Thinking outside the search box: Redefining roles for catalogers in an academic library
Overview

- Cataloging department structure and changes
- Adapting to a changing landscape
- Current collaborative projects
- Future directions

Aerial view of campus, 1971: http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/u/?ui,52
2.47 million printed books, govdocs, microforms, musical scores
- 37,000 e-journals
- 331,000 e-books
- 370 databases
- Music Library
- Special Collections & University Archives
- Digital Collections
- Institutional repository - NC DOCKS

Collections at UNCG
Cataloging at UNCG - Then

- 6 professionals
- 11 paraprofessionals
- Temporary workers, practicum students, interns

Interior of Carnegie Library, 1941: http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/u?/ui,1350
Cataloging at UNCG - Now

- 4 professionals
- 8 paraprofessionals*
- Half-time temporary cataloger
- Student workers, practicum students, interns, volunteers
- Cataloging support from Acquisitions
Historically:
- Music
- Serials
- Special Collections
- Everything else (monographs / microforms)

Currently:
- Music
- Serials
- Special Collections
- Digital collections / electronic resources

Women’s College basketball team, 1910: http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/u?/ui,30
Increased support for electronic resources

Dual-department positions

- Electronic Resources and Information Technology
- Special Collections and University Archives
- Digital Projects

Aerial view of Tower Village 1 Residence Hall, 1995:
[http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/u?/ui,989](http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/u?/ui,989)
How did we get here?

- Budget cuts
- Retirements, turnover
- Library staffing realignment
- Increased need for digital collection support and skills
- Need to raise awareness of what catalogers can contribute

Construction of the Library, 1949: http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/u?/ui,690
Crosswalking and cross-training

- EAD
- Continuing education and conferences (archival and IT)
- Imaging training
Repurposing metadata

- Dublin Core “Cleanup”
- WorldCat Sync and WMS
- Recycling MARC data for newly-digitized but already-cataloged materials
Cataloging skills in new areas

- LC subject access for EAD finding aids in Archon
- Working on EAD and MARC simultaneously
- Metadata consultation for digital projects
Building on strengths

- The scrapbook project
  - Archivists (selection, description)
  - Catalogers (metadata creation and standardization)
  - IT/Digital Projects (imaging standards, metadata and discovery planning)
- Who acts as translator?
Challenges

- Terminology and “translation”
- Reporting structures
- Physical proximity and new means of communication

Aerial view of Jackson Library, 2000: http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/u/?/ui,1347
Benefits

- Learning opportunities for all!
- Design workflows and best practices
- Build relationships; set stage for future collaboration
- Learn new skills

Postcard of pageant characters on May Day, 1912: http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/u/?ui,1784
Teamwork is the assumption

- New positions will likely work in all three worlds to some extent
- Greenhouse Project graduate assistant position
  - Reports to Electronic Resources/IT (Digital Projects)
  - Works closely with Cataloging and Special Collections
  - All three departments collaborated on proposal and job description
Moving forward

- Collaborate
- Educate
- Demonstrate value

Architectural Drawing of Tower Village 1 Residence Hall, 1990:
http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/u?/ui,839
Any questions?