A New Introduction to Bibliography

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The first part of this paper traces the historical origins of two current practices of bibliographical description. There is a general lack of historical knowledge of the origins of modern practice as well as an absence of rational justification which is exemplified by today’s use of quasi-facsimile transcription to represent title pages. The author hopes to clarify some of the arguments about the utility of quasi-facsimile transmission and the alternative use of photographic reproductions. The second part questions some general assumptions about descriptive bibliography, but is really a