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Cataloging And Classification: An Introduction

FOURTH EDITION

Lois Mai Chan and Athena Salaba
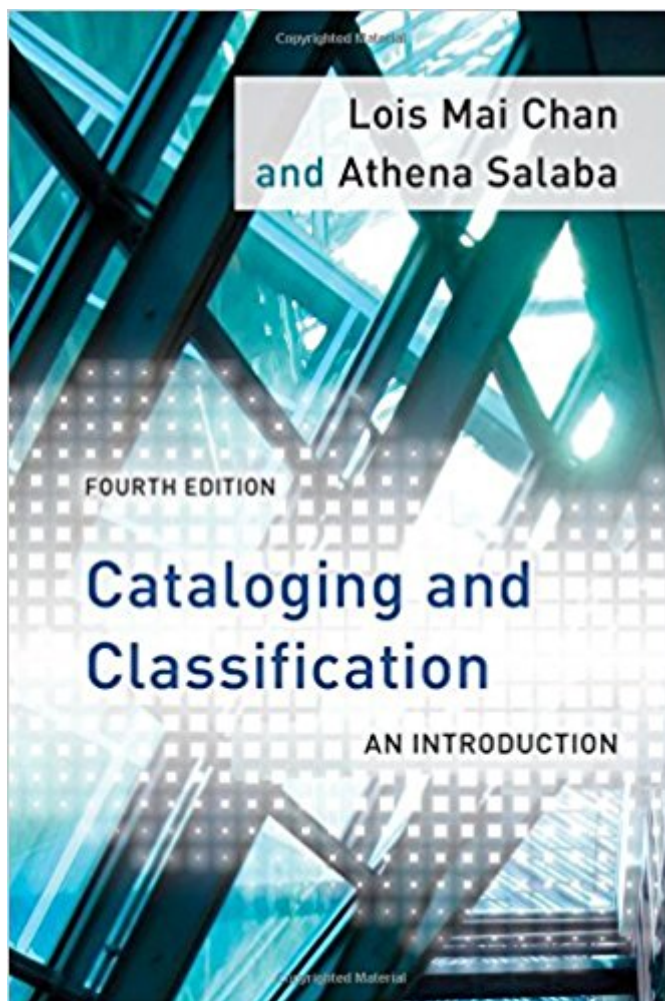
Cataloging and Classification

AN INTRODUCTION

Synopsis

The fourth edition of the late Lois Mai Chan's classic Cataloging and Classifcation covers the analysis and representation of methods used in describing, organizing, and providing access to resources made available in or through libraries. Since the last edition published in 2007, there have been dramatic changes in cataloging systems from the Library of Congress. The most notable being the shift from AACR2 to Resource Description and Access (RDA) as the new standard developed by the Library of Congress. With the help of the coauthor, Athena Salaba, this text is modified throughout to conform to the new standard.Retaining the overall outline of the previous edition, this text presents the essence of library cataloging and classification in terms of three basic functions: descriptive cataloging, subject access, and classification. Within this framework, all chapters have been rewritten to incorporate the changes that have occurred during the interval between the third and fourth editions. In each part, the historical development and underlying principles of the retrieval mechanism at issue are treated first, because these are considered essential to an understanding of cataloging and classification. Discussion and examples of provisions in the standards and tools are then presented in order to illustrate the operations covered in each chapter.Divided into five partsâ "a general overview; record production and structure, encoding formats, and metadata records; RDA; subject access and controlled vocabularies; and the organization of library resourcesâ "each part of the book begins with a list of the standards and tools used in the preparation and processing of that part of the cataloging record covered, followed by suggested background readings selected to help the reader gain an overview of the subject to be presented. This book is the standard text for the teaching and understanding of cataloging and classification.

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Customer Reviews

[T]he book is a great resource and collects a lot of cataloging information that is otherwise dispersed. It would be a valuable resource to a new cataloger or any cataloger needing help interpreting RDA. It is a text for catalogers in any type of library and for any type of material (including non-traditional materials). It should be found in every library school library as a reference resource. (Technical Services Quarterly)

Dr. Athena Salaba is associate professor in the School of Library and Information Science at Kent State University.The late Lois Mai Chan was formerly Professor Emerita in the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Kentucky, Lexington. She was author of eight books and numerous articles and co-editor of two collections in the areas of knowledge organization and subject indexing. In 1989, Chan was awarded the Margaret Mann Citation for Outstanding Achievement in Cataloging and Classification given by the American Library Association, and in 1992, she received the Distinguished Service Award from the Chinese-American Librarians Association.

Cataloguing and classification is a difficult topic. Chan and Salaba clearly know their stuff, but as a beginning student, I found the text confusing and hard to make sense of, especially when applied to real-world examples. I'd give it three stars for that, but the bigger problem is that the Kindle version has no page numbers and no direct link to the table of contents. This makes it impossible to find particular sections that my intructor mentions, making the book largely useless as a reference. No idea why this was done, but definitely needs to fix this for Kindle editions of textbooks.

Lois Chan is the expert in cataloging. So glad that her revisions to the last edition and her coverage of RDA cataloging were made available. Very helpful resource.

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