



Introduction to FSR 2014 Special Issue

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The ten papers featured in this special issue have been selected from forty presentations and fourteen posters originally presented at "Faster, smarter and richer. Reshaping the library catalogue" International Conference,¹ which was held on 27th-28th February 2014 at the Vatican City.

The conference was jointly organised by the Vatican Library (BAV) and the Italian Library Association (AIB) and aimed at fostering a lively scientific forum on the future and value of the library catalogue, attracting more than two-hundred participants – mostly LIS researchers and professionals – from thirty different countries.

By addressing issues connected to the creation of catalogues and information storage, cooperation among libraries in dealing with content management, partnerships among libraries and other cultural agencies, handling of traditional heritage and digital resources, FSR2014 offered the opportunity of rethinking the role of libraries and their users within an open and active environment. FSR2014 offered an international forum in which to trigger the multi-disciplinary debate about the library catalogue by discussing project results, emerging frameworks and best practices within the communities of practice, highlighting top-challenges and the emerging

¹The conference programme, abstracts and slides are publicly available at <http://www.aib.it/attivita/congressi/fsr-2014/2013/38189-fsr-programme>.



convergence between bibliographic and cataloguing frameworks such as FRBR and RDA, and the theories and practices of Linked Open Data (LOD) and Semantic Web technologies, which today facilitates new partnerships between libraries and the "Web of data".

The conference consisted of four thematic sessions (*Models and Strategies; Cooperation: challenges and opportunities; Bits & Bricks; User Experience: The Catalogue and You*), a poster session, and two testimonials which opened the morning sessions, respectively given by Carlo Revelli and Dorothy McGarry.

Lalli's paper was part of session 2 (*Cooperation: challenges and opportunities*); papers by Corrado-Jaffe, Mey-Grau-Biar, and Turbanti were part of session 3 (*Bits & Bricks*); papers by Fabbrizzi, Savic, and Trombone were part of session 4 (*User Experience: The Catalogue and You*), while papers by Balbi-Abis, Blumer-Hügi-Schneider, Russo were part of the poster session.

The selected papers in this special issue offer a broad range of topics which were discussed within FSR2014: a critical examination of the cataloguing rules is given by Mey-Grau-Biar, who analyses RDA and its implementation from the Brazilian perspective; principles on authority control and its improvement within digital environments are discussed by Turbanti on her paper *Cui prodest libraries authority work?*; new display models of bibliographic data and resources are considered by Antonella Trombone, who investigates how bibliographic information is currently visualized by discovery tools and which are the emerging models; with regard to navigation issues within digital environments, Blumer-Hügi-Schneider offer a usability study of faceted browsing by combining quantitative and qualitative evaluation methods.

FSR2014 included also a wide range of case studies. In this special issue, Lalli on her paper *Rare books in the Vatican Library: reshaping the catalogue* describes the ongoing cataloguing projects

at the Rare Books Section in the Vatican Library; Fabbrizzi presents an ongoing project for the signage system of the Dewey-classified shelves in the Library of Social Sciences at the University of Florence; Savic illustrates the new search functions recently implemented by the online catalogue of the International Atomic Energy Agency by using Google Search Appliance (GSA), highlighting pros and cons at organisational and financial level.

Some other papers offer a description of digitisation projects connected to cataloguing issues: Corrado-Jaffe present the process developed by Binghamton University Libraries to extract embedded metadata from digital photographs and transform this metadata into descriptive metadata for use in the Libraries' digital preservation system; Balbi-Abis illustrate the steps for the cataloguing and digitisation project of Giuseppe Verdi's archive at the "Archivio Storico Ricordi" in Milan; finally, Russo describes BeWeb, a cultural heritage enhancement project promoted by the Italian Catholic Church, which gives online access its artistic and cultural heritage and dioceses' inventories.

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²The FSR2014 Programme Committee includes Paul Gabriele Weston (coordinator), Flavia Cancedda, Agnese Cargini, Agnese Galeffi, Antonio Manfredi, Andrea Marchitelli, and Giuseppina Vullo.

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