Is Technical Services Dead?

Amy K. Weiss
Head of Cataloging and Description
Florida State University
Amy K. Weiss
Is Technical Services Dead?

• There are several possible answers....
YES

• Shrinking Technical Services Departments

• Catalogs superseded by search engines

• Many tasks taken over by vendors
Maybe

• Patron’s needs are the major consideration

• Change an issue in all parts of the library
Consider Reference Service

- Used to consist of a librarian (MLS) sitting at a desk
- Many reference desks eliminated or combined with reference
- Many library workers answer reference questions
- Reference librarians have new responsibilities
• Technical Services tasks will continue to be performed in new and different ways, and not necessarily in a Technical Services Department
No

• Is the catalog really dead?

• Patrons want to know what is available right now

• As long as there is a catalog, there will be technical services
Traditional Technical Services

• Procurement of materials
• Making entries in a catalog so materials can be located
• Using or creating authorized access points
• Preparing materials for use
• Maintaining serials subscriptions
• Removal of damaged or outmoded materials
Current Circumstances

• Need or at least desire to shift personnel costs to vendors

• Patrons desire instant gratification, no waiting for materials

• Increasing acceptance of electronic materials

• Need to make “hidden” collections visible
Outsourcing

• Dates from 1901 – Library of Congress cards

• OCLC – From cards to online records
Approval Plans

• Starting in the mid-1960s

• 93% of ARL Libraries used approval plans by 1996

• DDA plans are the next step
Tasks for Making Outsourcing Work

- Select vendor
- Creating profiles
- Loading record sets
- Quality control
- Catalog maintenance
  - Remove records for books not used
  - Permanent cataloging for books purchased

Hosted by ALCTS, Association for Library Collections and Technical Services
What Other Factors Affect Technical Services?
SERIALS

• Journals have survived the electronic revolution

• Management of serials has increased in complexity

• Accounting has also increased in complexity
Cataloging

• Cooperative Cataloging

  – Makes outsourcing and vendor cataloging possible

  – Will the cooperative venture survive?

  – What are the tasks of a cataloging department?

  – Cleaning up vendor errors

Hosted by ALCTS, Association for Library Collections and Technical Services
Cataloging Frontiers

• “Hidden collections” of archives and rare books
• Institutional repositories
• Metadata standards continue to proliferate
• Bibframe: the future is here now
• Catalogers will need to collaborate to stay relevant
Monographic Acquisitions

• Do DDA plans spell the end of acquisitions?

• Materials from far away places

• Accounting is not like ordinary university accounting

• Staff will experience change in tasks and roles

Hosted by ALCTS, Association for Library Collections and Technical Services
Interlibrary Loan

• Buy not borrow

• Collaboration with monographic acquisitions

• Acquisitions becomes part of the lending and borrowing process
The Trojan Horses

• Electronic Resources Librarians
  – Report to various divisions in libraries
    • Negotiation of contracts for e-resources including price and delivery method
    • Making sure that MARC records are added to the catalog
    • Making sure the library has the access it has paid for
    • “Shutting off” resources which are out of date or unused
Metadata Librarians

• They may be using different standards and they may be working in other departments, but....

• Cataloging is cataloging
To Summarize

• Technical services jobs will change but they will also kinda stay the same
• We are still purchasing monographs and serials
• We are making those materials visible through the catalog
• We remove materials which are dated or unused
In The End...

• The values of traditional technical services will survive even as the methods of achieving those ends change.

• Technical Services Lives!!!!
Thank You

• Amy K. Weiss
• Head of Cataloging and Description
• Florida State University
• akweiss@fsu.edu
Providing Description & Access into the Future

Julie Renee Moore
Special Collections Catalog Librarian
California State University, Fresno

May 11, 2016
Thank you to

for hosting this webinar ... and continuing to provide us with excellent professional development programming.
Anyone who catalogs special formats should be a member of OLAC!

- Cataloging workshops and professional development
- Best practices guides
- OLAC-L (listserv)

http://olacinc.org/drupal/
Publications: Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials

Professional development programming

DCRM-L (Listserv)

http://rbms.info/
RETHINKING LIBRARY TECHNICAL SERVICES
Redefining Our Profession for the Future
EDITED BY Mary Beth Weber
Velociraptor Skull
Meteorite: Sikkhe-Olin, Russia
270 miles northeast of Vladivostok
Date: 10:38 a.m. Feb 12, 1947 local time
Specimen Mass: 1.17 g
Description: Group II, coarsest octahedrite,
5.9% Ni, 0.42% Co, 0.46% P, 0.28% S,
52 ppm Ga, 161 ppm Ge, 0.03 ppm Ir, remainder
being iron. Minerals found: kamacite, taenite,
plectite, schreibersite, rhubites, troilitite, & chromite.
Woolly Mammoth Ivory

This ivory fragment, found in an Alaskan riverbank, is from a prehistoric, woolly mammoth, (Mammuthus primigenius). The ivory may contain a crosshatch pattern, known as Schreger lines which differentiates it from current ivory producing mammals. The specimen is estimated to be 150,000 to 10,000 years old.
Animal Tracks!
An exciting game of memory, matching, and learning.

Match the animals to their tracks by playing Concentration, Bingo, and Guess the Tracks games!
Pig Lungs
336 Content Type

Notice that these pig lungs are designed with a cancer tumor to touch!

Possibly: 336 Tactile three-dimensional form
We are not amused!
Julie moves to the world of Special Collections
Michael Gorman, former Dean of Library Services, Fresno State

Core Values of Librarianship
- Stewardship
- Service
- Intellectual Freedom
- Rationalism
- Literacy and Learning
- Equity of Access to Recorded Knowledge and Information
- Privacy
- Democracy
- The Greater Good

From *Our Enduring Values, Revisited*, 2015
Lion’s Head
(World’s Fair, 1915)
Model
(1964 World’s Fair, New York)
Vita Christi by Ludolph of Saxony, 1474
Our library’s millionth book, *Relación histórica de la vida y apostólicas tareas del Venerable Padre Fray Junípero Serra* (a biography of Father Junípero Serra, written in Spanish by Francisco Palóu, published 1787.)
Fore-edge painting
Ad and Map of the Perrin Colonies, circa 1891
NOTICE

Headquarters
Western Defense Command
and Fourth Army

Presidio of San Francisco, California

May 11, 1942

Civilian Exclusion Order No. 64

1. Pursuant to the provisions of Public Proclamations No. 1 and 2, this Headquarters, dated March 2, 1942, and March 16, 1942, respectively, it is hereby ordered that from and after 12 o'clock noon, P. W. T., of Sunday, May 17, 1942, all persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and non-alien, be excluded from that portion of Military Area No. 1 described as follows:

All of the City of Fresno, State of California.

2. A responsible member of each family, and each individual living alone, in the above described area will report between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Tuesday, May 12, 1942, or during the same hours on Wednesday, May 13, 1942, to the Civil Control Station located at:

2601 Irving Street,
Fresno, California.

3. Any person subject to this order who fails to comply with any of its provisions or with the provisions of published instructions pertaining hereto or who is found in the area after 12 o'clock noon, P. W. T., of Sunday, May 17, 1942, will be liable to the criminal penalties provided for in Public Law No. 280, 77th Congress, approved March 21, 1942, entitled "An Act to Provide a Penalty for Violation of Restrictions or Orders with Respect to Persons Entering, Remaining in, Leaving or Committing Any Act in Military Areas or Zones," and alien Japanese will be subject to immediate apprehension and internment.

4. All persons within the bounds of an established Assembly Center pursuant to instructions from this Headquarters are excepted from the provisions of this order while those persons are in such Assembly Center.

J. L. DeWitt
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding
“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”
– George Santayana

Drawing of the Fresno Assembly Center
Cataloging at the Opposite Ends of the Cataloging Continuum
From Rare Books to Digitized Manuscripts

JULIE RENEE MOORE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
SABBATICAL EXPERIENCE 2013
RBS Director, Dr. Michael Suarez, S.J.

“RBS is a dynamic community of librarians, collectors, academics and students, booksellers, conservators, and passionate amateurs – all dedicated to deepening our understandings of the book, capacious conceiving. Learning about its pasts, we commit ourselves to help shape its futures.”

– p. 5 of the 2013 Vade Mecum
Included in the Rare Book Cataloging class, we learned all about:

• The definition of a rare book
• The art of paper folding
• Reading Roman numerals
• Reading Latin
• Specialized notes (physical notes and the provenance notes).
• Edges (ex., gilt and fore-edge paintings)
• All about papers
• All about leather bindings
Paper folding 101

**Folio** 1 sheet of paper is folded once, forming either 2 leaves or 4 pages

**Quarto** printing four pages of text on each side of the sheet of paper and then folding the paper twice forming a gathering of four leaves or eight pages

**Octavo** printing 8 pages of text on each side of the sheet of paper and folding it 3 times to form a gathering of 8 leaves or 16 pages

**Duodecimo (or twelvemo)** 12 leaves per sheet

**Sextodecimo (or sixteenmo)** 16 leaves per sheet

**Octavo in 4s** Printed as an octavo, but bound in gatherings of four leaves

Folded airplane image, Creative Commons
Notes

Physical

563 $a Bound in contemporary red morocco, decorated in gilt, marbled endpapers, gilt edge; in red cloth case.

Provenance

Rare Book School
(at UVA, Charlottesville, VA)

Action Shot!
RBS Cataloging Class of 2013!
Grace Agnew, Associate University Librarian for Digital Library Systems
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Principal architect for the NJ Digital Highway, a statewide digital repository of cultural and historical materials

Instructor and author of books and articles mainly on metadata and digital rights management
"It is often fairly easy, particularly for librarians, to categorize all the characteristics of something. This is the heart of traditional cataloging. What metadata has added to traditional cataloging is the understanding that the relationships between concepts are as important as the concepts themselves.” – Grace Agnew, Rutgers
Commonalities

I discovered in this sabbatical that there were many commonalities between “non-MARC metadata,” traditional cataloging using RDA and MARC 21, and rare book cataloging using DCRM(b).

The purpose of my work as a catalog librarian remains the same: to describe materials and provide access to them so that users can find, identify, select, and obtain those resources.
Into the Future We Go ...

By continuing our research and applying the latest technologies across the cataloging spectrum, namely, rare books and digital resources, our roles will be to continue to describe and enhance access to our resources, with the ultimate goal of positioning the Library on the global platform of the greater semantic web via linked data.
Keeping in mind the kinds of materials that I have cataloged at the various libraries where I’ve worked, as well as my sabbatical, I would like to propose a “Top 10” list of Cataloging Queries to keep in mind as we travel into the future of cataloging.
Cataloging Query #10

Does MARC matter with RDA?
No. It’s a free agent.
We need to remember that RDA is a “content standard”

*not* an encoding standard

*not* a display standard

In other words, RDA tells us what data elements are required, but not where to stick them (MARC) ... or what they should look like to the public (OPAC).
• Defines individual elements with controlled vocabulary lists
• Used with MARC (and BIBFRAME)… but can be used with other data models
• Defines relationships (for example: between works and their creators)
• Relies on Cataloger’s Judgment
I have been using RDA in my cataloging. I don’t understand how adding a few new fields makes the cataloging better? How do I get a deeper understanding of RDA?
RIMMF (RDA in Many Metadata Formats)

To delve deeper into learning RDA cataloging, I highly recommend taking the online tutorials by Deborah & Richard Fritz of The MARC of Quality to learn to RIMMF (RDA in Many Metadata Formats).


Better yet, take a workshop in RIMMF. RIMMF helps the cataloger to understand RDA, and how it rides on the FRBR conceptual model.
RIMMF
(RDA in Many Metadata Formats)


RIMMF is:
• a visualization tool for catalogers, to help them to get used to thinking RDA, instead of AACR/MARC.
• a cataloging training tool, to help educators teach RDA thinking.
Will RDA live up to its promise?
Promise?! What promise?
There is nothing simple or easy or fast or cheap about recording human knowledge. Cataloging is a complex undertaking.

You Can Pick Any Two

Euler diagram
The end goal of all of this (for RDA and BIBFRAME) ... is to get our library data out onto the Semantic Web.

RDA is only the first baby step toward that effort.

We are in a time of moving toward more precise data. We are beginning to see more parsing of fields, so that each field or subfield carries on one meaning.
In the future, will normal catalogers continue to be so picky?!
“Normal is just a setting on the dryer.”
– Erma Bombeck
RDA Demands Precise Data and Precise Data = Usable data

each element is distinct and precisely defined

each element contains only one kind of data

controlled vocabulary used in many elements

➢ each element has the potential to be usable:
   - to index
   - to search
   - to build meaningful displays of data

➢ data in any element can be used: by humans and by computers

(Slide content from Chris Oliver)
RDA -264 field (Publication, Distribution, and Manufacture Statements)

This information is now in the 264 field (instead of the 260 field). The 2nd indicator tells you the function:

- 264 _1 Publisher
- 264 _2 Distributor
- 264 _3 Manufacturer
- 264 _4 Copyright Date

With these “funny formats” from my Teacher Resource Center, it is possible to have all of these functions. Cataloger’s judgment is required.
RDA – new 3XX fields for more precise data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>344</td>
<td>Sound Characteristics (R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>345</td>
<td>Projection Characteristics of Moving Image (R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>346</td>
<td>Video Characteristics (R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>347</td>
<td>Digital File Characteristics (R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>370</td>
<td>Associated Place (R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>377</td>
<td>Associated Language (R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>380</td>
<td>Form of Work (R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>381</td>
<td>Other Distinguishing Characteristics of Work or Expression (R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>382</td>
<td>Medium of Performance (R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>383</td>
<td>Numeric Designation of Musical Work (R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>384</td>
<td>Key (NR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>388</td>
<td>Time Period of Creation (R)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Yes!

“Normal catalogers” of the future will continue to be picky …

We are entering an age of even more precise data than what we’ve had in the past … somebody’s gotta know the rules in order to make that happen!
Cataloging Query #6

Example?

I give you the 3XX fields.

Let’s revisit the pig lungs!
In the AACR2r world, what was the early warning indicator that told us that this thing was not a book?
AACR2:

The GMD (General Material Designator)

Example:
245 00 [Pig lungs] $h [realia].
RDA: No GMD

Example:
245 00  [Pig lungs].

The GMD [realia] is replaced by:

Content Type:
336  three-dimensional form
   ≠b tdf ≠2 rdaccontent

Media Type:
337  unmediated ≠b n ≠2 rdamedia

Carrier Type:
338  object ≠b nr ≠2 rdacarrier
Better?
Seriously?!
RDA 3XX for a Kit

300  7 various pieces: ‡b color; ‡c in bag 49 x 33 cm + ‡e 1 guide

336  three-dimensional form ‡b tdf ‡2 rdacontent

336  performed music ‡b prm ‡2 rdacontent

336  text ‡b txt ‡2 rdacontent

337  unmediated ‡b n ‡2 rdamedia

337  audio ‡b s ‡2 rdamedia

338  object ‡b nr ‡2 rdacarrier

338  audio disc ‡b sd ‡2 rdacarrier

338  volume ‡b nc ‡2 rdacarrier
Better?
Surely, you jest!
Cataloging Query #5

Is “schema agnostic” preferable to using MARC, MODS, Dublin Core?
CONSISTENCY IS
Is BIBFRAME a viable replacement for MARC?
Stay tuned! Watch the BIBRAME website.

https://www.loc.gov/bibframe/docs/model.html
For catalogers, does our past hold us back from jumping into the future?
Our history is very long and rich in Cataloging; however, the future is even longer.

Stay focused on the future, you will; acknowledge the past, you must.
What about Cataloger’s Judgment? Will we still need Cataloger’s Judgment in the future?
When done conscientiously, cataloging has always been more art than science. We catalog real-world resources that may or may not conform to the theories that our rules try to codify. As I wrote in the introduction to my *Cataloger's Judgment*, “the world of stuff to catalog is so vast, so slippery, so surprising that individual judgment will always enter into our decisions. Catalogers are thoughtful judges concerning matters of description and access.”

It is that judgment leavened with imagination that has carried catalogers through these decades of change. That same judgment and imagination will continue to stand them in good stead through the era of Resource Description and Access (RDA), and post-MARC data structure, and whatever future marvels the world sends them to catalog.

Do not agonize!
Since Cataloging is at the Heart of Technical Services, if Cataloging is dead, then TS is dead.

Is Cataloging dead?
No, cataloging is not dead. It is *evolving*, but it is not dead … and it will not go extinct in the foreseeable future.
Why? Because there is still a need for human beings to organize, make accessible, and preserve the human record … not only for the patron who is looking for information today, but for people in the future.

“The role of the catalog librarian remains the same as it always has been; namely, to describe resources so that users can find, identify, select, and obtain those relevant resources. The tools, the rules, and the metadata schemas will continue to evolve, but the purpose is still the same.” -- Rethinking Library TS
Just remember to take your Cataloger’s Judgment with you!
Notes


The End

Thank you for your kind attention. Questions?