

## **Meeting summary for Cataloging Advisory Council (09/04/2025)**

**[Zoom summary edited by Joe]**

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

### **Quick recap**

The meeting began with informal discussions and personal updates among participants before transitioning to cataloging system issues and Material Type classifications. The group addressed concerns about incorrect Material Type categorizations in the catalog, particularly for maps, atlases, and graphic novels, while discussing the need for accurate and consistent cataloging practices. The conversation ended with updates on the new [Discover.uhls.org](https://discover.uhls.org) platform launch and discussions about expanding cataloging training opportunities, including potential professional development courses.

### **Next steps**

- Rob: Clean up Material Type designations for maps in the catalog system, reviewing records individually rather than batch editing.
- Joe: Clean up the Material Type classification issues.
- Rob: Add information on Material Types to the Upper Hudson training area on the website.
- Rob: Address Material Type designation in future training sessions, emphasizing the importance of not overriding existing records.
- Stephanie/APL team: Continue using serials format for appropriate materials like "For Dummies" series and items with edition statements.
- Stephanie: Work with her team on proper cataloging of light novels, ensuring they have the correct Material Type while determining appropriate location codes.
- Stephanie: Ensure light novels have appropriate subject headings that don't include "graphic novel" but include relevant information in the summary field.
- Stephanie: Work with Lisa Pitkin to help clean up APL's serials records.
- Xiao Fei and Tom: Continue rewriting APL's internal instructions for cataloging.

## **Summary**

### **Material Classification and Cataloging Standards**

The meeting focused on discussing Material Types and their proper classification in the cataloging system. Rob shared a spreadsheet detailing map Material Types and their qualifications for the 300 field. Stephanie raised concerns about the accuracy of using "Atlas" as a Material Type, noting that not all items labeled as such are traditional atlases. The group agreed that Material Types should be determined on a case-by-case basis rather than through batch editing. Stephanie also requested that UHLS add information about Material Types to the Upper Hudson training area on their website for easier access.

### **Catalog Classification and Data Accuracy**

Stephanie raised concerns about incorrect Material Type categorizations in the catalog, particularly the misclassification of the National Geographic Kids World Atlas as a map instead of a book, which has led to data inconsistencies. UHLS acknowledged the issue and committed to reviewing and cleaning up the records, using discretion to ensure accurate categorization. Stephanie also emphasized the importance of consistent serials records, noting that APL uses serials for ordering and continuations, and requested that other libraries not attach serial designations to APL records. The discussion highlighted the need for ongoing cataloging training, with Stephanie mentioning plans to update internal instructions and potentially involve Lisa Pitkin for serials expertise.

### **Cataloging Graphic Novels and Light Novels**

Stephanie discussed the complexities of cataloging graphic novels, manga, and light novels, highlighting the need for accurate Material Types and subject headings. She explained that light novels, which are gaining popularity at APL, should be cataloged as books but may have specific location codes for easy access. Stephanie also shared insights from recent webinars and Anime NYC, emphasizing the importance of understanding different formats and cultural nuances in graphic novels.

### **Improving Manga Cataloging Practices**

Stephanie discussed challenges with cataloging manga series, explaining how current cataloging practices can make it difficult for patrons to find specific series by linking them incorrectly with publisher imprints. She described how Vega's new system will improve series linking by pulling data from different parts of the MARC record, making it easier for patrons to find related books. Stephanie emphasized the importance of

proper cataloging training and ongoing record cleanup, noting that graduate students are helping with backend cataloging tasks to improve accuracy.

### **Cataloging Training Expansion Discussion**

The group discussed expanding cataloging and technical services training opportunities, with Stephanie proposing the idea of offering professional development courses that could count toward public librarian certification requirements. Joe agreed to explore the possibility of providing CE certificates for basic cataloging training and suggested creating a list of potential training topics for further discussion. The group also discussed sharing information about online CE opportunities and webinars with the cataloging list. Finally, Joe agreed to look into the status of the old Billed Items project that had been previously discussed with library directors.

### **Library Platform Launch and Feedback**

Joe announced the launch of [Discover.uhls.org](https://discover.uhls.org), a new platform for library patrons to search, place requests, and view fines and checkouts. He noted that while the platform is functional, it still needs further development, including fleshing out the main interface and allowing each library to have its own branded page. Stephanie expressed excitement about the potential of the platform for readers' advisory and suggested libraries consider how to configure their individual pages to enhance patron engagement. Joe mentioned that more resources and information about configuring the platform would be shared soon, and he encouraged attendees to test the site and provide feedback.