

These are volatile From Automated Classification to XML:

by Eloise M. Vondruska

Trends in Cataloging

These are volatile and dynamic times for cataloging. Many experiments and technological changes are affecting cataloging: efforts that include work in description, subject analysis, classification, data communication and storage. The key to the success of many new approaches is cooperation. Fortunately catalogers have long been a cooperative and collegial group, and this trend for cooperation continues.

Twentieth-century cataloging was principally about the description and subject analysis of printed, textual information. Even the language of cataloging emphasized that text was THE format. Catalogers in the 20th century distinguished between book and non-book materials. Clearly, the label of non-book, apart from its negative connotation, does not encompass the diversity and complexities of 21st-century works that include graphics, sound, motion, text and electronic interactivity.

Cataloging information, including the description of titles and their subject analysis, is evolving as the Internet matures. Cataloging information is no longer driven by the layout of a catalog card, as it was for most of the 20th century. Will we be entering the era of "self-cataloging," where the creator or publisher of the resource will also catalog the resource for indexing and retrieval purposes? Will all publishers and creators of information eventually have their own in-house catalogers (my career-long dream) to not only create the work but also create the cataloging, instead of having thousands of catalogers revise and polish records to conform to standards? If so, library catalogers could then focus their labors on local needs and practices.

Some current trends in cataloging signifies what lies ahead in the creation and delivery of cataloging information.

WorldCat Changes

The Online Computer Library Center plans to reshape WorldCat over the next three years. OCLC's vision of the future of digital library services is contained in *Extending the OCLC Cooperative: A Three-Year Strategy*, available at <http://www.oclc.org/strategy>. This document outlines the plans "to transform WorldCat from a

bibliographic database and online union catalog to a globally networked information resource of text, graphics, sound and motion. This enhanced version of WorldCat will include a shared knowledge base supported by a set of integrated, Web-based tools and services that facilitate contribution, discovery, exchange, delivery, and preservation of knowledge objects and shared expertise of participating institutions."

Cooperative Online Resource Catalog

In recent years there have been experiments and research using metadata models for description and subject analysis of electronic information resources, through such programs as OCLC CORC with Dublin Core format records. The CORC automated tool kit allows library staff to point the CORC system to a Uniform Resource Locator. CORC extracts data from the resource to create a record. Records are created in machine readable cataloging record (MARC) and Dublin Core format, with more formats planned. The 15 elements in the Dublin Core record can be viewed in *Dublin Core Metadata Element Set, Version 1.1: Reference Description* at <http://dublincore.org/documents/dces>. Its usage is described in *Using Dublin Core* at <http://dublincore.org/documents/usageguide>. The success of the OCLC CORC project feeds into OCLC's plan to revise the WorldCat platform.

Encoded Archival Description

Archivists have adopted the Encoded Archival Description standard, which uses the Standardized General Markup Language for creating archival finding aids. To learn more about this trend, see the Encoded Archival Description official Web site, <http://www.loc.gov/ead>. This standard is maintained by the Network Development and MARC Standards Office of the Library of Congress in partnership with the Society of American Archivists, and marks another cataloging cooperation venture. What role other markup languages, such as XML, will have for documents containing structured information is still developing in the cataloging community. For more information on XML, visit <http://www.xml.com>.

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The Decline of MARC

These alternative methods of creating information for cataloging are challenging the status of MARC formats and standards for the representation and communication of bibliographic and related information in machine-readable form. MARC is still effective and useful for importing and exporting data between library and vendor databases. Many second- and third-generation library management systems store data in a relational database model, making MARC data an additional disk storage cost.

Cartographic Materials

The cataloging of cartographic materials is beginning to attract interest, thanks to electronic storage and display of geospatial information. Many libraries have collected printed maps for years. But due to limited staff resources and the priorities of cataloging standard print materials, maps often languished uncataloged in map cases, often in special storage rooms. Maps were thus not only hard to find in a catalog, they were difficult to locate in the library. The proliferation of electronic cartographic materials is creating new needs and opportunities for cataloging. Library users who have grown up with personal computers want to be able to find a map site in the catalog and click on the map link from the catalog record. Catalogers are now responding to these new developments. The standards and expectations of the Federal Geographic Data Committee are outlined at <http://www.fgdc.gov>. The Map and Geography Round Table of the American Library Association, at <http://www.sunysb.edu/libmap/magert1.htm>, also provides a portal to today's developments in cartographic cataloging.

Non-Roman Scripts

The ability to search and view resource information that is not in Roman scripts is another trend in second- and third-generations of library management systems. Transliteration and translation will still be needed, but it will also be possible to view the original foreign script as part of the catalog record for a work.

For law libraries with extensive holdings in foreign and international materials, this will be a great service to library users and reference librarians.

Cooperative Cataloging

The leadership provided by the Program for Cooperative Cataloging at the Library of Congress is significant for cataloging trends and cooperation. PCC has four components: NACO, the name authority program; SACO, the subject authority program; BIBCO, the bibliographic record program; and, CONSER, the cooperative online serials program. More law libraries are joining the various components of the PCC program. With participation comes such benefits as reducing the cost of cataloging operations by increasing the number of cataloging records that can be used with little or no local editing.

Automated Classification

An interesting project in automated classification is underway by the Program for Cooperative Cataloging Standing Committee on Automation Task Group, whose report on automated classification is online at <http://lcweb.loc.gov/catdir/pcc/classstgrpt.html>. Members of this task group are asking library-management-system vendors for their cooperation in developing the recommended concepts as tools for cataloging. Though these concepts will not completely automate the classification process, they will go much further than the current manual method of classification and culling.

Web-Based Cataloging Tools

A final technology-based trend is the ever-increasing availability of Web-based cataloging tools. The major recent example of this is the spring 2001 pilot project of the Library of Congress Classification Web, <http://www.lccweb.net>. The Cataloging Distribution Service offered access to LC classification schedules and subject headings through the World Wide Web. This provided full-text schedule display of the Library of Congress Classification and thesaurus display of Library of Congress Subject Headings. Will this be the beginning of the end of the Red Books?

Serials Classifications Changes

Trends and changes in cataloging are not based solely on technology. A significant change is coming for law libraries if the proposed suggestions in the *Report of the Joint Steering Committee for AACR2 to Accommodate Seriality* (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/jsc/docs.html#seriality>) are adopted. This involves changes to chapter 12 of the *Anglo-American Cataloging Rules*, 2nd ed., and creates a new definition of continuing resources that will encompass looseleaf materials, a significant issue for the law cataloging community. A looseleaf title will no longer be contained in a monographic record, with open date and volume information. If finally approved, the concept of serials will include integrating resources, which will accommodate the publication patterns of looseleaf titles.

Conference Recommendations

A major resource on trends for cataloging is available in the proceedings and recommendations from the November 2000 *Bicentennial Conference on Bibliographic Control for the New Millennium: Confronting the Challenges of Networked Resources and the Web*, located at <http://lcweb.loc.gov/catdir/bibcontrol>. The invited speakers and participants, all authorities in the cataloging and metadata communities, met at the Library of Congress to discuss issues involving improved discovery and access to Web resources within the framework of international standards. The papers of the speakers and the recommendations from the Topical Discussion groups point the way to how cataloging is changing at the beginning of the 21st century.

The exciting changes occurring in the creation and delivery of cataloging information will result in better catalogs with increased access to information resources, wherever they are.

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