
TECH SERVICES ON THE WEB

This issue highlights only a small portion of the wide variety of resources available to technical services librarians on the web. Let us know which sites are useful for your own work, and consider sharing your expertise with other readers. Tech Services on the Web welcomes new reviewers.

CATALOGING CALCULATOR **<http://calculate.alptown.com/>**

The Cataloging Calculator was developed by Kyle Banerjee, Digital Services Program Manager at Orbis Cascade Alliance, and co-author of *Building Digital Libraries: A How-to-Do-It Manual*. This is a simple, straightforward site without fancy graphics or a flashy web design. Banerjee even hosts it on his personal blog (where those without backlogs can read all about his travels and his dog, Keiko). Despite this, the site is professional and precise. What it lacks in pretention, it makes up for in utility.

The site is divided into two parts. In the lower section of the screen, users can reference required fixed fields for various formats, selected from a drop-down menu. For example, catalogers wondering which fixed fields are required for an archival collection record may select “Mixed Materials” from the drop-down menu, and all the necessary fixed fields will appear on the screen. This is particularly useful for training new professionals or for anyone who is unfamiliar with a particular format.

More often, however, catalogers will refer to the upper section of the page, where Banerjee has created a quick and simple reference source for geographic codes, abbreviations, cutters, and field definitions. Users may select from seven difference search options: LC Cutter, Geographic Cutter, Geographic Area Codes, Country Codes, Language Codes, AACR2 Abbreviations, and MARC Variable Fields. Once the search option is selected, users enter their search terms into a query box, click “Find It!” and are instantly provided with a result.

Comments and suggestions may be sent to the column editor: Marta Deyrup (E-mail: deyrupma@shu.edu).

A search for “New Jersey” brings the Geographic Cutter N5, Geographic Area Code n-us-nj, country code nju, and AACR2 Abbreviation N.J. A search for Italian brings the Language Code ita, as well as the code for Neapolitan Italian, nap. LC Cutter searches bring results letter by letter, as the user types them into the query box. The possible length of the cutter appears to be endless. A sample search for the Walt Disney song *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* brought the LC Cutter S874733554734555785349753553635687.

Searching the MARC Variable Fields leads the user to the OCLC Bibliographic Formats and Standards website. This may be the only true fault of the Cataloging Calculator. It might be preferable to link instead to the MARC 21 Format for Bibliographic Data website, or at least to provide the user with that option. While the OCLC page may be more navigable in some ways, the MARC Format site is the authoritative source for this information, and it is often more up-to-date than the OCLC Bibliographic Formats and Standards page.

As funding to libraries continues to be reduced, catalogers are finding themselves struggling to create more records per hour than ever before, with less resources available to them. Yes, all of the information on the Cataloging Calculator is available on other websites, but not always together, and generally not without a fee. The Cataloging Calculator is fast, free, and accurate. It can easily be bookmarked and left open on a desktop, so as to be referred to throughout the day.

Banerjee, Kyle, and Terry Reese. (2007). *Building digital libraries: A how-to-do-it manual*. New York: Neal-Schuman.

Rating: 4 out of 5

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CATALOGUING SECTION OF IFLA **<http://www.ifla.org/en/cataloguing>**

According to its website, The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) “is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. It is the global voice of the library and information profession” (<http://www.ifla.org>). The organization was inaugurated in 1927 with its first conference held in Edinburgh, Scotland. It has been a powerful mainstay for over 75 years, still remaining influential within the global library community.

INFA is divided into multiple divisions with Number IV being the Division of Bibliographic Control, which is comprised of sections on bibliography, cataloging, classification and indexing, and knowledge management. Each section has its own leadership, conferences, meetings, reports,

and main objectives, which are clearly delineated on the respective web pages. An updated version of the website was official launched on April 22, 2009. This report in particular is addressing the cataloging section webpage of IFLA.

The cataloging webpage itself is neat and well outlined with links to important publications and associated documentation. There are no frills or graphics, just clearly defined printed information with lots of white space, although the recent update has enhanced the site with the addition of different color print and by extending the features to cover more page width. This is how webpages were initially designed before the onslaught of overexposure to multimedia and color advertisements. As a result, what you wish to locate is easily found; but if you need assistance, a search box is provided for searching the entire IFLA site. The new update also incorporates some nice Web 2.0 features which include a news section, upcoming events, and related content links. Each section and division has similarly constructed web pages.

The greatest advantage of the cataloging website is the ease in which one can keep abreast of the latest developments of the major undertakings of the cataloging section and refer to the published results of these projects. Often the proposals that the various standing committees are working on take months and years to develop, but through this website, one can remain in touch with the latest updates. The annual reports, the SCATNews newsletter, and the announcements portion of the website are quick to post the most recent news and the addition of the news column will enhance this even further. So during the entire extended time that the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) was progressing, information about FRBR was easily obtained on this website. Now the entire published document is available for easy access—not just in English, but in nineteen different languages. Likewise, as the Functional Requirements for Authority Data (FRAD) and the Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Records (FRSAR) continue to be developed, their progress will be reported on this website.

All the necessary documentation associated with the cataloging section is present on this site with links to the latest electronic copies as well as links to archival issues dating back to the 1990s. This includes publications such as the meeting minutes, SCATNews publications, and annual reports. But more advantageous are the links to the full-text version of important cataloging publications such as the International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD), the final report of Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records, International Standard Bibliographic Description, Statement of International Cataloguing Principles, IFLA Cataloguing Principles: Steps towards an International Cataloguing Code, and Guidelines for Authority Records and References (GARR).

The cataloging section of the IFLA website is a great resource for catalogers to assist them in keeping abreast of the various projects in devel-

opment that maintain the goals and mission of this section and to consult publications that are of continuous value to their profession.

Rating: 4 out of 5

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DSPACE METADATA TRAINING COURSE
<http://cadair.aber.ac.uk/dspace/handle/2160/618>

The DSpace Course—An Introduction to Metadata in DSpace—is made available online via University of Aberystwyth University Online Research Repository. The DSpace Metadata course is also listed on the official DSpace site (<http://www.dspace.org/> under Resources/Training Materials). The course repository record description gives an overview of the lesson objectives: to introduce the concept of metadata, how the metadata is encoded and stored, and how to use the metadata registry. A nice feature of the course is that it is available in multiple formats: Microsoft Word, Adobe PDF, Microsoft PowerPoint, and Adobe PDF slides. The layout design of the course is clear and easy to follow. The target audience for this course appears to be a new metadata and/or DSpace user; however, the second half of the course seems to be for an advanced user.

The course begins with a good general overview of the definition of metadata, as well as specific uses of metadata in the context of the library, a camera, and information systems. Types of metadata are covered, such as descriptive metadata versus administrative data. Next, Dublin Core (which happens to be the default metadata schema of DSpace) is surprisingly discussed briefly. Since the definition of metadata is provided, it might be worthwhile to give an overview of Dublin Core also. It would be helpful to provide a link to the official Dublin Core site, as well as including screen shots on how to enter metadata into DSpace. I expected to learn how to submit an item and how to edit an item once it has been submitted; however, there are no instructions for either of these tasks. The last section covered in this training course is the metadata registry (which allows one to register other metadata schemas) and editing of schema (adding, updating, or removal of elements). These tasks are not well suited for an introductory course since the metadata registry and editing of schema deal with more complex issues and require a greater understanding of metadata. If this course is truly for a novice metadata creator, then I would recommend moving the metadata registry and the editing schema portions to a second metadata training module.

Overall, Introduction to Metadata in DSpace provides a good starting point for the first course. Although the course does cover the objectives, it is

simply not enough information and has room for improvement. Here are a few suggestions to build upon the existing course: the target audience should be stated, the training modules could provide more detail and screen shots, the course needs to be broken down into two modules for beginners and advanced users, and finally, audio and/or written guidelines to accompany the course would greatly enhance the training.

Rating: 3 out of 5

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**INFOISLAND ARCHIPELAGO & BEYOND!
DIRECTORY OF LIBRARIES AND ORGANIZATIONS
<http://infoisland.org/directory/>**

I knew that if librarians were in Second Life (SL), there had to be a directory. I found that the best is maintained by the SL Library Project of the Alliance Virtual Library (AVL), led by Lori Bell of the Alliance Library System in Illinois. This directory connects the widely dispersed islands that house libraries and related information and educational organizations in the 3-D world of SL into a virtual “archipelago.”

The InfoIsland Directory uses a Wordpress blog with RSS feed and provides a number of different ways to search for libraries with presences in SL. You can find libraries in the alphabetical listing, or “Browse by type of organization” or you can “Browse by Sim,” which is browsing by the name of the island where the library is located, not always the same as the real-world counterpart.

It is hard to talk about SL without resorting to jargon. From the moment you first sign up for an avatar and choose your name and appearance, you are transported to a new reality. I signed up through the New Media Consortium (NMC), which is the educational group that my university belongs to. NMC starts users out on Orientation Island, where they teach your avatar to fly and use the menus to teleport from island to island in SL. To find a library, you would think you could use the “Find Region” button on the map, but it is not that simple. You have to know the exact name of the place, and it has to be registered by that name or sim. This is why the InfoIsland Directory is so helpful for finding librarians. The directory has in every listing the SLURL (Second Life URL) with the coordinates to teleport your avatar to the entry point for all the registered library and information organizations.

For example, here is the listing in the InfoIsland Directory for my university’s library in SL:

Name: Montclair State Library
Type: Academic Library
Sim: Montclair State CHSS
SLURL: <http://slurl.com/secondlife/Montclair%20State%20CHSS/141/216/22>
Contact: Kadja Halfpint
Description:
URL: <http://library.montclair.edu/>

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) at Montclair bought the island in SL from NMC and put up the buildings as part of an online teaching and learning project. Kadja Halfpint is the SL name of Kathleen Hughes, the Head of Cataloging at Montclair State University, which is another point of rebirth and disorientation in SL. Everyone has to choose a new name for their avatar from the list of names offered by Linden Labs.

Other Sim listings can be confusing if you are not familiar with the owners of the island. For example, here is the listing for another New Jersey academic library, Kean University Library, where they are using land on the Cybrary City I island established by the Alliance Virtual Library in 2006:

Name: Kean University Library
Type: Academic Library
Sim: Cybrary City I
SLURL: <http://slurl.com/secondlife/Cybrary%20City/229/70/25>
Contact: Draconius Merlin
Description:
URL: <http://library.kean.edu/>

Many times, when you visit a site in SL, it will seem like a desert island. There are often no avatars present, especially if you visit during the daytime. That is why the calendar tab on the InfoIsland site is so important. The AVL Google calendar gives the place and time of many SL events and allows visitors to register for SL events sponsored by many organizations, such as the Renaissance Island meeting, the Cinco de Mayo Party at the Spanish Center on Info Island International, and many more events for cultural and educational interchange.

It is impossible to do anything meaningful in SL without engaging the community of users, which is another reason that the InfoIsland Directory is such an essential site for SL librarians. For example, when Montclair built its library on the CHSS Island, we borrowed the code for building the reference desk and reference librarian bot from the Kean University librarian, Draconius Merlin.

In addition to providing this SL directory and calendar resource, the AVL has teamed up with library schools and other organizations to give training

to newbie librarians and assist the in-world librarians in keeping up with SL developments. The current event featured at the InfoIsland Directory blog is an in-world conference on the Library Career Fair and Library Fair on May 8th, sponsored by the AVL.

The tabs on the InfoIsland blog also lead to many helpful sites, including the AVL catalog, which is a wiki index in alphabetical order, featuring such delights as the “Second Life Serials Collection,” which includes the *Metaverse Messenger*, the most popular and up-to-date news source in SL. The “Links” tab takes you to AVL podcasts and the AVL Flickr group with photos of in-world events, as well as the virtual reference Wiki and links to AVL partners, such as the New Media Consortium’s news site, the NMC Campus Observer.

There is a lot that can be lost in the wilderness of SL, and there is a lot of work for technical services librarians, especially catalogers, to do to help open the pathways for this new virtual world. For example, a lot of events are documented in Flickr photos, and they need metadata templates to help build the documentation of SL history. You will see the desperate need for improved indexing in a quick browse through the list of SL groups on Flickr (http://wiki.secondlife.com/wiki/List_of_all_Second_Life_Groups_on_Flickr.com).

There are other sites for finding information about libraries in SL, such as the ALA Island in SL (at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/alaislandinsecondlife/index.cfm>), but they are not updated as frequently as the AVL site.

I highly recommend the InfoIsland directory site, especially as a start-off point for finding your way through the libraries and educational sites in SL. It is updated frequently and religiously maintained by an avid community of librarians.

Rating: 4.5 out of 5

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