The Future of Technical Services:
Current Trends & New Skills in Technical Services
Part 2

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#alctsce
CURRENT TRENDS & NEW SKILLS IN TECHNICAL SERVICES

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Hosted by ALCTS, Association for Library Collections & Technical Services
Technical Services, Today and Yesterday

ALCTS Groups, as of 2016

- Access to Continuing Resources
- Acquisitions Managers and Vendors
- Administration of Collection Management
- Authority Control
- Book and Paper
- Cartographic Resources Cataloging
- Catalog Form and Function
- Catalog Management
- Cataloging and Classification Research
- Cataloging Norms
- Chief Collection Development Officers of Large Research Libraries
- Collection Development Issues for the Practitioner
- Collection Development Librarians of Academic Libraries
- Collection Evaluation & Assessment
- Collection Management & Electronic Resources
- Collection Management and Development in Public Libraries
- College & Research Libraries
- Competencies and Education for a Career in Cataloging
- Copy Cataloging
- Creative Ideas in Technical Services
- Digital Conversion
- Digital Preservation
- Electronic Resources
- Electronic Resources Management
- Faceted Subject Access
- FRBR
- Heads of Cataloging Departments
- Linked Library Data
- MARC Formats Transition
- Metadata
- New Members
- Newspaper
- Out of Print
- Preservation Administration
- Preservation Metadata
- Promoting Preservation
- Public Libraries Technical Services
- Publisher-Vendor-Library Relations
- Role of the Professional Librarian in TS
- Scholarly Communication
- TS Directors of Large Research Libraries
- TS Managers in Academic Libraries
- TS Workflow Efficiency

ALCTS Groups, as of 2005-2006

- Acquisitions Managers and Vendors
- Authority Control in the Online Environment
- Automated Acquisitions/In-Process Control Systems
- Binding Automation
- Catalog Form & Function
- Catalog Management
- Cataloging and Classification Research
- Cataloging Norms
- Chief Collection Development Officers of Large Research Libraries
- Collection Development Issues for the Practitioner
- Collection Development Librarians of Academic Libraries
- Cooperative Preservation Programs
- Copy Cataloging
- Creative Ideas in Technical Services
- Electronic Resources
- Gifts and Exchange
- Heads of Cataloging Departments
- Intellectual Access to Preservation Data
- Journal Costs in Libraries
- Library Binding
- MARC Formats
- Micropublishers
- Networked Resources & Metadata
- Newspaper
- Out of Print
- PARS
- Physical Quality and Treatment of Library Materials
- Pre-Order and Pre-Catalog Searching
- Preservation Administration
- Preservation Instruction, Education and Outreach
- Preservation Issues in Small to Midsized Libraries
- Publisher/Vendor Library Relations
- RDA Update Task Force
- Recording and Photographic Media
- Reformatting
- Research Libraries
- Role of the Professional in Academic Research TS Departments
- Scholarly Communications
- TS Administrators of Medium-Sized Research Libraries
- TS Directors of Large Research Libraries
- TS in Public Libraries
- TS Workstations
Learning from the past

- Examples:
  - AACR and MARC in the 1960s
  - Online catalogs in the 1980s
  - Moving from firm orders to purchasing packages in the 1990s
  - Purchasing mostly online-only content in the 2000s
  - Larger metadata creation roles (e.g. digital preservation and curation) in the 2010s

- Technical services = change makers

- Expanding definition of technical services
How to succeed in the future

- Broadening skills and technical abilities
- Attitudes to help us gain those skills
How to determine the technical skills needed for the future

• Watch job postings

• Research studies done about job postings

• Study the needs of our own institutions
Some of the skills needed, as of 2016
How to determine the technical skills needed for the future

• Watch job postings

• Research studies done about job postings

• Study the needs of our own institutions
Attitudes and non-technical skills needed for the future

Successful future for technical services

- Creativity
- Collaboration
- Initiative
- Communication
- Time management
- Continual education and learning
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Continue the conversation

• Talk with each other

• Written and spoken scholarship

• Listen to each other

• Teach the future of technical services
Connecting the dots

**Technical skills**
- Assess the field
- Watch job postings
- Read research studies
- Assess your institution

**Attitudes and non-technical skills**
- Creativity
- Collaboration
- Initiative
- Communication
- Time management
- Continual learning and education

**Successful future of technical services**
Suggested reading list for technical skills needed for catalog librarians

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CURRENT TRENDS & NEW SKILLS IN TECHNICAL SERVICES

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COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION

Develop relationships with colleagues
Articulate needs
Problem-solving
Sharing talents
Achieve more as a team

Communication is essential for collaboration!
WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

“public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy.”

Merriam-Webster, ©2015.
WHAT DOES ADVOCACY MEAN TO TS?

“supporting, recommending, or educating others about the various aspects of technical services work and how they impact the success of other library operations.”

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO TECHNICAL SERVICES?

Indirect impact on our user community

Our statistical reports may not yield the same impact as reference statistics

Specialized processes may not seem as clear to those outside Technical Services
HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Determine what advocacy means to you and your profession
Determine where you should concentrate your efforts
Develop an elevator or parking lot speech

ALCTS Advocacy:
http://www.ala.org/alcts/about/advocacy
WAYS TO ADVOCATE

Serve on a public services committee
Volunteer to work a public service desk
Participate in cross-training initiatives
Active involvement in professional organizations
Promote the need for technical services education to SLIS programs
Develop partnerships with vendors
National Library Legislative Day events
WAYS TO ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITIES

Collaboration
Communication
Cooperation
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

ALA Office for Library Advocacy (OLA): http://www.ala.org/offices/ola

ALA Advocacy, Issues: http://www.ala.org/advocacy/

Advocacy University: http://www.ala.org/advocacy/advocacy-university

Frontline Advocacy Toolkit: http://www.ala.org/advocacy/advleg/advocacyuniversity/frontline_advocacy

ALCTS: Advocacy for Technical Services in Libraries: http://www.ala.org/alcts/about/advocacy
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Rethinking Library Technical Services: Thoughts and Observations

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Change is Inevitable

• Opportunity
• Negotiation
• Collaboration
Changing Roles and Needs

• Our work is becoming more sophisticated
• “Traditional” processes may no longer exist
• Defining technical services
• The Open Source factor
Thank you!

Questions? Email mbfecko@rulmail.rutgers.edu
Upcoming ALCTS CE Opportunities

http://www.ala.org/alcts/confevents

Webinars:
• June 7 & 8 We Can Do It, You Can Too! Metadata Automation for Everyone - Virtual Preconference

Web Courses:
• Acquisitions
• Cataloging
• Collection Assessment
• Collection Development and Management
• Electronic Resource Acquisitions
• Preservation

E-Forums:
• Being Scheduled

Submit a proposal:
https://alctsprogram.wufoo.com/forms/p7x3x5/