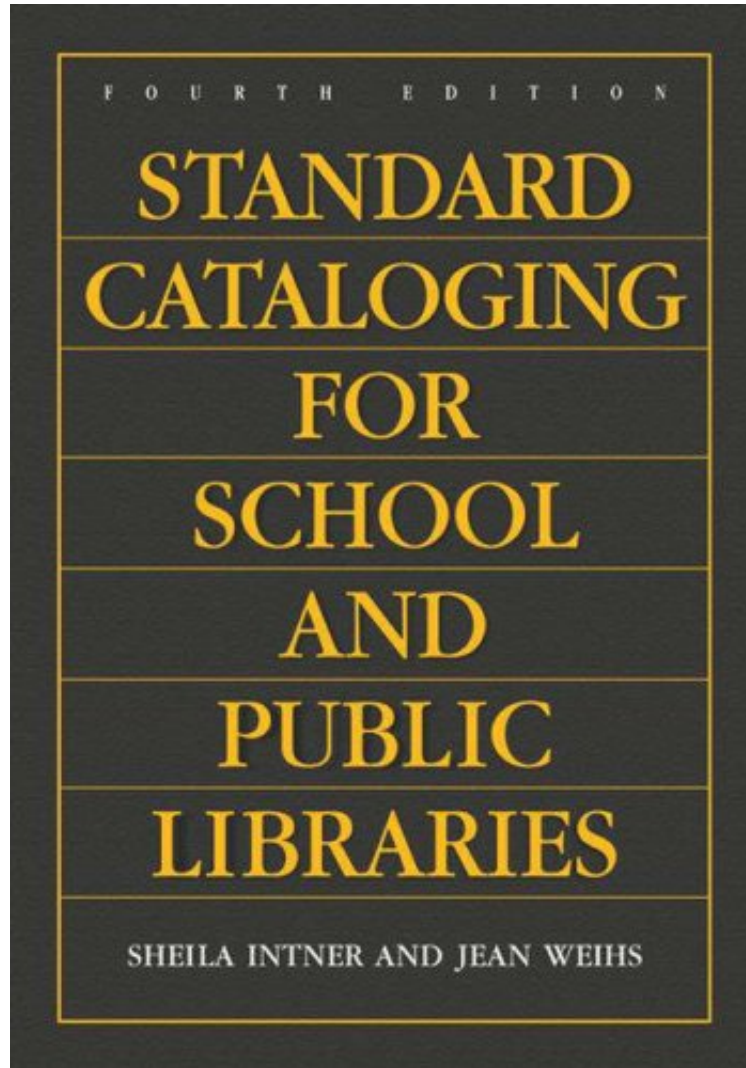


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## Standard Cataloging for School and Public Libraries, 4th Edition

*Jean Weihs, Sheila S. Intner*

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**Jean Weihs, Sheila S. Intner : Standard Cataloging for School and Public Libraries, 4th Edition** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Standard Cataloging for School and Public Libraries, 4th Edition:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The content is decent, but with the layout, who can tell?!By NCTejanaGiven all the negative reviews of the content, you might wonder why any professor continues to use this book. My theory: The book's early editions will have made it a leader in its field at a time when we expected less from our technical writers, and either the professors assigning the textbook have not found one with the clear presentation this book lacks ... or they haven't stopped to realize it's time to start looking.In the introductory chapters, before the

authors start inserting lengthy figures, the text is fairly readable to this first-year library science student. However, once the authors dive into the nitty-gritty in chapter 4, the text becomes absolutely unreadable. The total absence of even late-20th-century design cues amazes me in a book now on its fourth edition. Imagine reading a typed dissertation from the 1960s: you'd be impressed they managed to include figures at all, right? You'd accept that the figures don't have a line around them to help set them apart from the surrounding text, nor a grayscale background to facilitate skimming the figures vs. skimming the explanatory text. You might grit your teeth a little when you realized that what looked like part of a bibliographic entry was \*actually\* an observation by the authors, inconveniently written in the same Courier New typewriter lettering as was used for the sample cards. You'd sigh as you spotted yet another table that wasn't even labeled as a table, but simply stuck smack-dab into the middle of the material with no indicator it's separate from the figure just above. Add to that problem that the most basic of technical-writing principles are ignored. For instance, when the authors begin to discuss the different areas of a bibliographic record -- areas whose numbering is well-standardized -- they discuss each without in any way mentioning its number. How hard would it have been to insert, in front of the words "Publication, distribution information" just two more helpful words: "Area 4"? The format and writing make it virtually impossible for the student to employ good pre-reading strategies such as skimming the section titles or looking for patterns, because none are evident. We reviewers may sound like lazy readers who can't be bothered to look at the paragraphs just before and just after the one we're about to read. However, that notion presupposes we can find them, which is no easy task when they are interrupted by pages of text-based figures and pages in which all but two lines are part of the figure, followed by resumption of the body text on the penultimate line. Last, and most glaringly, consider this problem: The authors have chosen to save all discussion of the standards for \*computer-based\* cataloging (MARC) until Chapter 12 in a book with only 13 chapters. I could understand saving the \*detailed\* discussion until later, but to provide copious pages of examples of old-school catalog cards without even a teeny mention of corresponding lines in MARC, nor even one example of how the record areas from a catalog card would be formatted in MARC encoding or how they look on a computer screen is a decision to confound the thousands of us whose cataloging coursework will address MARC from the outset. Like nearly every reviewer here, I would have been up a creek had I not already read and digested my instructor's far-superior version of the content before embarking into the nitty-gritty section of the book. To sum up: The authors need to subject their tome to a massive editorial and design overhaul for a fifth edition and if not, it's time for the wrecking ball.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Standard Cataloging for School and Public Libraries By J. Lucas I purchased this book as a required text for a class I am taking. I am completely new to cataloging. I feel this book is not written for the "beginner" cataloger, but instead is intended for an audience who has some basic familiarity with the subject matter. I am more confused by the book than enlightened.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Book for class. By stephanie jones Just needed this book for class. Its is what it is, a book for class. Very helpful for library media students.

Sheila S. Intner and Jean Weihs lead the wary and unwary alike, to apply them with competence if not aplomb. Through hundreds of examples, they illustrate cataloging problems and their solutions; they also describe and explain a variety of management decisions, the pros and cons of cataloging alternatives, and the rudiments of how to run a catalog department. They have even included a new chapter on metadata, as well as enlarged sections of practical advice on how to deal with changed subject headings and classification numbers.

"This guide keeps getting better and better as a concise guide to the process of cataloging, from description to classification to subject headings of print and multimedia materials. It is useful as a text for beginning cataloging classes and as one for personal study." - Teacher Librarian

"Evidence, say Intner and Weihs, 'that catalogers working in local libraries and media centres can anticipate taking more, not less, responsibility for organizing their materials. They may also be expected to assume a larger share of the work on standards and policies in a new multi-institutional model of librarianship in cataloguing and classification. In a distributed leadership environment, knowledgeable librarians and media specialists at the grassroots level will be especially important'. You have been warned now buy the book! Starting with the 'functions of the catalog' and the need to conform to standard practice, the authors lead the reader to the decisions that need to be made in relation to descriptive cataloguing, subject cataloguing, classification, call number assignment and encoding for computer input. These elements are then considered in more detail in separate chapters." - Library Journal

". . . the general principles remain sound and for North American libraries, and others for whom these standards apply, this is an excellent instructional primer." - Library

"recommended as a useful resource for a cataloger with some experience and wanting to improve knowledge of the background and context of cataloging and to consolidate understanding of the application of cataloguing rules and use of the cataloging tools, or as a reference tool on specific aspects of cataloging. It would be especially useful for sole catalogers working in a smaller library or for librarians for whom cataloging forms only a part of their job. The book would also be a useful read for any library manager seeking improved understanding of both the background to, and the practical process of, cataloging." - Library Collections, Acquisitions, Technical Services

About the Author Sheila Intner is professor

emeritus, Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Mount Holyoke College. She has received several awards, including ALA's Margaret Mann Citation Award for outstanding contributions to education for cataloging and classification. Jean Weihs has worked in university, public, school, and special libraries as a reference librarian, a bibliographer, and a school librarian. Most of her career has involved teaching cataloging to librarians, library technicians, and school librarians in Canada and the United States. She represented the Canadian Committee on Cataloguing for nine years on the Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR, five of these as JSC Chair. She has held 45 positions on national and international committees. Jean Weihs has written 17 books, 6 separately published pamphlets/documents, 10 chapters in books edited by others, and over 125 articles and book reviews in professional journals. She is the recipient of 13 national and international awards.