

Meeting summary for Cataloging Advisory Council (08/07/2025)

[Zoom summary edited by Joe]

In attendance: Rob Carle (UHLS), Joe Thornton (UHLS), Lisa Bouchard (EGRN), Anne Coletta (BETH), Chris O'Brien (BETH), Lisa Thomas (BETH), Sarah Kerr-Mace (MEND), Pam Jacobson (SNLK), Carrie Allmendinger (TROY), Stephanie Anderson (APL), Jane Feeney (BETH)

Quick recap

The meeting began with casual conversation before addressing concerns about SkyRiver overlay problems and ISBN hyperlink issues in the cataloging system. The team discussed the handling of ISBNs for different book formats and the importance of careful record review during batch imports. The group concluded by exploring the need for a new Material Type to categorize chip-enabled items like Yotos and Tonies, while also discussing challenges with Blu-ray and DVD collections and the potential use of Amazon's MARC records for library materials.

Next steps

- All cataloging staff: Delete all standard numbers that aren't related to the item in hand before importing records from SkyRiver.
- All cataloging staff: Delete LOC hyperlinks in Author Fields and Title Fields when importing from SkyRiver.
- All cataloging staff: Ensure only the ISBN for the physical item in hand is included in the MARC record before importing.
- UHLS: Continue removing hyperlinks from author fields using global update.
- Joe: Follow up with Rob regarding East Greenbush's request for a new Material Type for Yoto cards.
- Joe: Investigate the feasibility of adding a new Material Type for Yoto cards.
- Joe: Consider whether a more general Material Type that could include both Yoto cards and similar items would be appropriate.
- Joe: Add the new Material Type in Sierra once there is agreement on the name.
- Lisa B.: Consult with Marion and Amy about naming suggestions for the new Material Type that would accommodate both Yoto cards and Tony figurines.
- Lisa B.: Share the naming suggestions for the new "chip-enabled" Material Type with the cataloging email list.
- Lisa B.: Ask Amy about packaging methods used by other libraries for Yoto cards.
- Lisa B.: Ask Amy about what type of packaging other libraries in the United States use for Yoto cards.

- Stephanie: Email libraries that have incorrectly cataloged Vox books or Wonder books as audiobook CDs to update their Material Type to "audio enabled reader."
- Stephanie: Share the Amazon link for hotspot bags in the catalogers email.
- Stephanie: Include Anne on the email with the hotspot bag link.
- Stephanie: Post information about Amazon's MARC record service for libraries.
- Stephanie: Post information about how to access MARC records through Amazon business accounts for libraries.
- East Greenbush: Finalize packaging decisions for Yoto cards.
- Team: Discuss the DVD/Blu-ray labeling issue at the next meeting.
- Libraries: Decide individually whether to use a new Material Type for Yoto cards or continue cataloging them as equipment if a new Material Type is created.

Summary

SkyRiver Overlay Discussion

Stephanie raised concerns about issues in SkyRiver, specifically overlay problems and excessive hyperlinks that need editing before importing. The group discussed the SkyRiver overlay issue, with Lisa B. requesting a larger font size for better visibility. Joe announced that the meeting would start at 9:35, and they planned to address the SkyRiver late entry and a new Material Type after the break.

ISBN and Link Management Discussion

The team discussed issues with ISBNs and hyperlinks in their cataloging system. Stephanie explained how they are dealing with overlapping records and editing ISBNs in SkyRiver before import. Rob emphasized the importance of carefully reviewing records, especially when importing in batch, and suggested removing unnecessary hyperlinks from the author field. The group agreed that some hyperlinks are useful, particularly for device instructions and museum passes, but extra LC hyperlinks should be removed.

ISBN Management for Library Cataloging

Stephanie explained the process of handling ISBNs for different book formats, particularly focusing on how libraries manage hardcover and paperback editions of the same title. She noted that libraries like Bethlehem and Guilderland prefer to keep these formats separate in their cataloging to better organize their collections and maintain series integrity. Stephanie emphasized that catalogers should only include the ISBN of the specific item they have in hand to avoid overlay issues and make it easier for

selectors to link Material Types in the future. The discussion also touched on challenges with duplicate ISBNs from vendors like Ingram and the importance of accurate format tracking for ordering purposes.

SkyRiver Record Management Discussion

Stephanie and Chris discussed issues with record overlays in SkyRiver, emphasizing the need for careful attention before importing or exporting records to avoid overriding previous work. Joe mentioned a request for a new Material Type from East Greenbush, which Anne explained was related to adding Yoto cards as equipment due to their functionality and storage considerations. The group discussed the rarity of creating new Material Types. Lisa B shared with the group that Marion Pierson (EGRN Head of Borrower Services) and she discussed how the bibliographic records for Yoto audiobooks from SkyRiver had a Material Type for Audiobook CD, which is incorrect. They also talked about circulation statistics and wanting patrons to be sure they are getting the right format they have requested.

Yoto Cards Material Type Discussion

The group discussed the need to create a separate Material Type for Yoto cards, which are audio book cards that can be played on a Yoto player or a smartphone app. Lisa B. stated that this was necessary for proper circulation statistics and patron access, as Yoto cards have complete MARC records like other audio books. Joe explained that while there is no limit to the number of Material Types in Sierra, adding a new one would be a major change that might affect other libraries. The group agreed that location codes would be a better way to track circulation statistics for Yoto cards, as Item Types are not recommended for this purpose.

Yoto Card Material Type Discussion

The group discussed the need for a new Material Type for Yoto cards, with Lisa B. and Anne noting that libraries have the choice to use Yoto records or continue circulating Yotos and Tonies as equipment. Joe raised concerns about creating a new Material Type for every emerging format, suggesting that patrons would likely use keyword searches to find Yotos. The group also discussed the existing Material Type "audio enabled book" for vox books and wonder books, with Stephanie clarifying how it appears in the system.

Chip-Enabled Items Classification Discussion

The group discussed creating a new Material Type to categorize chip-enabled items like Yotos and Tonies, which are interactive cards and figures that link to websites or apps.

Stephanie suggested developing a blanket description for these items, while Lisa B. agreed to consult with Marion and Amy for more specific naming options. Joe emphasized that the new Material Type should accommodate future similar items and not just Yotos and Tonies. The team decided to further consider the naming and agreed to post ideas to the cataloging email list once they reach a consensus.

Yoto Card Packaging Solutions

The group discussed packaging options for Yoto cards, with Lisa B. and Anne exploring various containers including CD cases, DVD cases, and wallets. Stephanie shared information about using thin plastic bags with gorilla tape for hotspots, and offered to share a link to these bags with the catalogers email group. The conversation also covered Amazon's new offering of MARC records for library business accounts, which Stephanie explained could be useful for cataloging local history books and self-published works.

Blu-Ray and DVD Collection Challenges

The group discussed challenges with Blu-ray and DVD collections, particularly the confusion caused by Blu-rays being shelved with DVDs due to historical cataloging practices. Stephanie explained that while patrons often mistake Blu-rays for DVDs, a full reorganization of the collection across seven branches would be too resource-intensive. The team agreed to address this issue in their upcoming patron survey about viewing habits, and Stephanie will check with Tom about potentially using extra Blu-ray cases for Yoto cards. Joe mentioned an earlier email discussion about removing old bibliographic items from Sierra, which will be discussed further at the next meeting.