

Meeting summary for Cataloging Advisory Council (05/02/2024)

[Zoom summary, edited by Joe]

Present: Rob Carle (UHLS), Anne Coletta (BETH), Pam Jacobson (SNLK), Sue Dague (EGRN), Jane Feeney (BETH), Peggy Mello (COLN), Chris O'Brien (BETH), Lisa Thomas (BETH), Joe Thornton (UHLS), Kathleen Tyrrell (GUIL)

Quick recap

The team discussed proposals for the reclassification of the Dewey system, with Anne presenting concerns about the current system's limited representation of religious equity and a proposed alternative arrangement. They also discussed potential issues with the upcoming changes to the Library of Congress classification system and the impact of these changes on library collections and patrons. Lastly, they addressed problems with incorrect series headings, the transition to the WorldShare Management System, and the need for maintaining relationships with vendors for system updates.

Next steps

- Anne will send the discussion document about the new Dewey decimal classification system to the team for review and feedback.
- Rob will follow up with Sacramento to determine if they are still making the Z3950 catalog records accessible to other public libraries and to identify any issues or changes.

Dewey Reclassification Proposal Discussion

The main topic of discussion was about a proposal by Anne regarding the reclassification of Dewey, which was the only item on the agenda. Joe decided to wait for Sue to join the meeting before proceeding with the discussion.

Dewey 2000 Classification System Challenges Discussed

Anne voiced her concerns about the Dewey 2000 classification system's limited representation of religious equity, with particular emphasis on the exclusion of non-Christian religions. She introduced an optional arrangement proposed by Jen Green, which categorizes the 2000s based on geographical regions and time periods, and shared that two libraries had successfully implemented this system. Anne also presented a significant project of reclassifying 2,500 audiobooks and DVDs, using a crosswalk to transfer Dewey call numbers, and mentioned that the Springfield City Library had initiated a similar project. Joe expressed interest in these initiatives and inquired about the audience's reaction to the presented work, to which Anne confirmed it received a positive response.

Database Cleanup and Decision-Making Process

Anne presented the tips of a library that had conducted a database cleanup, run workshops, and created a pull list. Joe raised concerns about potential risks and the need for a national standard, while Kathleen mentioned the potential of making gaps in the collection more obvious. Sue suggested that the decision to adopt such a system should be based on what best serves the local community. Anne clarified that the Dewey decimal system is maintained by OCLC.

Library of Congress Classification System Changes

Sue discussed the upcoming changes to the Library of Congress classification system, which may involve a shift from the current Dewey system to a new approach possibly related to Bibframe. Kathleen clarified that while the traditional Dewey classification would still be supported, an alternative 200 classification would also be available. The impact of these changes was discussed, with Joe suggesting they could be library-by-library decisions. Anne, Peggy, and others expressed concern about how patrons would navigate the new system, particularly if it involved moving shelves around.

Library Classification System Concerns

Joe, Anne, Peggy, Sue, and Pam discussed the classification and organization of books within their library system. Sue emphasized that local decisions regarding library classifications have been made over time based on what best serves their patrons. Peggy raised a concern about potential issues if a new classification system is introduced, as it might cause discrepancies between libraries. Sue agreed, pointing out that multiple 082s in the records indicate differing cataloger decisions. The team agreed that catalogers should carefully consider the items they categorize to avoid such discrepancies.

Library Collections, Book Arrangements, and Programs

Anne raised a concern about smaller libraries potentially confusing their collections by using optional book arrangements. Joe suggested discussing this further and considering it as a potential project. Peggy mentioned a new collection at Colonie, where they started a "Lucky Day" program for high demand, non-requestable items. This initiative, which was launched with 50-55 items, saw 10 items disappear within five days, indicating high interest. The team discussed the challenges of displaying these items and Sue brought up the need for clarification about the borrowing process at Colonie.

Series Headings, Cataloging Challenges, and Transition

The team discussed incorrect series headings in the 800 field, with a focus on the inclusion of a 'relator term' in the 100 field, which they agreed was incorrect. They

speculated that a new cataloger at *SkyRiver* might be causing these issues. The team also discussed the transition of libraries from OCLC's Catexpress to the WorldShare Management System, and the challenges of identifying the creators of records in the new system. Lastly, they highlighted the recurring problem of additional, incorrect information being added to subject headings, particularly in relation to children's graphic novels.

Addressing Resource Issues and Relationships

Rob reported a communication issue with Z39.50 at Sacramento, and the team discussed the value of this resource and potential alternatives. Sue confirmed her appreciation for their records, while Rob decided to wait for a response from Sacramento before taking further action due to the possibility of service discontinuation. The team also considered reaching out to other library systems for their use of the Z39.50 protocol and IP accessibility. They emphasized the importance of maintaining relationships with vendors like Salesforce and agreed to continue using the Server Directory list on Google for system updates.