A look at a few books will explain why Israel started publishing cataloging handbooks in the 1950s.

While the foreign language catalogers used and personalized their copies of Anglo-American cataloging standards, the Hebrew catalogers barely touched theirs. Foreign language catalogers didn't even have copies of the Hebrew handbooks, while Hebrew catalogers to this day keep and personalize their books, even printing out the online RDA handbook so it could be marked up.

Hebrew training materials were always needed because:

- Hebrew is the third most popular non-Latin script in WorldCat (7.25% of all records), but no one was creating rules for Hebrew-in-Hebrew cataloging; most catalog in Romanization
- Specific orthography – plene and defective spelling
- Needed to overcome Western/Christian bias

AACR2 era books were meant for students and for public library/college catalogers – it was assumed they had less knowledge of English and were less exacting in their work. Because they used several different systems and because the Anglo-American rules were not based in any one encoding scheme, *Hakitlug* ("Cataloging")was coding agnostic. Authors were paid a one time fee. Books were issued in print and could be bought from the Israel Center for Libraries.

Omanut HaKitlug ("The art of cataloging") was released under CC license. Authors donated their time and the book is available for free on the NLI website. The book was initially released in 2013, with chapters on access points for people and families and a translation of appendix I terms revised in 2014, for titles revised in 2015, and for general descriptive cataloging revised in 2017. Several chapters and appendices were never written and have been listed, since day 1, as "in process". The book is largely AACR3; RDA put back into an AACR2 framework. Omanut does not cover much of what RDA covers. The available chapters focus solely on monograph cataloging and basic authority work.

With all its drawbacks, we still need the handbook – Israeli institutions can't expect students to have a high enough level of English to handle the Toolkit. There's no active library association in Israel and the National Library has budgetary issues severe enough to force a closure over part of the summer; there is no money to pay ALA for the right to translate the Toolkit and add PS. Even if we could afford it, at this point the Toolkit has poor to no support for Hebrew; even documents added to the beta toolkit cannot be retrieved using the Toolkit's search function.

Since we've been stuck with creating local handbooks for international standards for over 60 years, we have some experience with the advantages and drawbacks, and I now offer you a cautionary tale.

A few questions you have to ask yourself when you're building handbooks for international standards:

1/ Who is the target audience?

Working catalogers, students, reference librarians – it's hard to write a handbook simple enough for students, professional enough for ref librarians, and detailed enough for catalogers

How much RDA Toolkit do they need to know to use the handbook? It is assumed that those using Omanut know very little cataloging (students, public libraries) and that they'll be copy cataloging. In truth, even university and national library employees use the book. It's stratifying; the elite use the Toolkit and those considered less capable the book. It's also stratifying because there are no Arabic or Russian versions of the handbook, so catalogers in those languages have no resources whatsoever.

2/ Are you looking to abridge the toolkit to salient points? Omanut HaKitlug updated the earlier book to match RDA guidelines, but it is not a translation of the Toolkit. It's also not abridged enough to be a quick reference in the same way as training materials are.

3/ Do you mean for the handbook to be comprehensive enough that catalogers don't need to use the Toolkit? For those who use Omanut, it is usually a substitute and no subscription to the Toolkit is taken, meaning no guidance is available for non-book materials and updates are few and far in between; there's no plans in place to update Omanut for 3R.

4/ Do you mean to serve as a localization? Omanut HaKitlug is localized for language and Judaics, but not for the Israeli cataloging environment (it doesn't discuss danacode)

Who is responsible to get information from the deciding body to the handbook?

5/ Know the cost:

- Will it lead to libraries not taking subscriptions to the Toolkit and what's the impact of that? What do the foreign language catalogers do when Toolkit subscriptions are cancelled?
- Do you have budget and personnel to maintain the handbook?
- How will you distribute the handbook and notify users that it has been updated?