Cresting toward the Sea Change, A Tale of Adventure: Writing a Literature Review for LRTS

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A Tale of Adventure:
Writing a Literature Review for LRTS

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Call for Proposals

- February 2010, Elaine Westbrooks, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- March 2010, proposals due, including letter and budget
- April 2010, notification
- $1,000 Carnegie-Whitney grant, awarded to me via Peggy Johnson
On My Way

Image courtesy of Tufts University
Library Resources and Technical Services

- Official publication of ALA-ALCTS, founded in 1957
- Literature reviews on cataloging and classification since 1968 (C. Donald Cook)
- One or two reviews a year through the 1970s and 1980s
- No reviews from the early 1990s through the mid-2000s
- Biennial reviews again since 2007, under Peggy Johnson
Proposed Use of Funds

• Hire an assistant to compile citations
  ➢ Job ads: LibGig, NLC site

• Purchase library materials

• Purchase supplies
• A recent graduate of the University of Missouri School of Information Science and Learning Technologies

• Using *Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts* and Google, she compiled hundreds of citations, August-November 2010

• Examples of search terms: “AACR2,” “authority control,” “FRBR,” “information organization,” “Semantic Web”
Topics: Scope

Resource Description and Access
FRBR, FRAD, FRSAD
Cataloging and the Semantic Web
Cataloging/metadata intersection and overlap; interoperability
Non-MARC bibliographic metadata creation
Theory of knowledge organization/Classification
Cataloging and social media
Ethics
History
Personnel, Education
Tools, Reference
List of over 600 Possible Sources

Method

- Printed out 300+ papers
- Took notes on hard copies

Image courtesy of St. Thomas University

Image courtesy of Grantham University
Pitfalls

• How deep into technology to delve, when IT intersected with cataloging

• Some aspects of classification were a bit far afield

• Determining how much of my own perspective could go into the text was a challenge at times
As I was reading the papers, it occurred to me that nothing less than a sea change was occurring in cataloging and classification.
Cataloging and Classification Research Interest Group
American Library Association Midwinter Meeting
January 9, 2011, San Diego, CA

Cataloging and Classification Literature Review, 2009-2010,
Preparation for *Library Resources & Technical Services:*
Project Update

Sue Ann Gardner
Scholarly Communications Librarian
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Example text:

In August 2010, with the Carnegie-Whitney funds she received in April 2010, Sue Ann Gardner hired Anna Sophia Cotton to assist with compiling citations of scholarly output on cataloging and classification in 2009 and 2010. ... Ms. Gardner gave Ms. Cotton an extensive list of search terms and Ms. Cotton conducted searches on both the Web via Google as well as in Library, Information Sci... 

- Short reports about activity just preceding the report date, and plans for what would come next
- Requirement of the grant
Deadline

The manuscript was due June 30, 2011

I got an 82-page draft in on schedule

Then I waited several weeks
Reviewers: “Twenty-one sections is too many. The paper is too long. This is intimidating to people. Cut the text in half.”

So, that’s what I did.

It was reviewed thoroughly, if harshly. I took most of the reviewers’ suggestions.

Much of the flair in the writing was stripped.

Image courtesy of Columbia University
Literature Review Talk at NLA

Well-attended

The slides were the most downloaded of the conference

The revision was due a few days after this talk
Manuscript Accepted

Ref.: Ms. No. LRTS-D-11-00013R1
Cresting toward the Sea Change: Literature Review of Cataloging and Classification, 2009-2010
Library Resources and Technical Services

Dear Sue Ann,

I am pleased to tell you that your work has now been accepted for publication in Library Resources and Technical Services.

It was accepted on Oct. 26, 2011.

Thank you for submitting your work to this journal.

With kind regards,

Peggy Johnson
Managing Editor
Library Resources and Technical Services

The final paper was 41 manuscript pages.
Bibliography on LRTS Site

Peggy Johnson offered to put the entire bibliography on the LRTS Web site.

It appears there under Supplementary Materials.

URL: http://www.ala.org/alcts/resources/lrts

For Readers

* Subscribing
* Indexing procedures
* Supplementary Materials
  o Cresting toward the Sea Change: Literature Review of Cataloging and Classification, 2009–2010 List of Sources
Cresting toward the Sea Change

Literature Review of Cataloging and Classification 2009–10

Sue Ann Gardner

This review covers cataloging and classification literature published in 2009 and 2010, including relevant explorations of knowledge organization systems and theory. Only English-language literature is reviewed, though not all of the literature covered is U.S.-based. Overarching themes presented in the literature include the merging of library metadata into the Web environment, the continuation of cooperative cataloging in libraries, the role of both controlled and uncontrolled headings in catalog records, and reconceptualizations of workflow in light of impending changes to cataloging rules. Notably, several relevant foundational documents were either completed or revised during the review period.

The literature covering cataloging and classification in 2009 and 2010 reflects the dramatic changes taking place in cataloging and shows that cataloging as a means to resource discovery is evolving. With recent efforts to integrate bibliographic data into the Web environment, in the form of linked data and the Semantic Web, nothing less than a sea change is emerging. The literature reflects the many creative approaches being taken to adapt to this potential reality, such as experimentation with FRBRized catalogs, based on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR). The Institutions inherent in the more than forty year old Machine Readable Cataloging (MARC) format have been identified and shored, paving the way for acceptance of a more interoperable format. Several foundational documents, such as the Statement of International Cataloging Principles and others, were either revised or completed during the review period, exciting analysis and commentary. The use of controlled (i.e., subject, name, and series) headings and uncontrolled headings (i.e., tags) in records has been examined at length. Traditional concerns regarding cooperative cataloging and workflow also are well-represented in the literature, but often within the context of changes in the culture at large. Additionally, some excellent forays into the history of cataloging and classification were published.

Method

The author and an assistant identified some 450 possible publications to review that appeared in 2009 and 2010. Under the direction of the author, Anna Sophia...
If I had to do it again, would I have signed on?

What I gained from this experience:

I learned first hand what a review is—and what it is not

I feel I understand why RDA is being adopted, so I have buy-in

It served as a mini re-education in one of my areas of expertise

I feel conversant in modern cataloging and classification issues
Write your own—

LRTS continues to commission reviews