

LIBR 289 e-Portfolio
Fall 2008

Evidence for Competency G

LIBR 248 – Beginning Cataloging and Classification

Exam 1

March 17, 2006

2. Charles Ammi Cutter identified three objectives for a library catalog. I'd like you to briefly discuss two of them (your choice), telling me what the purpose of each is. Then, for each objective pick out a specific rule or practice from AACR2 that achieves that objective, explaining exactly how the rule makes the objective a reality.

Cutter's major contribution was that a catalog should be designed for the convenience of the user. As such a successful catalog must serve three objectives: the locational, the collocational, and the choice.

The Locational Objective – Its purpose is to enable a person to find a book for which either, the author, the title, or the subject is known. Usually a user would have something in mind with regards to starting their search such as the name a certain author, the title of an item, or the general theme or area of the search. A well developed catalog should assist the user in **locating** the item she is looking for.

Rule **1.1B1** in AACR2 exemplifies this objective. It deals with the Title Proper. For a user to quickly find the book *Wynar's Introduction to Cataloging and Classification* in a catalog, the title proper must be entered exactly as it is printed on the book down to the wording, order and spelling (even when misspelled!). This is what the user, knowing the title beforehand, will be looking for, so accurate transcribing is important.

The Collocational Objective - Its purpose is to show the library holdings by a given author, on a given subject, or on a given type of literature. This comes into play when a user has a vague (not specific) idea of something she wants to find. For example, the user wants to find what a library has on plant diseases. She isn't concerned about a specific disease or even an item's format. She just wants to see everything the library has on the subject. The catalog should assist her **collocating** a group of items for the user.

Rule **26.2C1** in ACCR2 exemplifies this objective. It deals with the Name-title references in the headings. This is particularly useful when a user to find all the works by an author who has different bibliographic identities. For example, Stephen King has also published works under the pseudonym Richard Bachman. For a user to find all of a library's holdings for Stephen King, there should be a cross-reference in the catalog that points to Richard Bachman.

King, Stephen
see also Bachman, Richard

3. Assume you know two things about a catalog record-

- 1) it was constructed using AACR2**
- 2) there are no []s around the title proper and other title information (i.e., subfields a and b of the 245 field).**

What conclusions may you draw about this information as it is recorded?

Field 245 concerns the title and statement of responsibility area of the bibliographic description of a work. Subfield a concerns the title and subfield b concerns the remainder of the title.

AACR2's rule 1.1B7 indicates that in the case an item lacks a chief source of information, the cataloger must supply a title from the rest of the item or elsewhere. Said supplied title should be enclosed in [brackets]. Furthermore, rule 25.2A indicates that a uniform title should also be enclosed in [brackets].

If this record doesn't have brackets around the title information, I can then conclude that the title portion of the record was obtained directly from the item (chief source of information) and it wasn't devised by the cataloger. As such it is the item's title proper but perhaps not the uniform title.

4. Serials cataloging is an..."interesting"...way to make a living. Lots of options and possibilities, and that can really be a stimulating professional challenge. Really. So consider this serials cataloging challenge. Consider a title like the World Almanac. Comes out once a year like clockwork. One option is to catalog the thing as a serial, another is to catalog each annual edition as a monograph. Give me one good reason to catalog the thing each way, and then tell me which way you'd catalog it and why.

It should be cataloged as a **Serial** because it is a publication produced in any format which is issued in successive parts (each part possessing a chronological or numeric designation) and is intended to be published indefinitely. As an annual publication it should be cataloged as a serial. It has been published annually for 137 and there is no end date in sight.

It should be cataloged as a **Monograph** because as an almanac it's an item consisting of one part or parts where publication is considered to be completed with a finite number of parts. Every yearly issue is a different part in itself.

I would catalog it as a **Monographic Series** because it is a group of separate items related to one another by the fact that each item bears, in addition to its own title proper, a collective title applying to the group as a whole (*The World Almanac and Book of Facts*). Each volume is a separate monograph in and out of itself. Yet collectively they belong to a series with the same collective title.

5. Is it possible to create an AACR2 record that is not in the MARC format? Is it possible to create a MARC record that is not in AACR2 format? What is the relationship between these two formats anyway?

Yes in both cases.

AACR2 (Anglo-American cataloging Rules) is basically a compilation of the rules of catalog description. It provides a harmonized and uniform blueprint for proper cataloging and it instructs catalogers on how to list and use terms, punctuation, spacing, abbreviations, etc. so that all records are cataloged uniformly.

MARC (Machine Readable Cataloging) provides the framework in a data storage/transmission format to apply the rules described in AACR2. It is basically how a catalog gets accessed by the user in an electronic environment.

So although a record listed in each format looks very differently, some essential information will be listed the same way.

6. "I say to-mate-oh, you say to-mah-toe..." AACR2 Chapter 22 says that we will call Joan of Arc Joan of Arc instead of Jeanne d'Arc. What guiding principle is at work in making that choice?

Rule 22.1A says that the catalog should list the name by which a person is most commonly known.

Rule 22.2A1 further says to use the name that most frequently appears in other reference sources.

Finally, and this is the guiding principle in this case, rule 22.3B3 says to choose the English form of a person's name for names written in the Roman alphabet and established in English form.

7. The uniform title for the Nutcracker ballet is Shchelkunchik. How is that uniform title going to benefit the typical English-speaking user of an American library catalog?

As rule 25.1A states, uniform titles provide the means for bringing together all catalog entries for identifying a work when the title by which it is known differs from the title proper of the item being cataloged.

For works created after 1500, rule 25.3A further states that the catalog should list the title in the original language has become known through use in manifestations of the work or reference sources.

Let's say, a catalog lists items under *The Nutcracker*. The catalog user would only see the items with this title and miss all the other items listed in a language other than English. Hence, why it is very helpful to establish one uniform title and cross-reference all other used forms of the title to it. In such a catalog, the user would then see something like this:

- Nutcracker -- see Tchaikovsky, Peter Ilich, 1840-1893. Shchelkunchik

This cross-reference to the uniform title would bring up all the works cataloged under this item regardless of language or wording. Using the uniform title in this case provides another collocation point gathering materials together for the user's benefit.

8. Here is a simple MARC authority record. Assume you download it into a garden-variety online system. What would be the resulting references that would display in the public catalog? NB: Please be sure that your answers are in complete format; e.g., "X see also Y" or "A see B". I cannot award full marks if you don't respond with full references!

100 Cotton, Gregory, 1957-

400 Cotton, Greg

See Cotton, Gregory, 1957-

400 Reggie

See Cotton, Gregory, 1957-

500 Capehart, John

See Also Cotton, Gregory, 1957-

500 Testerman, Arkansas

See Also Cotton, Gregory, 1957-

9. Here is a rather sloppily constructed pre-AACR2 bibliographic record. Assuming all of its data bits are correct (i.e., that the title statement is indeed an accurate transcription of that on the title page), create an AACR2 description. You may want to refer to the OCLC authority file to complete the record.

100 field: Tanner, Edward Everett, 1921-1976.

245 field: Auntie Mame; an irreverent escapade in biography, by Patrick Dennis.

250 field: First edition.

260 field: New York, Vanguard Press: c1955.

300 field: 280 pages, illustrations, 21 centimeters.

Auntie Mame : an irreverent escapade in biography / by Patrick Dennis [pseud.]. --1st ed.
-- New York : Vanguard Press, c1955.

280 p. : ill. ; 21 cm.

See Also Tanner, Edward Everett, 1921-1976

10. Congratulations! You have just been hired as technical services librarian for the brand-new, multi-million dollar Gregory M. Cotton Memorial Public (or Academic or School or Special--take your pick) Library. You are the envy of everyone who has just graduated. However, as you will find in the coming weeks, life is not a bed of roses at GMC MPL. The library board consists entirely of members of the Cotton family, a cantankerous and suspicious group. Your director (who never bothered with one of them-there degrees) is one of the worst Cottons to come down the pike. You may expect the board and your director to argue with most of your opinions; in fact, they will undoubtedly try to sabotage your every plan. Dear Cousin Gregory obviously took the easy way out.

You sit at your desk one month after being hired, chin glumly in hand. Your director has just made some rather disparaging comments (which you were undoubtedly meant to overhear) to members of the board and other library staff members concerning the work of those who catalog. Specifically, she said, "I can't see why we need to pay that new little devil that high-priced salary [Editorial aside: \$6.05 per hour!] to sit around here worrying about spaces and semicolons. Who cares about that anyway when the spine labels aren't getting stuck on straight? To tell the truth, all of this cataloging junk is something we could have a trained seal do."

In the space below, tell your director (whose name is Letitia) why careful bibliographic description and the rigid rules for creating descriptions are important. You may read "important" as benefiting the catalog user. Support your case with specific examples.

Now, Letitia, cataloging is rather important work. In this library alone there are thousands of items available to the public. If we didn't have everything properly accounted for and referenced, our users would have to resort to hours of directionless shelf-browsing, and wouldn't have a way of properly searching and locating the items they need.

Enter the catalog. This is a quick and easy way to locate items within our library. Better yet, it also gives the user a choice to select other items related to her original search. Each record in the catalog acts as a surrogate for an actual item. So Letitia, you see now why it is necessary to create authority records that are as accurate and descriptive as possible for the users' benefit.

Determining the descriptions of the items sounds easy enough but don't be fooled. For example, there are works that have been published under pseudonyms or titles in other languages. Our catalog needs to account for every possible variation that may occur to someone browsing the catalog...and that also needs to include name and title misspellings and even wrong variances of author names, not to mention the physical description of the items.

Let's say I published a book under my name, Mildred Arencibia. However, the publishing company misprinted it as Milfred Arencibia. To compound things, I have also

published previously under the pseudonym Madison Smith. A user that knows me only by this last name or saw only the book containing the misspelling would benefit from knowing what my correct or other publishing name is so she can get complete access to all of my work. That means that my pseudonym would also need its own authority record given that it is a valid name.

Similarly, our catalog needs to allow for different types of search entry since different users use different methods. One of those is Access Cataloging in which the user utilizes an access point (author, editor, composer, illustrator, title(s), etc) to find a record. But what about if the user only has a general knowledge of what she needs? Perhaps, she wants to find out what we have in the subject of crafts...In this case, each entry in the catalog needs to be further annotated with keywords, areas of knowledge and common used synonyms. That basically means yet more annotations, references and cross-references to be inserted in each record.

All in all, Letitia, all of our catalog entries need to be properly entered, annotated, referenced, and cross-referenced to each other in order to facilitate the user's browsing experience. As you probably realize by now, the level of usage of a library depends greatly on the strength of its cataloging system.