book—and certainly including the two examples of the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Arizona—is of a very large library connected to a large institution. Very little, if anything, is said of libraries at smaller colleges going through structural transitions. They may face similar challenges as those larger libraries, but certainly smaller libraries have other challenges particular to them. Since two of the authors are affiliated with one of the libraries described in detail, it makes perfect sense for them to focus on a situation that they know intimately. Their broader study, however, would have benefited from input from academic librarians serving smaller populations.

The final chapter, "Positioning the Academic Library for a Vibrant Future," is, unfortunately, mildly disappointing, for it leaves the impression that the final chapter was hastily assembled. While the authors do offer insight on how librarians can cope with the rapidly changing field of academic librarianship, their attempt at summarizing the book's overarching argument is too abbreviated and leaves the reader wishing for a more cumulative summary.

These weaker elements, however, should not obscure the incisive discussions that form the greater part of *Beyond Survival*. The unifying thread weaving through all of the chapters is the clear need for libraries to be user-focused and to seek out what their users need and want rather than assuming that the libraries and their staffs know what is best for their clientele. This user-focused philosophy, more than anything else, is the key element that causes the central arguments to adhere, and it's the reason this book is worth reading. If users are changing, yet the library sees no need to do so, is the library effective in its mission to serve these users? All too often, libraries forget that they exist for a community of users and choose to prescribe services with little input form their patrons. The need to correct such thinking helps drive many of the transitions described in the book. So important is this issue that the authors dedicate chapter eight, "Standing Up to Scrutiny," to determining whether or not an academic library is successful in focusing on its users.

Despite the aforementioned weaknesses, the authors are largely successful in explaining the need for change in academic libraries and the ins and outs of how to go about such change. As time goes on, more and more academic libraries will find themselves facing decisions on how to go about changing with the times, and the mix of theory and practicality in *Beyond Survival* can serve as an important resource.—*Stephen Pelton, The State University of New York at Buffalo.*

Understanding FRBR: What It Is, and How It Will Affect Our Retrieval Tools. Ed. Arlene G. Taylor. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2007. 186p. alk. paper, $45 (ISBN 9781591585091). LC 2007-13558.

FRBR, or Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records, is a conceptual model created by the IFLA (International Federation of Library Institutes and Associations) Study Group on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records. The study group was formed in 1991, and FRBR was first published in 1998. Its purpose is to create a hierarchical structure of bibliographic records (as opposed to current cataloging practice, which uses a flat structure), via which the relationships between related titles will be clear to the user.

The same IFLA committee responsible for FRBR later charged a subgroup to create a similar conceptual model for authority records (Functional Requirements for Authority Data, or FRAD; this subgroup was working on its final draft as of this writing). In 2005, another IFLA group, the Working Group on Functional Requirements of Subject Authority Records (FRSAR) had begun to do the same for subject authority records, extending the FRAD model.

Understanding FRBR consists of thirteen chapters, each written by experienced catalogers and specialists in their subfields. The

first six chapters provide introductory and background material on FRBR's development; the last seven discuss the application of FRBR to various classes of materials. The book is not intended to be an instructional text; rather, it is designed to provide an introduction to the conceptual model and to illustrate how it can facilitate improved access to resources via the clear delineation of the relationships between said resources. Arlene Taylor, the editor, has over 35 years of experience in cataloging and classification as a practitioner, a teacher, and a researcher and has published widely and extensively in the field of cataloging and bibliographic description, including a comprehensive introduction to cataloging and classification.

The first six chapters clearly illustrate the concepts at the base of FRBR. Taylor's introductory chapter discusses the means by which the card catalog provided for collocation of related works by one creator via filing rules and how this does not translate to online catalogs. FRBR, she notes, can bring this organization and collocation to the online environment. Taylor goes on to describe the FRBR concept and its structure, the model of analysis on which it is based, and the user tasks that its implementation can facilitate. The subsequent five chapters discuss the structure of FRAD and its relation to FRBR; FRBR, and the history of cataloging (this chapter, by William Denton, is a delightful and informative read that provides a broad perspective on the history of the organization of bibliographic information); the history of FRBR research and its impact on the further development thereof; the concept of "bibliographic families" as groups of related works; and—the most direct area of professional concern—the incorporation of FRBR concepts into the new cataloging code now being developed: RDA (Resource Description and Access).

This last is especially important, as RDA is slated to be released and implemented in 2009. The Library of Congress Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control, in its final report, recommended that RDA not be implemented until FRBR is more fully understood and tested; however, it is yet unknown whether the Library of Congress will follow this recommendation. Most libraries follow LC's policy decisions; therefore, if RDA is released for implementation at its scheduled date, not only the workflow of catalogers but the design of any ILS and the public display of bibliographic information in the OPAC will be affected.

As noted above, the remaining seven chapters address the application of FRBR to nonprint and/or nonmonographic classes of materials. It is encouraging that the authors thereof do not shy away from criticism of the FRBR model, either in general or as it specifically applies to classes of materials; this book is not a blanket acceptance of FRBR but an honest assessment thereof. Sherry Vellucci, in the chapter on FRBR and music, notes that FRBR is "an important step to meeting the needs of this complexity [of the "musical bibliographical universe"] in a music catalog" and that "FRBR is the first conceptual model to acknowledge the structural complexities that are such a large part of the music bibliographic universe."

Several chapters, however, note the limitations of FRBR as it applies to other areas of cataloging. Alexander C. Thurman notes that FRBR would have to be a supplement to archival control as exhibited in finding aids or collection-level MARC records, as FRBR concepts cannot sufficiently represent the collection, which is the "central unit of archival organization." Steven C. Shadle indicates that the structure of FRBR is not easily adaptable for serials cataloging but that its introduction is an opportunity for serials cataloger to reexamine their practices. Murtha Baca and Sherman Clarke note that the FRBR model would, in the cataloging of works of art, architecture, and material culture, chiefly be of use in determining groupings of resources in a more relational structure, although, due to the fact that these are actual objects

and not abstract items, there are better avenues for their cataloging.

Others are still more critical: Mary Lynette Larsgaard not only notes that FRBR, as it stands now and until ILS vendors can incorporate FRBR into their software, will not work well for cartographic materials but begins her conclusion by stating "[w]hen FRBR was issued, among the first positive comments that I read were not just by noncatalogers but by nonlibrarians, which made for feelings of caution." Martha Yee, an expert in the cataloging of moving-image materials, discusses not only the potential difficulties in the application of the FRBR model to these materials but also those of the implementation of FRBR and RDA in general: "… we may be left with rules that are useful to no one and purchased by no one." The book does end by noting that everyone concerned must be involved in the process, so that all varying opinions can be heard and considered. Steven C. Shadle, in his closing chapter on serials, notes: "I encourage everyone to get out there and kick the tires in whatever way possible!"

Understanding FRBR is clearly written, well illustrated (many of the concepts are clarified by very helpful diagrams), and well indexed; additionally, chapters feature extensive bibliographies, many of which provide the URLs to the IFLA groups' documents. While it may seem that this book is of interest only to catalogers, the application of FRBR will change the structure of the catalog and the systems used to store and display it; therefore, it is an important text for systems librarians, reference librarians, and anybody else interested in the future of the organization and display of bibliographic information.—*Deborah DeGeorge, University of Michigan.*

William H. Sherman. *Used Books: Marking Readers in Renaissance England*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008. 259p. (ISBN 9780812240436). LC2008-271368.

Long in the making, this timely book, by a young American scholar now at the University of York in the U.K., should be required reading for special collections librarians. Its subject is one that has come to the fore in the history of reading: marginalia. While there have been several shelves' worth of more focused studies on the reading practices of individuals and communities, few have attempted Sherman's mission: to survey the field as a whole. Sherman's principal laboratory was the stacks of the Huntington Library, where he was given direct access to that institution's formidable holdings of STC titles. (Note to colleagues: good things can happen when we bend our access policies.) Since cataloging typically does not disclose with any consistency the presence or absence of marginalia, Sherman had to do so for himself, the old-fashioned way, one book at a time. Needless to add, he handled a lot of books in the course of his project. If nothing else, Sherman's subject is a solid affirmation of the enduring value of the artifacts we steward. Books are more than texts, Sherman reminds us. The artifacts in our stacks are redolent of meaning and evidence that is only discernible through inspection. EEBO and ECCO, take note.

So, what did he find? If Sherman set out to provide a map of a new field of study, what he learned was that there is no map, no grand narrative, no overarching theoretical perch. What he encountered in handling thousands of books were decidedly independent-minded readers responding to texts and using books in personal, opaque, and quirky ways. If we needed more proof that Renaissance readers were not passive slaves to texts, here it is. Sherman's core finding—that about 20 percent of all the STC books he handled contained marginalia—is hard to evaluate in and of itself: is that a lot? a little? But that 20 percent does reveal the extent to which printed books were sites of engagement and activity, sometimes creative, sometime routine. Here we find readers annotating texts, doodling, practicing penmanship, recording recipes and family information, customizing artifacts