks if the expense of cataloguing still makes any sense in our current environment. Note that she frames this as a question, as she does some of her other points. Clearly, the reader knows what her answer would be, but tactically it is sound not to confront the readers with an edict, but to allow them to formulate their own response.

Calhoun does occasionally gloss over some points so that she can stay within the scope of her argument, but one assertion she makes requires some correction. In the context of her comments on open access repositories, she states that "the content of repositories are usually crawled by search engines and so are highly visible on the web." (163) Research by Kenning Arlitsch and Patrick O'Brien (as published in *Improving the Visibility and Use of Digital Repositories through SEO*, 2013 and elsewhere) has clearly demonstrated that this is not always the case, particularly with regard to Google Scholar. In a book that otherwise tends to explode some of the core myths around discovery and indexing, this stood out. Calhoun likely did not have the benefit of seeing their research before she wrote her piece, of course.

The particular value of this text lies less in its specific information, since one can definitions of FRBR, Linked Data, etc. as well as myriad commentary on the state and future of library catalogues, than in its tone and breadth. As already noted, there is scant polemic at hand, and even some of the most withering criticisms of prevalent practice

are delivered without barbs and backed by the writer's particular expertise and experience. Much blood has been spilled over MARC and the dire state of OPACs, so it is refreshing to see the topic addressed without inciting unnecessary friction nor disagreement.

Those who are concerned with the future of libraries and take seriously our need to break with practices that no longer make sense in a fully networked world where we no longer hold monopoly sway over our user base, would do well to heed many of the conclusions presented here. Nearly every contributor to the collection comments in various ways on the culture of libraries, often offering gentle criticisms pointing out how that culture often impedes change and progress. Callewaert perhaps expresses this best when she notes that "it is a shame that the development of such new standards [RDA] takes so long because of the consensus-building nature of the library community." (112) That sentence likely induces a knowing smile and a mirthful laugh in any experienced librarian, as our collective tendency to overanalyze nearly any proposal seems to know no borders. Yet, in an era where those who can adapt and innovate at a rapid rate have been shown to be more viable, can we still afford to be so deliberate? The authors of this volume would seem to offer a clear and concise no.

Aside from the particular knowledge that it imparts, the general value in such a volume is as a milestone in the evolution of our collective thinking about discovery interfaces, particularly the catalogue. No one in this volume makes anything resembling an impassioned plea for the resurrection of the "central" library catalogue as a focus of our work. What one perceives instead is a welcome outward-facing focus on how our critical asset--the metadata we create based on a wealth of experience and expertise--can be exposed and exploited at scale, i.e.- on the broader Web. Dempsey's piece, in particular, is evidence of this stance. In thirteen points, he outlines how we are moving away from an insular world where we focus on our own interfaces--as he puts it "we sometimes still think of the website as the focus of institutional presence on the network"--toward a world where our data exists in what he calls the "larger discovery environment." This will ring true with those in libraries who have moved past this inward focus; hopefully this volume is a contribution to the task of moving the rest of the profession decisively in that direction.