

Cataloging Norms Interest Group

ALA Annual 2021
Friday, June 25

Who We Are

Cataloging Norms Interest Group offers a forum for the exploration, communication, and exchange of ideas on the dynamics and evolution of cataloging/metadata norms and workflows. We encourage and seek out participation from anyone with an interest in cataloging – from public, academic, school, or special libraries – regardless of experience level or training.

Outgoing Chairs 2020–2021

Susan Martin
Middle Tennessee State
University

Alex Whelan
Columbia University

Incoming Chairs 2021–2022

Elisabeth Kaune
Marquette University

Elizabeth Rush
Northside Independent School
District

Bela Gupta (vice chair)
UMass, Dartmouth

Shuzhen Zhao (vice chair)
University of Windsor

Today's Program

Breakout Room 1:

Bridging the Gap: Balancing MARC and Non-MARC Workflows in the Workplace

Discussion facilitator: Alex Whelan, Columbia University

Breakout Room 2:

The Haunting of Cataloging Decisions Past: Migration and the Challenges of Data

Discussion facilitator: Susan Martin, Middle Tennessee State University

Bridging the Gap: Balancing MARC and Non-MARC Workflows in the Workplace

The long road towards BIBFRAME and digital browsing environments has seen many cataloging/metadata departments splitting staff time between description for the public catalog and description for digital collections materials. This often (but not always) results in dividing technical service labor between those working with traditional MARC cataloging and those implementing non-MARC workflows. As a result, a natural tension can arise among colleagues who are implementing different methodologies within the same team. The pressure for institutions to keep up with new and emerging trends can unintentionally prioritize recruitment and professional development around non-MARC expertise, even as fluency with MARC continues to be a necessity for current library management systems. This discussion hopes to ask - how do we bridge the gap across these different knowledge sets? We will center questions about staff communication, professional support, and division of labor within public, academic, and school libraries.

The Haunting of Cataloging Decisions Past: Migration and the Challenges of Data

As we move from library system to library system there is the inevitable challenge of migrating data and to do so cleanly as possible. This discussion will discuss the challenges of data migration and the impact of past cataloging policies and procedures on data. We'll explore the types of challenges and issues with the different types of data (bibliographic, holdings, item, MARC/Non-MARC), as well as the logistics of identifying and correcting data prior to migration. Finally, we'll touch on post-migration decisions and how one's migration experience might impact future policies and standards.

Breakout

Bridging the Gap: Balancing MARC and Non-MARC Workflows in the Workplace

- How are MARC/non-MARC workflows and processes represented within your department?
 - Defining MARC vs. “non-MARC”
 - How does your library balance these approaches? By material type? By project?
- Are the same or different people working with these processes?
 - Pre-existing skill sets vs. on-the-job training
 - Staff perspective vs. supervisor perspective

To speak aloud, please type “Next” in the chat and facilitators will call on you to un-mute

Bridging the Gap: Balancing MARC and Non-MARC Workflows in the Workplace

- How are new policies / trends communicated to staff for MARC vs. non-MARC catalogers?
 - Institutional? Does it fall to the individual?
- Are professional development opportunities different for MARC catalogers vs. non-MARC practitioners?
 - Support for new projects? Support for classes / training?
- What is the future for bridging the gap across traditional and novel approaches to resource description?
 - Institutional visibility? Individual hireability?

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Bridging the Gap Recap

Broad themes:



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The Haunting of Cataloging Decisions Past: Migration and the Challenges of Data

- Polls
- In thinking about your data and how you've cataloged over time, what are some of the challenges/issues that might be problematic during migration?
 - Is there one area that may prove to be more problematic than others? For example, holdings or item data might be more problematic as compared to bibliographic data
- Are you planning on doing major clean-up projects ahead of time?
 - If yes, how do you identify which ones would be most impactful?
 - Who will participate?
- After you migrate, are you planning on changing your policies or standards based on your migration experience?

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The Haunting of Cataloging Decisions Past Recap

Poll #1 Are you planning to migrate to a new library system?

Yes:

No:

Poll#2 For those answered YES, when are you planning to migrate?

Under 6 months

12 months

18 months

Over 18 months

Poll#3 For those who are migrating or plan to migrate, have you started on any data clean-up projects?

Yes, already started

No, still planning

No, we don't plan on doing any pre-migration clean-up

- [Insert here]
- [Insert here]
- [Insert here]
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