

The aim of this work is to map the evolution of cataloguing rules on the territory of today's Federal Republic of Germany with more detailed description of Prussian Instructions and The rules for alphabetical cataloging (RAK).

The introductory chapter disserts upon the general origin of the cataloguing rules in libraries. The second chapter offers a brief overview of german librarianship.

The following chapter is devoted to particular personalities which played an important role in the beginning of german cataloguing practice. The next chapter describes

the circumstances of the origination of Prussian Instructions, their structure and content.

The fifth chapter describes the evolution of cataloguing rules for public libraries, which originated by simplification of Prussian Instructions, and their revisions. Also explained are the historical reasons for the creation of The rules for alphabetical cataloging (RAK), and their evolution. This chapter also includes a part devoted to the content of these rules.

Following are the descriptions of efforts to harmonize german and anglo-american standards in the projects REUSE, RAK2, Changing for international formats and Codes (MARC21, AACR2).

In the last chapter is described the current state of organization of the german librarianship and also are mentioned the so far known facts about the prepared international rules RDA, on which the German speaking countries are actively participating for the purpose of their future application.