The International Standard Bibliographic Description for Monographs: A Selective Bibliography

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Published in 1974 as the first standard edition, the ISBD(M) International Standard Bibliographic Research Description for Monographic Publications' is intended "to provide an internationally acceptable framework for the presentation of descriptive information in bibliographic records of monographic publications." For this purpose, the ISBD(M) defines the descriptive elements, fixes the order of these elements, and prescribes the punctuation introducing each element.

Accepted fully or in principle by a number of national bibliographies in other countries, the ISBD(M) is currently being implemented in the United States. The Anglo-American Cataloging Rules² pertaining to the description of separately published monographs have been revised to conform to the Standard and the Library of Congress began in September 1974 to use the Standard in cataloging. While catalog cards received from the Library of Congress have for some time reflected ISBD for shared cataloging, MARC tapes, Library of Congress cards and proof slips are now beginning to reflect the Standard.

The need of practicing librarians to understand, interpret and use the new terminology, definitions, abbreviations and punctuation marks introduced by the ISBD(M) prompted one group of librarians to sponsor two study sessions on the Standard. This selection of references was prepared specifically for use by the participants in the Working Sessions which were conducted at the D. H. Hill Library, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, on November 20 and December 4, 1974 for librarians and support staffs in the area. The references listed bring together most of the writings on the ISBD(M). The section on BACKGROUND places ISBD(M) in its historical setting. The section labeled DIS-CUSSION/COMMENTARY provides a range of opinion and interpretation regarding the ISBD(M). Finally, the section devoted to IMPLEMENTATION indicates plans for adoption of ISBD(M) at the Library of Congress.

Background

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² Anglo-American Cataloging Rules. Prepared by the American Library Association [and others] North American text. Chap. 6: Separately Published Monographs, Incorporating Chap. 9, "Photographic and Other Reproductions," and Revised to Accord with the International Standard Bibliographic Description (Monographs). Chicago: A.L.A., 1974. 1220.

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