

HOW ISO 1086 FIT INTO THE REALITY OF ALBANIAN TITLE LEAVES OF BOOKS

Ederina Demo

Cataloging Department, Scientific Library of Polytechnic University of Albania,
Tirana Albania E mail: demoederina@yahoo.com

Abstract

Title pages continue to present the catalogers with some problems and challenges. The number of cataloging rules and library standards that have been devised in an effort to accommodate those variations is the best evidence that interpreting bibliographic data on a title page is not always a straightforward process. The purpose of this research is to investigate how bibliographic data on title page and its verso of Albanian books published in the Republic of Albania fit to ISO 1086, and also to ascertain whether automatic processing of the data is possible. A considerable part of the cataloger's expertise lays not so much in the ability to execute the rules as in the ability to recognize the bibliographic conditions which determine the choice of rules. The process of determining bibliographic data from title pages of books is complex. A survey in the form of the questionnaire was used intended to collect information on each bibliographic data elements on the title page and its verso of Albanian books and giving response to these research questions: does correspond to ISO 1086 title page of Albanian books; does correspond to ISO 1086 verso of the title leaf; do bibliographic elements displayed on the title page have a determined place and manner in which they are represented and arranged; do bibliographic elements displayed on the verso of the title leaf have a determined place and manner in which they are represented and arranged; is the title always presented on the title page. The Microsoft Excel was used for data entry and quantitative analysis. This research has been found that bibliographic elements on the title page and its verso of the Albanian books in general fit to ISO 1086. However, certain inconsistencies or lack of comprehensiveness do occurred in the presentation of bibliographic data on the title leaves, which constitutes an obstacle for automatic processing of the data. Key suggestion of this research is that Albanian Publishing Houses should fit more accurately ISO 1086 to Albanian books.

Keywords: *ISO 1086, title page, verso of the title leaf, Albanian books, bibliographic data, descriptive cataloging*

1. Introduction

The bibliographic control of printed books requires the description of items. Description means that the cataloger records bibliographic data about an item as to its title, author and information about the publication. Some bibliographic data can be easily found in the item itself, others may come from other sources. In order to ensure that all items are described in the same way using at least the same starting point for gathering data, the notion of "chief source of information" has been introduced by catalogers. The "chief source of information" is defined as "the source of bibliographic data to be given first preference as the source from which a bibliographic description (or portion thereof) is prepared" (AACR2R, 1988). For monographs (books) it is prescribed that "the page that occurs very near the beginning of a book that contains the most

complete bibliographic information about the book” (AACR2, 1978), called the title page, is to be the first preference as a source of information for descriptive cataloging. ISO 1086:1991, *Information and documentation – Title leaves of books*, is an International Standard that “specifies the information to be printed on title leaves of books and the manner in which this information should be presented and arranged” (ISO 1086, 1991). Its scope is to facilitate the work of editors and publishers, and to help them to produce title leaves according to this standard, which would technically be easy readable “by users such as booksellers, librarians, documentalists, authors, indexers, cataloguers, database producers, etc.” (ISO 1086, 1991). This standard applies to monographs, collections, textbooks, pictorial works, atlases, theses, conference proceedings, technical reports etc. that have horizontal composition of text, in other words the printed text is to be read horizontally from left to right. The whole set of standards and rules that should be followed for descriptive cataloging aims to identify and describe truthfully and accurately the bibliographic data of the book to make it accessible to users. ISO 1086 clearly sets and provides the determined place, manner, hierarchical order, function, and possible alternatives for information that should be appeared on title page and verso of title leaf. *Information on the title page* includes all bibliographic data that can appear on the title page of books, such as: name(s) of author(s); title; subtitle; parallel title; name(s) of editor(s); name(s) of other collaborator(s); statement of edition; accompanying material; name(s) of publisher(s) and place(s) of publication, and date of publication. Meanwhile *information on the verso of the title leaf* includes all bibliographic information that should be printed on the verso of the title leaf such as, the cataloguing-in publication (CIP) data; statement of copyright; colophon; ISBN and ISSN; additional information (former edition statement; title of other language, if the book is published simultaneously, and notes on limited distribution); information on the half title page (name(s) of author(s), or surname(s) only, and title or abridged title). The process of moving from a specific item to its representation in an information system is complex and it begins with the examination of the item itself with an eye towards its informative content. In other words this process is called “technical reading”, the objective of it is firstly to examines the chief source of information (Kipp, 2011).

2. Methodology

The purpose of this research is to investigate how bibliographic data on title page and its verso of Albanian books published in the Republic of Albania fit to ISO 1086, and also to ascertain whether automatic processing of the data is possible. The set of research questions:

- Does correspond to ISO 1086 title page of Albanian books?
- Does correspond to ISO 1086 verso of the title leaf?
- Do bibliographic elements displayed on the title page have a determined place and manner in which they are represented and arranged?
- Do bibliographic elements displayed on the verso of the title leaf have a determined place and manner in which they are represented and arranged?
- Is the title always presented on the title page?

2.1 Data collection

A survey in the form of questionnaire has been used to identify and collect information on each bibliographic data elements appear on title leaves of Albanian books. The questionnaire is developed about bibliographic information on the title page and its verso according to ISO 1086 and is divided into (a) Information on the title page section, and (b) Information on the verso of

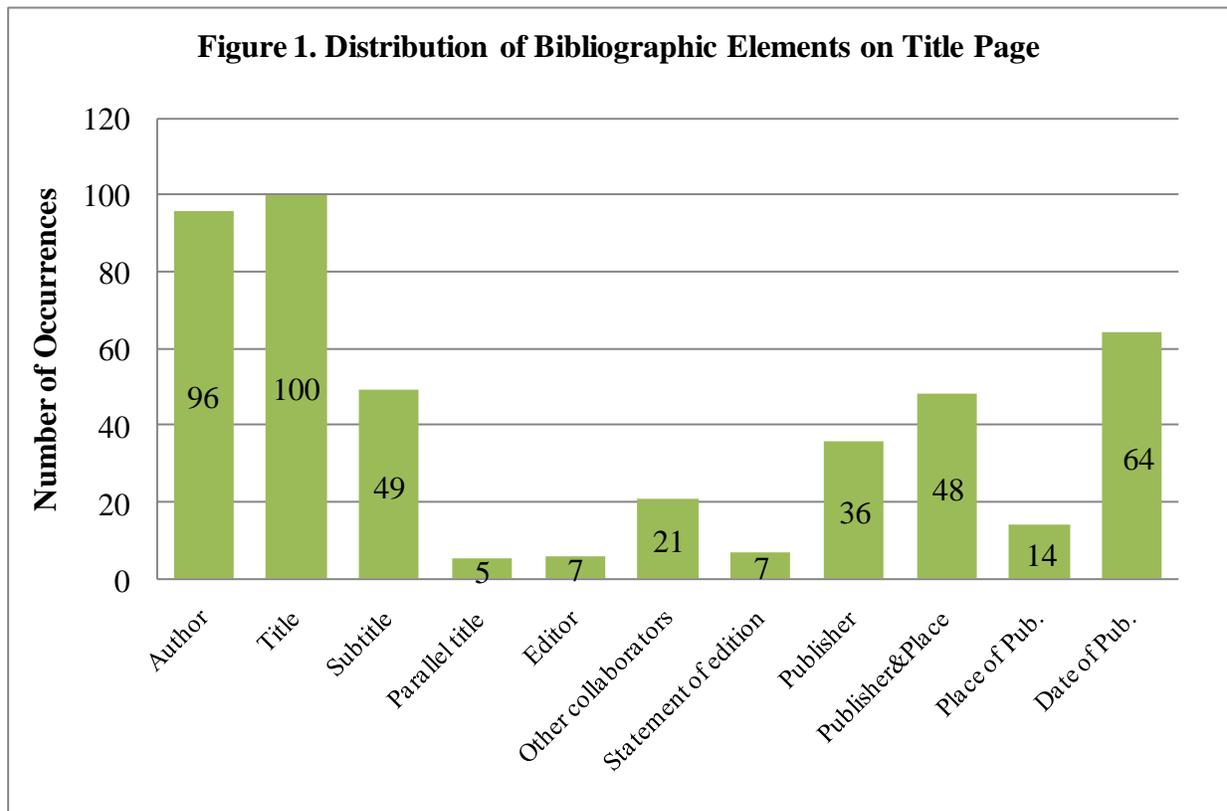
the title leaf section. There are also taken notes for each missed bibliographic element on book title leaves and where it is found. Title leaves have been selected from the book collection of the Scientific Library of Tirana Polytechnic University. To ensure that the results of the survey would be reliable and representative of Albanian books at large, the sampling has been done using random selection. The procedure of sampling selection has been limited by: the type of material (book), language (Albanian), date of publication (since 1993), place of publication (Tirana as the most prominent publishing center in Albania). Basing on these limitations from shelves were identified 100 books (meaning 200 units, 100 title pages + 100 versos). The method of data collection adopted was systematic sampling (Cox and Miller, 1982).

2.2 Data analysis

The following bibliographic elements on the title pages and versos are identified for the purpose of data analysis in terms of their inclusion and position on the page, abbreviations, typographical errors, and typographical distinguishes: name(s) of author(s); title; subtitle; parallel title; name(s) of editor(s); name(s) of other collaborator(s); statement of edition; accompanying material; name(s) of publisher(s) and place(s) of publication; date of publication; additional information on the title page; CIP (cataloguing-in-publication) data; statement of copyright; colophon; The International Standard Book Number (ISBN); additional information.

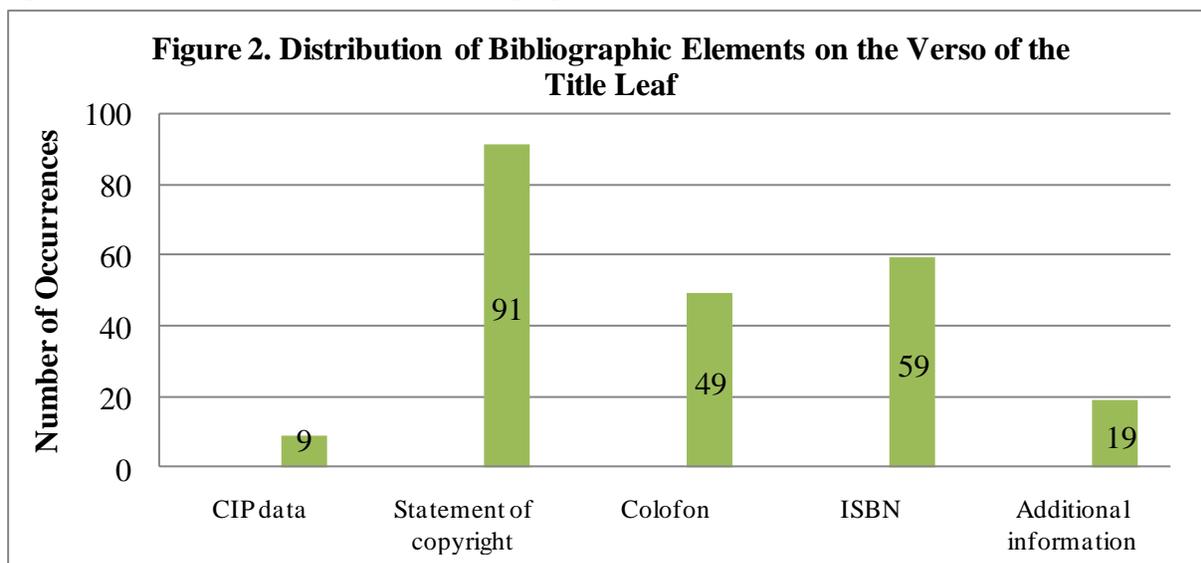
In the process of data analyses, the Microsoft Excel has been used for data entry and quantitative analysis. The statistical analysis is descriptive and explorative in nature.

Figure 1 shows the distribution of bibliographic elements on title page.



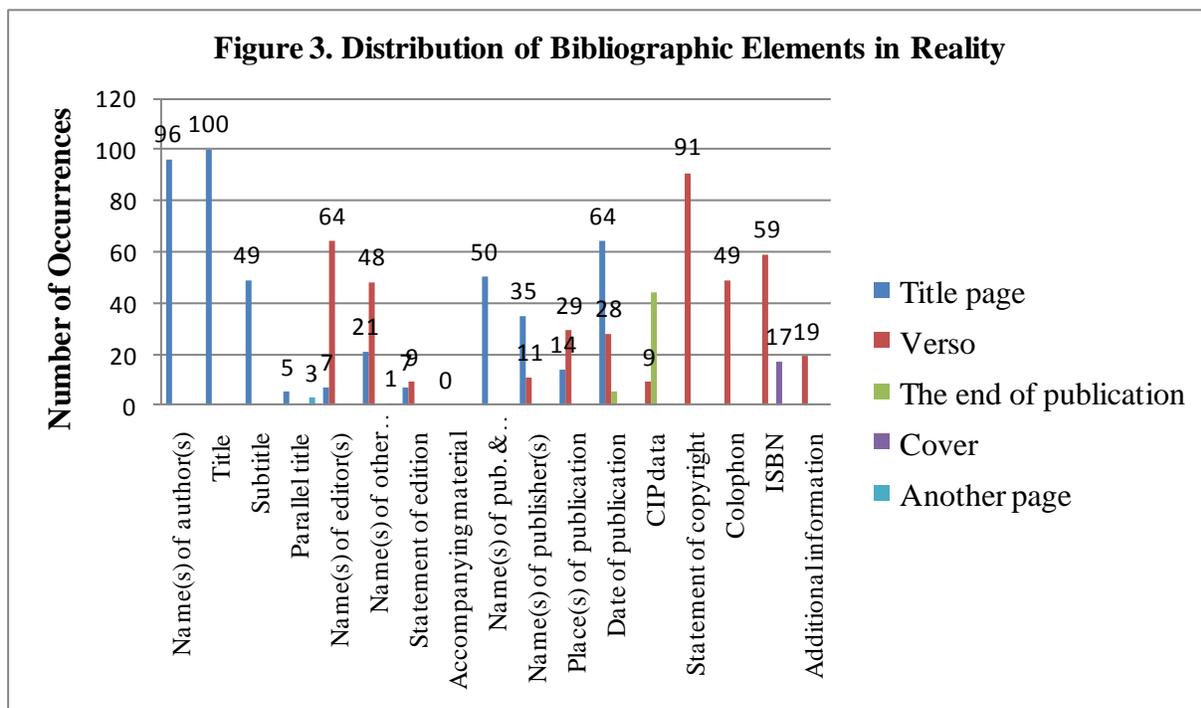
Numbers on the bars show the frequency of occurrence according to ISO 1086.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of bibliographic elements on the verso of the title leaf.



Numbers on the bars show the frequency of occurrence according to ISO 1086.

Figure 3 shows the distribution of bibliographic elements in reality of Albanian books.



Numbers on top of bars show the actual frequency of occurrence distributed on title page, verso, the end of publication, cover, and another page. Comparing graphs on Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 with the graph on Fig. 3 has been noticed that certain inconsistencies or lack of comprehensiveness do occurred in the presentation of bibliographic information of Albanian books.

3. Findings

The current research has revealed that bibliographic elements, such as name(s) of author(s), title, subtitle, parallel title, name(s) of other collaborator(s), name(s) of publisher(s) and place(s) of publication(s), date of publication, statement of copyright, colophon, additional information were introduced in accordance to ISO 1086. Meanwhile the other bibliographic elements, such as name(s) of editor(s), statement of edition, CIP data, ISBN were not introduced in the great occurrences according to ISO 1086.

As regards to bibliographic elements displayed on the title page they have in vast cases a determined place and manner in which they are represented and arranged.

The name(s) of author(s) always has been occurred on the top of the title page, always were been given in full form.

The title always has been occurred under the name(s) of author(s) and has been given positional and typographical prominence. Each sample has been presented by a title. When subtitle has been identified, not always it has been typographically distinguished from the title. Meanwhile parallel title has always been distinguished from the title and subtitle and has been occurred in title page, but in some cases to another page as ISO 1086 states.

The name(s) of editor(s) has always been stated clearly accompanied by word “redaktor”, but only in few cases has been given in the title page, usually under title itself. Name(s) of other collaborator(s) has been given in the appropriate form accompanied by the function of the collaborator(s), in most cases in the verso of the title leaf, but it has been not positioned in a clearly defined place. In the cases when name(s) of other collaborator(s) has been given in the title page it has been under the title accompanied by words “përktheu”, “përkthyer nga”, “ilustroi”, “kompiloi”.

As regards to statement of edition in some cases has been given on the title page, and in some cases on the verso of the title leaf. The statement of edition generally consists of an edition number written either in numerals or by using alphabetic characters.

Generally name(s) of publisher(s) and place(s) of publication(s) has been given on the bottom of the title page, but it has been appeared in considerable cases in the verso of the title leaf too.

The place name frequently precedes the date of publication (year), which always has been written in Arabic numerals. There are some cases when the date of publication has been appeared in the verso of the title leaf, and very rare cases when the date has been missed.

In terms of bibliographic elements displayed on the verso of the title leaf they have not always a determined place, but rather have the determined manner.

Three bibliographic elements easily distinguishable, because of presence of word/number stream or hallmarks were been, CIP data, statement of copyright, and ISBN.

CIP data in vast cases has been appeared on the end of publication, but it has been easily distinguishable, because of presence of word stream “CIP Katalogimi në botim BK Tiranë”. It should be noted that CIP has been not accurate according to cataloging standards and rules, such as ISBD and AACR2.

In all the cases, statement of copyright has been presented using the phrase “copyright” and “©” or just “©”, easily distinguishable too.

The bibliographic element ISBN always has been started with very specific string of characters as “ISBN”, which comes handy to identify this particular element.

Regards to colophon and additional information as bibliographic elements, they both appear in the verso of the title leaf as ISO 1086 states. Both these bibliographic elements have somewhat a

determined place and manner in which they were represented and arranged. The colophon has been displayed in some cases on the bottom of the verso of the title leaf and in some other cases in the middle of the verso. Due to some specific words, such as “shtypur”, “adresa”, “tirazhi”, “formati” is easily distinguishable. The same logic also works for additional information, which has been displayed usually on the top of the verso of the title leaf and has been distinguished by the stream of words “Titulli në origjinal” accompanied by the title of the work in original language that differs from Albanian language.

This research is primarily concerned with title leaves as the chief source of information for cataloging process and has shed a light in some important bibliographic elements that fit to ISO 1086. In terms of inclusion of bibliographic elements on title leaves of Albanian books results have been showed that generally Albanian books fit to ISO 1086. In all Albanian books examined a title page is likely to provide bibliographic information on Author, Title Proper, and publication information including Place of Publication, Publisher, and Year (date of publication), all these bibliographic elements are mandatory in the cataloging process. The verso of the title leaf has been presented with other bibliographic information on CIP data, Statement of Copyright, Colophon, ISBN, and Additional Information, which should be given according to ISO 1086, regardless of a few number of ISBN that has been appeared on the cover of the book not in accordance with the standard. Regards as the vast part of Name(s) of Editor(s) and other Collaborator(s) that have been presented on the verso of the title leaf ISO 1086 recommends that these names should be displayed on the title page. There are no errors and abbreviations on title leaves in all samples. The name(s) of author(s) has been found in the full form. This phenomenon has significant implications for the cataloging process.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

The data derived from this research forms the basis for creating a prototype title leaves for books in Albanian language. Such prototype, will hopefully, aid the catalogers in the identification and interpretation of bibliographic information on title leaves, and help make the cataloging records more standardized and error free.

Certain inconsistencies or lack of comprehensiveness do occurred in the presentation of bibliographic data on the title leaves, which constitutes an obstacle for automatic processing of the data. Key suggestion of this research is that Albanian Publishing Houses should fit more accurately to ISO 1086 to Albanian books and researcher recommends that at least one cataloger has to work near of Albanian Publishing Houses, so that the reality of Albanian books can fit more accurately into ISO 1086 and the process of automated cataloging should be take into consideration.

5. References

- Cox, D.R. and Miller, H.D. (1982), *The Theory of Stochastic Process*. New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons.
- Gorman, M. and Winklet, P.W. (Eds.) (1978), *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*, 2nd ed. Chicago, IL: ALA.
- Gorman, M. and Winklet, P.W. (Eds.) (1988), *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*, 2nd rev. ed. Chicago, IL: ALA.

International Organization for Standardization (1991), *Information and documentation – Title leaves of books*, 2nd ed. Genève: International Organization for Standardization.
Kipp, M. (2011), *Organization of Information*. Retrieved from
<https://pantherfile.uwm.edu/kipp/public/courses/511/>