

Catalogers Group
Nov. 4, 2004
Minutes

Present: Youn Noh (guest), Gia Aivazian, Valerie Bross, Claudia Horning, Sara Shatford Layne, Joan LoPear, Janice Matthiesen, Renée McBride (recorder), Caroline Miller, Hao Phan, Louise Ratliff, John Riemer, Angela Riggio, Barbara Rudich

I. What do we need in a Taos archive? What data, what kinds of access are essential? How will we look for known records? Not dealing with clean-up. (led by Sara Shatford Layne)

Suggestions from attendees

Contents = bibliographic, holdings and authority records

DBCN for bib and holdings records

Keyword in heading search

935

Call number

Title

OCLC number

Barcode

Item (owning units for SRLF items)

How should data be presented? How should it look?

Include links to bib and holdings records on single screen.

Include ability to import and cut & paste.

The ORION1 archive will exist for another 2-3 years.

II. Handling of 13-digit ISBNs in original and copy cataloging (led by John Riemer)

Because LC catalogs directly in Voyager, they can currently put these ISBNs in the 020, but OCLC must move them to 024 3_. In 2007 OCLC will change these 024s to 020s. 13-digit ISBNs must currently be searched in OCLC as standard numbers, not as ISBNs.

Proposed UCLA local policy is as follows:

- Use 024 3_ for 13-digit ISBNs found on item
- Transcribe 10-digit & 13-digit ISBNs found, if not on the copy
- Apply this to the manifestation being described, when multiple ISBNs present

John asked what else we would like to see in a policy statement; after no response, Valerie asked him to send the proposed policy to URLCAT so we can have a day of reflection.

Local indexing & display:

In Voyager only the 020 displays. To search the 024 in Voyager, use the Reference Number or Keyword Anywhere indexes.

III. Rethinking Melvyl (led by John Riemer)

The Heads of Technical Services Group (HOTS) has been considering what roles Melvyl could play in addition to that of a union catalog for the UC libraries. John presented a discussion currently taking place in HOTS for Melvyl to function as a single, communal file of cataloging records, as a site where UC catalogers could perform their work.

Scope and Definition

For both SCP cataloging and our local cataloging workloads, catalogers would open the ExLibris (ALEPH) cataloging client in the Melvyl database. If no record for the title in hand existed yet in Melvyl, the cataloger would find/create one in OCLC and import the record to Melvyl. All but the first library owning a title would merely add a holding symbol in Melvyl, and the act of copy cataloging would generally amount to adding a holdings symbol into subfield \$a/\$b of an 852 field embedded in the bibliographic record. Copies of the records would be extracted from Melvyl, according to campus symbol, and be sent to the local ILS for loading on a frequent (daily?) basis; similarly, files of records would also be sent to OCLC to get campus holdings symbols set in support of ILL.

Note: It will remain important that UC catalogers continue to contribute at the national level, so that records upgraded and maintained to LC standards are shared as widely as they are now. For any campus involved in CONSER/BIBCO/OCLC Enhance activity, the work would continue to be done in OCLC, with re-import of the revised record to Melvyl for overlay.

Melvyl records would no longer merge on the fly, since there would only be one bibliographic record per title.

The local ILSs would continue to exist for acquisitions, for circulation, and, at the discretion of each campus, for the local OPAC.

A. What brought this up?

- What's good for an ERM might be good for other databases
- Difficulties in loading and clustering bibliographic records in Melvyl

B. How else could we use Melvyl?

1A. As a bibliographic utility

1B. As a single, communal file of bib records

2. As an OPAC

3. As a circulation module

4. As an acquisitions module

After considering challenges presented by above possible functions of Melvyl, 1A and 1B appear to be the most feasible.

C. Benefits to be gained

- Reduction of duplicate cataloging efforts

Instead of multiple efforts to copy catalog the same title, we could potentially see the simple adding of holdings information to a single bibliographic record in Melvyl. Serial title changes and other cataloging revisions done once would automatically be available to all of us.

An authoritative file of bibliographic records in Melvyl would be poised to support the new statewide ERM.

Melvyl would be certain to contain information that we could all use regarding UC Shared Print Collections.

In an era of shrinking staff, most if not all of us have original cataloging backlogs we wish we could do more to address. Even SCP has CDL-licensed Chinese Academic Journals that need cataloging. We have expressed a desire to see more e-resources receive classification, since this would support mapping to broad subject terms on our campuses.

Our catalogers are needed to give guidance in the organization of digital resources being created on our campuses. Copy catalogers would be freed up to assist in local digital library projects by making subject term assignment from controlled vocabularies and matching names to the LC/NACO Authority File. The above are examples of how we might benefit by freeing up staff and re-purposing them to other areas.

If we were able to attain the "single communal file" of records in Melvyl, all our cataloging operations would be achieving the efficiency of the SCP, where one party catalogs for 10 of us.

- Less complexity in maintaining Melvyl

A great deal of energy goes into loading new and revised copies of records for overlapping collections from 10 campuses. Additional effort goes into diagnosing why records do not cluster appropriately and then into adjusting the Merge Algorithm.

- Simplification of SCP record distribution and loading

Campuses have conflicting preferences in how they would like to receive batches of SCP records in preparation for loading. The desired sorting varies along the lines of publication form of issuance (serial/integrating resource/monograph), the record status (new/update/delete), and whether the resource is a government document. If SCP activity took place in Melvyl, the load to that database would already have been accomplished. Different campus reports would not be dribbling in. Would any distribution of SCP records need to be done at all?

When it comes to the SCP records that campuses want sorted in various ways to facilitate local loading, each campus could come to Melvyl and collect (download/export) whatever SCP records they wanted to use locally, on the timetable of its choosing.

- Facilitation of federated searching

A key part of the effectiveness of federated searching is whether and how quickly the result sets can be de-duped for the users. In an already de-duped Melvyl, we would have a tremendous leg up in the service we can offer.

- Automated sharing of record maintenance/Improvements to records benefiting all

If a campus subscribes to a Table of Contents enhancement service, for example, that additional metadata could be simply transferred to local ILSs if there were an automatic way of establishing and downloading a file of changed Melvyl records. Right now, a

campus' enhanced record goes to Melvyl--and everyone can benefit from it--but that TOC data does not find its way into the other campus ILSs.

John described how we might be doing our work, for both copy and original cataloging, under this scenario.

Obstacles to overcome

- Getting holdings symbols set in OCLC
- Workflow for MARC records arriving during receiving process (PromptCat)

The records might originate directly with a vendor or might be coordinated with a bibliographic utility a la OCLC PromptCat. These records are meant to reach the local ILS as close as possible to the time the materials are received. It would be impractical to expect these records to go first to Melvyl and subsequently to the appropriate campus.

If the batch of records is intended to represent the final version of the cataloging (i.e. not preliminary acquisitions records), the solution might be to send the same file of records to Melvyl after the local load is completed.

Points made during Q&A:

- We would have to get our holdings info into WorldCat for ILL purposes.
- All local info would have to be added in Voyager after the records loaded.
- We would be maintaining two separate databases, since we'd still be maintaining our OPAC.
- Theoretically, this scenario would free up more resources for original cataloging.
- This proposal came about from a desire to make Melvyl easier to maintain.
- Need for common understandings re: cataloging policy throughout UC system; analogous to cooperative cataloging programs, e.g. CONSER.
- Policies would need to be created for dealing with special materials.
- Less flexibility for local policies/deviations from the norm.
- This scenario is exploration at this point, not a firm plan. Interest in identifying obstacles, which could be insurmountable; if so, this scenario would never come to pass.
- This scenario could be seen as a first step in consolidating UC cataloging.

IV. Announcements

The next Catalogers Group meeting will take place on Thurs., Nov. 18, 2004.