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**On the Future of
Cataloguing Rules**

Due to the short time at my disposal I will summarize my view of the future of cataloguing rules in a rather compromised form in the following theses.

Present State of Cataloguing

- Cataloguing is principally based on and influenced by a set of standards and conventions:
Cataloguing Rules, Rule Interpretations, Data Entry Formats, Exchange Formats, Data Models and Metadata Standards
- The first priority of cataloguing is the comprehensive description of the physical object in hand and the determination of access points for this item in a catalogue. The cataloguer's task is to create a surrogate record for an object: a book, a serial, a cd rom. From this description the user shall identify the object he is looking for.

Cataloguing Rules

- The Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR II) and the German 'Regeln für die Alphabetische Katalogisierung (RAK)' have not changed in the last 25 years
- These rules have been developed for traditional card and list catalogues and manually prepared entries
- The creation of online catalogues and the advent of new publication forms and electronic documents at least led to a revision of cataloguing rules in the last years. This process is still under way

RAK

The main changes and amendments will be:

- Alignment with AACR (as far as possible)
- Improvement of rules with regard to access points and retrieval
- Elimination of rules and specifications for traditional catalogues
- Definition of rules for the cataloguing of electronic resources

AACR II

The revision of AACR II is mainly based on the recommendations of the 'International Conference on Principles and Future Development of AACR', University of Toronto, Canada, Oct. 23 – 25, 1997.

The main tasks for revision concern:

- Harmonization of AACR and ISBD – ER (Electronic Resources)
- Rules for Continuing (Electronic) Resources
- New organization of AACR

Conclusion

- Online Catalogues have not yet really influenced our cataloguing practice
- The user needs do not yet play an important role
- The revision of cataloguing rules do not really touch the cataloguing principles

New concepts and ideas

The IFLA Study 'Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR)' published in 1998 follows a new concept for cataloguing

[Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records: Final Report / IFLA Study on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records. München: Saur 1998.- (UBCIM Publications: New Series; Vol. 19)]

‘Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR)’

- For the first time cataloguing and catalogues are regarded from the user’s viewpoint. The result is a new concept for object-oriented cataloguing and an entity-relationship model
- The conceptual FRBR-model differentiates between two groups of entities

Group 1 Entities:

- Work: a distinct intellectual or artistic creation
- Expression: the intellectual or artistic realization of a work
- Manifestation: the physical embodiment of an expression of a work
- Item: a single exemplar of a manifestation

Group 2 Entities:

- person
- corporate body

FRBR

- A set of attributes is assigned to each entity
- The relationships between entities are exactly defined

New concepts are required for the cataloguing of 'multiple versions' of a work. According to German and American cataloguing rules a new record is created for each version, e. g. for the book, the facsimile, the microfilm, the digitized version, and the full text. This leads to a lot of redundant data

The FRBR-Model could become a new cataloguing concept and a new data model for library systems

Data Formats and Record Syntaxes

- The German MAB-Format and the different national MARC-Formats were originally developed for the production of catalogue cards and printed bibliographies
- These formats became the most important prerequisites for the exchange of data on a national and international basis
- The formats are not designed for online public access to and interrogation of databases

- MAB and MARC are not tied to specific cataloguing rules, but there exists a close relation between AACR/MARC and RAK/MAB
- MARC and MAB have reached a high level and complexity of data structure, e. g. the bibliographic format of MARC 21 differentiates more than 2,000 data elements and subfields. The figures of MAB are a little lower
- MARC and MAB encoded data can be transferred to various media and protocols (e.g. Z39.50/ISO 23950)
- The complexity of MARC/MAB has its origin in the cataloguing rules and the requirements of librarians

- SGML has influenced the format design and has led to the development of a DTD for e.g. USMARC
- Similar developments would be possible for MAB. The prerequisite is a common agreed DTD in SGML / XML. Such a DTD has already been developed in a joint venture by the Institut für Terminologie und angewandte Wissensforschung (ITAW) and Softcon
- Cross-walks and mapping between MARC and MAB and Dublin Core Meta Data Sets exist already

Even if all these efforts will lead to adequate results the structure of bibliographic data will remain complex

Metadata and Metadata Standards

- In the last years several metadata standards and description models have been created
- For libraries the most important metadata standard is the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set, recommended by the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (OCLC) and supported by the Dublin Core community
- From the beginning this standard has been developed on an international basis

Metadata standards are based on the assumption that

- Electronic resources do not require a full detailed description since a direct link to the full document delivers the exact description and content of the document
- A basic set of elements, e. g. the 15 DC tags, is sufficient to support the finding and obtaining of electronic resources

From the viewpoint of cataloguing rules metadata and metadata standards are insufficient. The following deficiencies are brought forward:

- The guidelines for data content in most metadata standards do not mandate transcription of data from prescribed sources of information
- The description of resources is incomplete and unreliable
- Metadata provided by creators or distributors of the resources are often separated from catalogue records and maintained in a separate database (metadata repositories)

Perspectives for Migration and Integration

- A 'coming together' of both worlds is only possible if on one side the principles of cataloguing will be reviewed and on the other side the concept for metadata standards and creation will be brought to a fixed level
- The conceptual model of FRBR was positively received by the Dublin Core and INDECS / DOI Communities
- A first analysis has shown that there exist many shared requirements

- The object-oriented concept of FRBR fits very well the RDF (Resource Description Framework) developed by the Word Wide Web Consortium
- It is too early to predict the results of these mere theoretical concepts, models, and frameworks
- Though I see a gleam of hope that once in the future cataloguing rules, metatada standards, and web environment will grow together, and common agreements will be reached on how objects have to be described, retrieved, and identified
- But many many years of co-operation and realization are lying ahead before these goals will be achieved