

## **YOUR LIBRARY CATALOG AND MORE – UNLEASHING YOUR CATALOG’S POWER FOR PATRONS STATEWIDE**

**By Carol Bradsher  
MORE Implementation Consultant**

Moving Ohio Resources Everywhere (MORE), the statewide resource sharing project, became a reality on January 30, 2002. On this Wednesday, seven libraries started sharing materials as the initial group of MORE pioneers. As this article is written, we have 31 school and public libraries participating in the statewide virtual catalog and sharing materials. Additional information about the MORE project, including current participants, can be found at the website: <http://www.moreforohio.org>



While statewide resource sharing impacts staff who normally perform traditional interlibrary-loan functions, it also has an impact on technical service staff, or, more accurately stated, technical service staff have an impact on the statewide resource sharing process because of the role library catalogs play in providing access to the collection of a library.

During the initial phases of the project, as library catalogs were configured into the network and the MORE implementation team tested resource sharing scenarios, it became apparent that the bibliographic information in library catalogs influenced the resource sharing process. The team identified several criteria necessary in bibliographic records to facilitate searching and requesting among different library catalogs. Here are some things your library can do that can help Ohio library patrons easily identify and request library materials:

- ◆ Add 007 fields to non-print records
- ◆ Enter ISBNs in bibliographic records
- ◆ Use standard specific material designations
- ◆ Ask your automated system vendor to support publisher number searches

## Add 007 fields to non-print records

007 fields are used to provide information about the physical characteristics of an item. In the MARC21 format the 007 is comprised of several single letter codes strung together and is difficult to interpret by the human eye. 007 fields were not designed to be used by humans; they are designed to be manipulated by the computer and can be used to identify formats. 007 fields will be used in a future MORE software release to clearly label formats so the patron can quickly identify the format of an item when requesting. We can use information in the 007 field, as well as the MARC21 fixed field (Type and Repr) to identify formats such as large print, book on tape, VHS video, DVD, e-book, etc. and to display these labels with the bibliographic records.

Here's a sample MARC21 007 field for a VHS video:

007 vf-cbahou

Please note that your automated system may display the 007 field differently. In OCLC MARC format the 00 through 08 positions correspond to subfields \$a through \$i in the 007 field.:

What this means:

Position	Description	Code
00	Category	v = videorecording
01	Specific material designation	f = videocassette
02	(no longer used)	- = blank [MARC revision]
03	Color	c = color
04	video format	b = VHS format
05	sound on medium or separate	a = sound is present on the medium (i.e. the videotape)
06	medium for sound	h = medium for sound is a videotape
07	dimensions	o = ½ in. size tape
08	configuration of playback	u = unknown type of sound channels

Information for coding the 007 fields (they are amazingly easy to create) can be found on the Library of Congress MARC website at <http://lcweb.loc.gov/marc/bibliographic>

## Enter ISBNs in bibliographic records, when applicable

The software used by MORE uses ISBNs to identify alike items in different library catalogs. When a patron searches and places a request, the software takes the ISBN from the bibliographic record identified by the patron and searches all participating catalogs to build a list of libraries who own the item (called the "rotas"). The request is then forwarded down this list until a library with an available copy responds. When your library catalogs an item, adding its ISBN to the MARC record will help the MORE software build complete rotas and help patrons get requested items quickly.

If your library puts hardback and paperback books on the same record, enter the ISBN for each one (in separate 020 fields). Many nonprint items (such as videos, book on tape, CD-ROMs) have ISBNs, so

please check each item for its ISBN and enter it in the MARC record. Older books have SBNs (Standard Book Numbers; 9 digits), so when entering these remember to add a zero to the beginning of the number.

Some items do not and will never have ISBNs (such as musical cassettes and compact discs) and we are working with our software vendor to develop more inclusive rota-building criteria.

### **Use standard specific material designations in the 300 fields of your MARC records**

Specific material designations are found in the 300 field (physical description) of the MARC record and are used to identify the specific format of an item. For example, the specific material designation for a VHS video is "videocassette" so the 300 field for a VHS video looks something like this: 1 videocassette (90 min.) : \$b sd., col. ; \$c ½ in.

Some of the more frequently used specific material designations are listed below. They are found in AACR2, Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, 2nd ed.

<b>Format</b>	<b>Specific material designation</b>	<b>AACR2 Chapter</b>
Books	p. [for pages]	Ch. 2, sect. 2.5
Books	leaves [spelled out, not abbreviated]	Ch. 2, sect. 2.5
VHS video	videocassette	Ch. 7, sect. 7.5
DVD video	videodisc	Ch. 7, sect. 7.5
Book on cassette	sound cassette	Ch. 6, sect. 6.5
Book on CD	compact disc	Ch. 6, sect. 6.5
CD-ROM	computer optical disc	Ch. 9, sect. 9.5
Floppy disk	computer disk	Ch. 9, sect. 9.5

Using the standard specific material designation helps patrons search for particular formats. The MORE software supports several types of searches, including a description search that indexes the 300 field of the MARC record. A patron can combine a description search with another search, such as author and title, to specify a more precise match. For example, a patron can search by author for the term "gable, clark" and title, "gone with the wind" plus description "videocassette" to retrieve only the VHS video records matching the author and title search criteria. Because the software uses Z39.50 as its searching mechanism, searching by description is the only way that a user can specify the format of an item.

### **More about Z39.50 searching**

Z39.50 is an information standard used for searching different library catalogs or databases. It was developed in the mid-1980s and is used extensively. The software used for the MORE statewide resource sharing system uses Z39.50 to connect different library catalogs so users can search them quickly and easily. Z39.50 made the MORE project possible without requiring libraries to migrate to a common statewide library system. Z39.50 makes it possible for users to search different library catalogs without having to know search commands and syntax for individual library systems, or the URLs of their web catalogs. Z39.50 presents a single search interface to the user.

While Z39.50 is a standard, it does not mean that all library catalogs treat searches the same way. Each automated system has its own Z39.50 interface that specifies which searches can be supported and how searches are handled. For example, both DRA and Epixtech support a title keyword search in their respective Z39.50 interfaces. However, DRA handles a title keyword search differently from Epixtech. If

a user searches the title, "They died crawling" and puts in the title keywords "died crawling," both DRA and Epixtech will retrieve the record. However, if the user searches the words in any order, such as "crawling died," only the Epixtech system will retrieve the record because of the difference between the Z39.50 interfaces of the two systems. The Epixtech Z39.50 interface will support a title keyword search in any order; DRA only supports title keyword in traditional left-to-right searching order.

These differences in the types of searches supported mean that results will vary in a Z39.50 search and because of this fact; the MORE system breaks searching and requesting into two separate processes. The user does not have to find the desired item in every library catalog; only one record is needed to initiate the request. After the user identifies the needed item, the software takes the ISBN from the identified record and searches all catalogs in the MORE system. The ISBN search in a Z39.50 interface is pretty reliable and returns hits more consistently than author and title information. Because of the variance in types of searches supported by Z39.50 interfaces and problems with building a rota for nonprint items, especially music, this leads to another point that libraries can help with:

### **Ask your automated system vendor to support a publisher number search in their Z39.50 interface**

For items that do not have an ISBN, such as musical sound recordings, a publisher number (found in the 028 field of the MARC record) is an excellent matching criterion. Publisher numbers are also found in videos and scores. The MORE software could easily build rotas for non-print items if it could search and match by publisher number, which is a Z39.50 search option. However, not many vendors support a publisher number search in their Z39.50 interface. In your next conversation with your automated system vendor, ask them about their plans to include a publisher number search in their Z39.50 searching interface. At the very least, educate public service staff at your library about publisher number searches (if your automated system supports it currently) so they can search for requested AV items easily in your library catalog.

These four points are relatively simple and easy to accomplish. Your library's cooperation and effort in this area will help the MORE statewide requesting system get off to a smooth start. It is widely known that catalogers wield unfathomable power—unleash a little of it and help Ohio library patrons discover the resources of their libraries!



### **WITH THIS ISSUE ...**

*TechKNOW* becomes "A Quarterly *Review* of Bright Ideas" instead of just a newsletter. Why the change, and what does it mean?

Recently a new unified public relations "brand" was created for OLC. The new OLC logo on this newsletter is part of that transition. Out of that process also came a more narrow definition what a division newsletter is, and what it looks like, and *TechKNOW* no longer fit that definition. Instead of changing *TechKNOW* to make it more like the other division newsletters, we decided it was time to



recognize how very different *TechKNOW* is by no longer referring to it as a newsletter. This decision gives us the freedom to grow *TechKNOW* to meet your needs, without being bound by rules that don't really apply to the function of the publication.

For the future this means the same timely, quality content, sitting in a slightly different shell. We will continue to publish the newsletter in PDF form on the web, but now there are no longer length limitations, and we can include photographs and other graphics.

I am pleased that OLC has made this decision, and look forward to continuing to provide you with the best *quarterly review* that I can.

**Margaret Maurer**  
**Editor**



## **FORMAT FUNDAMENTALS : MUSICAL SOUND RECORDINGS.**

**by Georgianne Balcas Doyle**  
**Catalog Department Manager, Cuyahoga County Public Library**

When discussing music sound recording cataloging, we need to remember that performing good music cataloging requires a fairly comprehensive knowledge of music and an understanding of musical styles and forms. That knowledge allows a cataloger to create the descriptive cataloging, assign subject headings, and develop an appropriate classification number. Once this information is established, the MARC format can be completed.

What we refer to in OCLC MARC records as Fixed Fields corresponds to character positions in the Leader, Directory and 008 field in the MARC21 format. The Type of Record code, position 06 of the MARC21 Leader, formerly the "Type" fixed field, is "j" for musical sound recordings. If using OCLC MARC, use the Type J workform.

The first place that one's music knowledge is needed is in coding the 008 field, position 18-19 (Form of Composition in OCLC). If the recording consists of only 1 form, use the 2-letter code for that form. Lists of these forms are available at <http://www.oclc.org/bib/comp.htm> and at <http://lcweb.loc.gov/marc/bibliographic/ecbd008s.html#mrcb008m>. If there is more than one form on a recording, code this as "mu" (multiple forms), and enter all of the appropriate codes in the 047 field.

When selecting the Main Entry (100 field) remember to follow *AACR2r* Chapters 21 & 25, as well as all of the *Library of Congress Rule Interpretations* (LCRI) and *Music Cataloging Decisions* (MLA, 1992). The variables are one composer vs. two or more composers, and whether or not a recording has a collective title.

The format of the 240 Uniform Title field is dependent upon the choices made for author and title formation (100 field and 245 field). For information about creating music uniform titles, see: <http://www.uwm.edu/~mll/uteach.html> or [http://www.music.indiana.edu/tech\\_s/mla/ut.gui](http://www.music.indiana.edu/tech_s/mla/ut.gui)

In the 245 Title field, use the gmd "[sound recording]" in subfield \$h, following the title proper.

In the 300 Physical Description field, record the Extent of Item in subfield \$a, entered as "1 sound disc" for CDs and "1 sound cassette" for cassettes. For Other Physical Details (subfield \$b) use "analog" or "digital" for the recording process. The Dimensions are recorded in \$c as "4 ¾ in." for CDs. For example:

300 \$a 1 sound disc : \$b digital ; \$c 4 ¾ in.

The 5xx Notes field should be entered in the following order:

Manufacturer's number

Artistic form and medium of performance

Language of sung or spoken text (tag as 546)

Source of title proper

Variations in title.

Parallel titles and other title information

Statements of responsibility (Libretto by)

Performers (tag as 511)

Performed on original instruments

Edition and history:

Reissue of ... [give label and number]

Previously issued on ... [give label and number]

Ed(s). recorded:

Recorded in ... (tag as 518)

Digitally remastered from ...

Publication, distribution:

Coproduction of ...

Distributed by ...

Licensed from ...

Label on container [giving distributor, etc.] ...

Imprint on container ...

Limited ed.

Physical description

Compact disc. (should be tagged as 500 *not* 538 (system details note))

In two containers

Durations: ...

Accompanying material

Series

Dissertation

Audience

Other formats available

Contents (tag as 505)

Copy being described, library's holdings, and restrictions on use (tag as 590)

6xx Subject Headings is another place where a solid knowledge of music is needed. Headings should be assigned based on the uniform title(s) in the 240 and \$t of 700s. For a good comparison of music uniform titles and subject headings, see: <http://www.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/utshcomp.htm>

700 Personal Name Added Entries with \$t Uniform Titles should be made for compositions not covered in the 100/240, or for analytical entries. Use the Indiana University website or the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee site referenced above to construct these.

7xx Added Entries should also be made for prominent performers and unique titles to be traced.

That, in brief, is what you need for formatting music sound recording bibliographic information.



## ***HEAR YE! HEAR YE! HEAR YE! DDC ERROR LIST ESTABLISHED!***

**By Ian Fairclough, Catalog Librarian, Marion Public Library**

What do you do with those Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) numbers in LC bibliographic records and OCLC member copy? If you have a Library of Congress-classed collection, presumably you ignore them! But if your collection is DDC-classed, chances are that you use the DDC number to provide a call number.

How do you go about the task? What if the number has an error? Worse – what if you don't know about the error?

Ideally you are verifying each number in the DDC schedules (either in the print format or in WebDewey) and making sure that the number assigned is indeed properly formulated for the work. If not, you are accepting numbers without verifying them and this is not a recommended procedure.

Any working cataloger may report a suspected error in a Dewey number in a Library of Congress record to LC's Decimal Classification Division at [dewey@loc.gov](mailto:dewey@loc.gov). If the number is in fact correct, you'll receive a tactfully worded reply. Otherwise they'll thank you, correct the record, and redistribute it, not just to OCLC, but to all agencies that receive LC records.

There is also a new way for you to learn about errors that have been discovered by other catalogers and reported back to the Library of Congress for correction. I have established the *Dewey Error Notification List* to distribute information about corrected DDC numbers, maintained for those who wish to be advised of such situations. For the present this is a private list, created using the Microsoft Outlook program. To subscribe, simply send an email message to Ian Fairclough at [ifairclough@marion.lib.oh.us](mailto:ifairclough@marion.lib.oh.us) and you will be added to the list. You can also send a copy of your correspondence with LC to me and I will forward it to others on the *Dewey Error Notification List* so that they may benefit from your work.

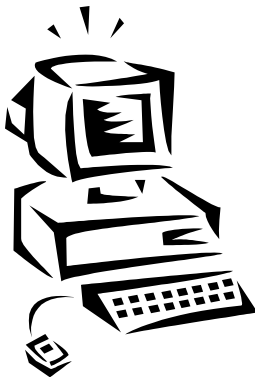


Challenge. This word reminds me of a portion in the movie "Tap," where a circle of great tap dancers challenges Gregory Hines. They grin as they face each other and step into the circle to offer their own special beat with their tap-dancin' feet. The energy and passion of their love for the dance rises along with a sense of appreciation for uniqueness and creative rhythm patterns.

Challenges in life don't often bring a smile to our faces, but perhaps they should. Some of our greatest challenges can bring out the best in us as we work through the situation, problem, or trial. Like the dancers in "Tap," if we find the right timing, or rhythm we may be able to create something new. Creativity can turn problems into solutions.

In the movie, Gregory Hines had grown up in his father's tap dance studio among the legends of their time. Perhaps I feel a little like Gregory Hines as I am surrounded by so many "greats" in the library community. I've learned from others who have been willing to share their expertise, their experience, and their wealth of knowledge. My mentors have faced challenges and learned from them. I find that greatly encouraging. When my challenges appear overwhelming, I try to remember the success of others and follow their examples.

Learning from the experience of others can reduce stress, save time, and ease the burden of reinventing the wheel. There are individuals in our library community who have faced challenges, found solutions, and are willing to share. It's good to be involved in the library community. When the challenge is too great, call someone. "Dance the dance" and face the challenge, together.



***Jennifer Bull  
Supervisor & Head  
Cataloger  
Ashland Public  
Library***





## **DIVISION CANDIDATES UNVEILED**

OLC Technical Services Division elections will take place in July and once again the division has put together a wonderful group of candidates. Here's your opportunity to learn what's important to each and every one of them - before your ballot arrives from OLC.



### **Running for Incoming Coordinator:**

**Bonnie Doecker, Assistant Director for Technical Services, Dayton & Montgomery County Public Library**

*I think the Technical Services Division should lead with its heart. We know that technical services staff require special training. The Technical Services Division should promote appropriate education and should provide training opportunities. We believe that technical services issues are often misunderstood in the wider library community. The Technical Services Division should help explain our issues and advance our work. We recognize that Ohio needs a supportive and connected technical services community. The Technical Services Division should help grow that community.*

**Sevim McCutcheon (Tsardoulis), Head of Technical Services, Tuscarawas County Public Library.**

*I think the Technical Services Division should work to provide continuing education to technical services staff at a variety of levels, from relatively inexperienced to experienced. I believe that communication with public services staff and an understanding of our respective roles in a library is important, because it leads to better service to patrons.*

### **Running for Secretary:**

**Susanne Nirschl Cogar, Head of Technical Services, Barberton Public Library**

*I think the Technical Services Division should continue with the good work that has been done in the past few years. However, this is no time to get complacent. The division should continue to promote technical services as a career choice within library science, and to help others who work in libraries become aware of what technical services does. We should also continue to reach out to those who need training and information about working in the area of technical services by offering workshops and publishing newsletter articles that address a variety of topics including, but not limited to, processing, management, cataloging, and internal customer service. Last, but not least, let us continue to make our voices heard and our needs known in OLC and in the library community.*



**Laura Salmon, Librarian, Technical and Automated Services, Akron-Summit County Public Library**

*I would like to see the Technical Services Division should promote more interaction among public service and technical service librarians, since libraries depend on both areas of library service working together. I also think that the division should continue to emphasize training and communication among technical service librarians around the state, especially with the recent and impending changes in cataloging rules, new software options available from OCLC, and other technical service issues.*

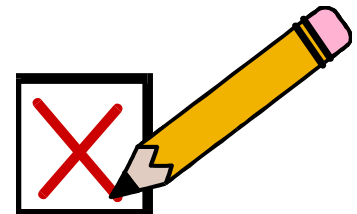
**Running for Action Council:**

**Jennifer Kolmes, Assistant Manager, Catalog Division, Columbus Metropolitan Library**

*I think the Technical Services Division should assume a proactive role in defining the evolution of library services. We need to listen to the needs of our members and the general public, to inform ourselves of developments in technology, and to make---and help others make---sound decisions regarding the utilization of our resources. We must create a vision of desirable outcomes and, at the same time, keep a wary eye on our competitors as we lead Ohio's public libraries into the twenty-first century.*

**Beth Milburn, Cataloger, Greene County Public Library.**

*I think the Technical Services Division should provide more programming and training for all areas of technical services. This would enable all personnel, professional and non-professional, to be kept up to date on the latest procedures and technologies.*



**Jane Myers, Cataloger, Westlake Porter Public Library**

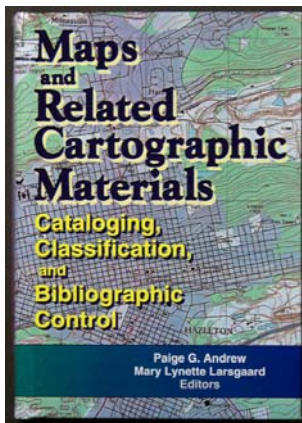
*I think the Technical Services Division should work to better communications between the technical services departments in our libraries and the rest of the staff. Many of our OLC workshops contribute to this goal. However, I would also like to see programs at workshops that would further our own professional development and skills.*

**Linda Roberts, Technical Services Manager, Worthington Libraries**

I think the Technical Services Division should provide continuing education opportunities to help libraries manage their resources in this period of uncertain library funding. It is especially important to serve the needs of smaller libraries - public and academic - that often operate with fewer resources to begin with.

The Division must keep abreast of changing technologies and communicate this information to members. More and more, technical services and public service staff are working together to provide access to library materials -- print and electronic -- for patrons. The Technical Services Division should take a leadership role in developing partnerships with public service staff, other libraries and agencies and communicate the necessity of these partnerships to provide optimal access to library materials for the citizens of Ohio.

The Technical Services Division expresses thanks to all these fine candidates for taking time from their busy lives to volunteer to run for division office. As for everyone else, when July comes around, remember to vote, and then to mail that ballot back in! Your vote really does count!



Paige G. Andrew & Mary Lynette Larsgaard, Editors. *Maps and Related Cartographic Materials : Cataloging, Classification, and Bibliographic Control*. Haworth Press, 1999. 487 p. Hard cover: 0-7890-0778-9, \$69.95. Soft cover: 0-7890-0813-0, 39.95.

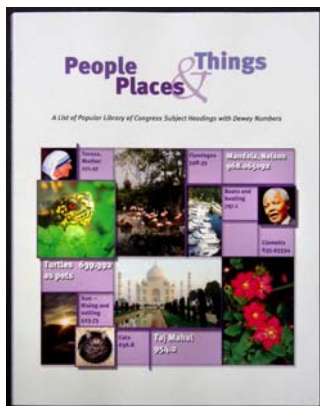
*Maps and Related Cartographic Materials* is a good all around reference for librarians that catalog maps of all kinds. It provides context for cataloging decisions, as well as practical guidance on cataloging all of the formats that cartographic materials arrive in.

Co-published simultaneously in *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly* (Volume 27, Numbers ½ and ¾, 1999) the book is structured as a series of journal articles. Different chapters will prove useful to different

kinds of librarians. Beginning map catalogers will find assistance with the problem areas of cataloging sheet maps and atlases and experienced ones will use it to conquer more cutting-edge formats. There is an excellent overview of map cataloging, a really good chapter on the cataloging of cartographic atlases and an article on cataloging map series and serials. There is an entire section on the cataloging of digital cartographic materials including an explanation of spatial metadata. Maps in archives and retrospective conversion projects are also discussed.

The editors are both well-known map catalogers who have been members of the Anglo-American Cataloguing Committee for Cartographic Materials. Paige Andrew is the Maps Cataloger at Pennsylvania State University Libraries at the University Park Campus, and Mary Lynette Larsgaard is the Assistant Head of the Map and Imagery Library of the Davidson Library at the University of California in Santa Barbara. Ms. Larsgaard is also the author of *Map Librarianship: An Introduction*.

If you only have the money to purchase one cartographic materials cataloging book, and you really need to understand all aspects of the format, then this is currently the book to purchase. This collection will, I predict, be referenced for many years to come.



***People Places & Things : A List of Popular Library of Congress Subject Headings with Dewey Numbers.* OCLC Forest Press, 2001. 422 p. 0-910608-69-5. \$80.00.**

This useful book consists entirely of an alphabetical list of 50,000 Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) paired with their corresponding Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) numbers. This LCSH / DDC mapping could be very useful to DDC libraries and their patrons.

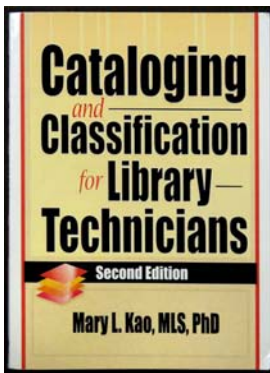
The list of headings was created using a combination of machine processing and human evaluation. First datafiles of WorldCat records with DDC numbers were created and the MARC 086 and LCSH 6xx tags were extracted and counted to identify the 50,000 most frequently used heading / DDC number pairs. These were then sorted in DDC number order, divided by subject area and then reviewed by DDC editors. The final list of headings reflects cataloging standards through April 2001.

The headings include personal names, corporate bodies, geographic names, topical headings and title headings. Names for persons include dates. Some headings have been linked to more than one DDC number, as sometimes one or more aspect of a topic is paramount. Popular subdivisions have also been included in the list of LCSH headings as appropriate and the DDC numbers for those headings have been adjusted to reflect those aspects of the topics.

This book could be useful for catalogers building classification numbers, and even possibly for those identifying the correct LCSH. Because the headings in the list are currently popular headings in DDC libraries, they should be representative of DDC collections, and therefore useful. Libraries should not, of course, expect this handy text to replace access to current DDC and LCSH documentation.

OCLC is also marketing the book as being useful to patrons saying "Library users will find this new publication guides them to the right places to browse for information on topics that interest them." OCLC also expects to "include many of these subject heading mappings in a future release of *WebDewey*."





Mary L. Kao, *Cataloging and Classification for Library Technicians*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Haworth Press, 2001. 146 p. 0-7890-1062-3, 0-7890-1063-1 (pbk.) \$39.95 (hard cover) \$19.95 (soft cover).

Mary Kao, PhD was the Director of Library Services and Coordinator of the Library Technology Program at Three Rivers Community Technical College in Norwich, Connecticut, for more than twenty years. She wrote this book for use in her courses and her long experience as a librarian and as an educator shine through in its pages. It is a good textbook, but it can also serve as a general reference for library technicians or their supervisors.

This text does a really good job of giving the student or the practitioner a sense of the big picture where cataloging and classification take place, as well as the basic form and function of work in technical services. Bibliographic principles are carefully explained and therefore context is provided for decision-making.

The book is well organized into individual lessons and easy to comprehend. Each chapter ends with a quick set of review questions designed to reinforce the chapter's main points. An excellent explanation of the basic bibliographic tools of the trade is provided, and the reader is pointed in the right direction for specific types of questions. This second edition contains a new chapter on computer cataloging in the MARC format and the cataloging of internet resources.

This book would be useful to a newly minted department head in charge of library technicians, especially if they themselves do not possess the MLS. It would also be useful for those responsible for training library technicians by helping them organize their training materials and explain the big picture of librarianship. Library technicians themselves could use it to gain context for their work.

Do not expect to learn original cataloging from this book, because it does not attempt to replicate the standards it references in any detail. Also do not expect it to teach what I refer to as "cataloger judgment", that special sense of when you really are looking at the right record. I also think it would benefit by providing more examples in MARC format, as few of us use cards anymore.

However, library technicians or their supervisors that read this book will understand their jobs more fully. Knowing why you do something always helps you evaluate what you are doing, and this can make all the difference.



# DEAD PEOPLE SERVER

(<http://dpsinfo.com/dps.html>)

Ever wonder if Liza Minelli is still alive? How about Millie the Dog? The Dead People Server will help you find these answers, as well as all kinds of information regarding the recently dead, or the suspected-to-be-dead.

*The Dead People Server* is a database of interesting celebrities most of whom have died within the last 30 years. Laurie Mann, the current curator of the Dead People Server, cheerfully admits that she is the “arbitrary, capricious and final” judge of who is and is not “interesting” enough to be included here. The celebrities listed are heavily tilted towards arts and entertainment, with very few sports figures or criminals. People are also on the list because they are old enough or “retired” enough that some people believe them to be dead.

One of the nicest things about the *Dead People Server* is that it provides context sensitive links to the Internet Movie Database, titles on Amazon.com, celebrity web pages, online obituaries, photographs, AwardWeb and to the Find A Grave website. This makes *The Dead People Server* a virtual index to a whole host of information on the web about their “interesting” celebrities.

The site is designed more for humor and trivia than for authoritative information. Do not mistake it for a reliable replacement for the LC Authority file. However if you are trying to differentiate between several headings, or establish a new heading not yet created by LC, then this site could be helpful.

And by the way, Liza Minnelli is still alive, but Millie the dog is dead.



*Overdue*, a free comic strip set in libraries, was launched recently by Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum (a pen name). It is written and drawn by a librarian and a cartoonist / Microsoft retiree, and appeals to library lovers of all kinds. When asked why they started the strip, Gene wrote that “we love cartoons and comics, we both love and respect libraries, and, oh yeah, we want to take over the world. Plus libraries are hilarious places.” Bill added that, “ever since I met Gene and started hearing stories about his job, I knew that a library would make a great setting for a comic strip. A workplace with highly educated idealistic professionals performing service jobs to the broadest possible population. How could it \*not\* be funny?” Recent targets of the strip’s humor have included copyright law, book displays, and, of course, the general public.

You can subscribe to *Overdue* at: <http://www.barnacle.org/overdue>. Members of this list receive daily comic strips via email

