

Catch A Tiger By Its Tail?

The Challenges of Cataloging Electronic Resources

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Introduction

“Chaos is a friend of mine.”

Bob Dylan, *Newsweek*, Dec. 9, 1985.

“All progress is precarious, and the solution of one problem brings us face to face with another problem.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Cataloging Electronic Resources

- Cataloging is the process of describing resources and providing a means to access resources, whether on the shelf, in a catalog or through online retrieval
- The confusion of choices of what to catalog, to what level, when and how are today's major challenges regarding the plethora of electronic resources
- Adding to the challenge for UC: participation in the OhioLINK consortium; implementing an ERM; changing standards and practices over time, resulting in various treatments and resulting displays in the OPAC

Challenges



Catalog what? When? How?

- All electronic resources or selected formats?
- Vendor records during acquisitions?
- Brief or full records?
- Add every resource to the catalog (OPAC) or to selected other 'silo' only?
- Single or multiple records and access?

Information description and access

- Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it. When we enquire into any subject, the first thing we have to do, is to know what books have treated of it. This leads us to look at catalogues, and the backs of books in libraries.

Samuel Johnson, 1709-1784.

New York Times

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the University of Cincinnati Library Catalog search results. The search term is "New York Times". The results are limited to electronic resources. Three items are listed:

Item Number	Title	Year
1	The Beecher trial: [electronic resource] : a review of the evidence. Reprinted from the New York Times of July 3, 1875. With some revisions and additions	1875
2	Current history	1940
3	The New York times	1857-

Each item includes a "Save:" checkbox and a small book icon. The first item's description includes: "Beecher, Henry Ward, 1813-1887, defendant. New York, 1875. 34 p. 21 1/2 cm". The second item's description includes: "[New York : New York Times Co., 1916-1940]. 49 v. : ill. ; 24 cm". The third item's description includes: "New-York, [N.Y. : H.J. Raymond & Co.], 1857-".

Local Practices

- ILS – e-journals, all OhioLINK e-resources e-book collections, databases (to date)
- ERM – databases to begin
- Serials Solutions – A-Z list of databases and e-journals

- All fully cataloged in the ILS/webpac and many also populated elsewhere

A brief list of some of our e-book collections with records in UCLID -- over 300,000

- Early English Books Online – 94,667
- Eighteenth Century Collection Online – 136,431
- Sabin-American – 29, 169
- ProQuest Dissertations and Theses - ~5000
- Making of the Modern World – 59,169
- Chadwyck-Healey LION – 16,131
- Making of America – 7481
- APA PsycBooks – 1282

- We also have records for Ebrary, Credo Reference, Knovel, Referex and CRCnetBASE – all growing collections – 10K-15K total

- and we receive and load records into the catalog for the various (growing) OhioLINK e-book collections including ABC-Clio, Safari, ACLS/HEB, NetLibrary, Oxford, Springer – approximately 30K total to date.

Local Challenges

- Inconsistent practice of downloading records during acquisitions process vs inputting brief records
- Inconsistent practice of adding URLs to print records
- Challenges implementing ERM
- Challenges of implementing OhioLINK 856/956 management of URLs

MARC Records

- Availability of MARC records
- Quality of available MARC records
- Preparing and loading records into our local system
- Updating collections, monitoring additions and deletions from collections – many publishers do not have notification systems in place

E-journals

- OhioLINK EJC titles and records get special treatment
- Goal was to ‘maximize access’ – added URLs to print records as well as cataloging the online versions
- JSTOR titles treated the same way
- Most other titles – added URL to print if existing or cataloged online only

More challenges

- Maintenance of coverage
- Level of specificity in URLs and use of |3
- Over 500,000 URLs but no link resolver, so we rely on user report of errors (reactive, not proactive URL checking, editing)
- Inconsistent procedures = inconsistent information for users

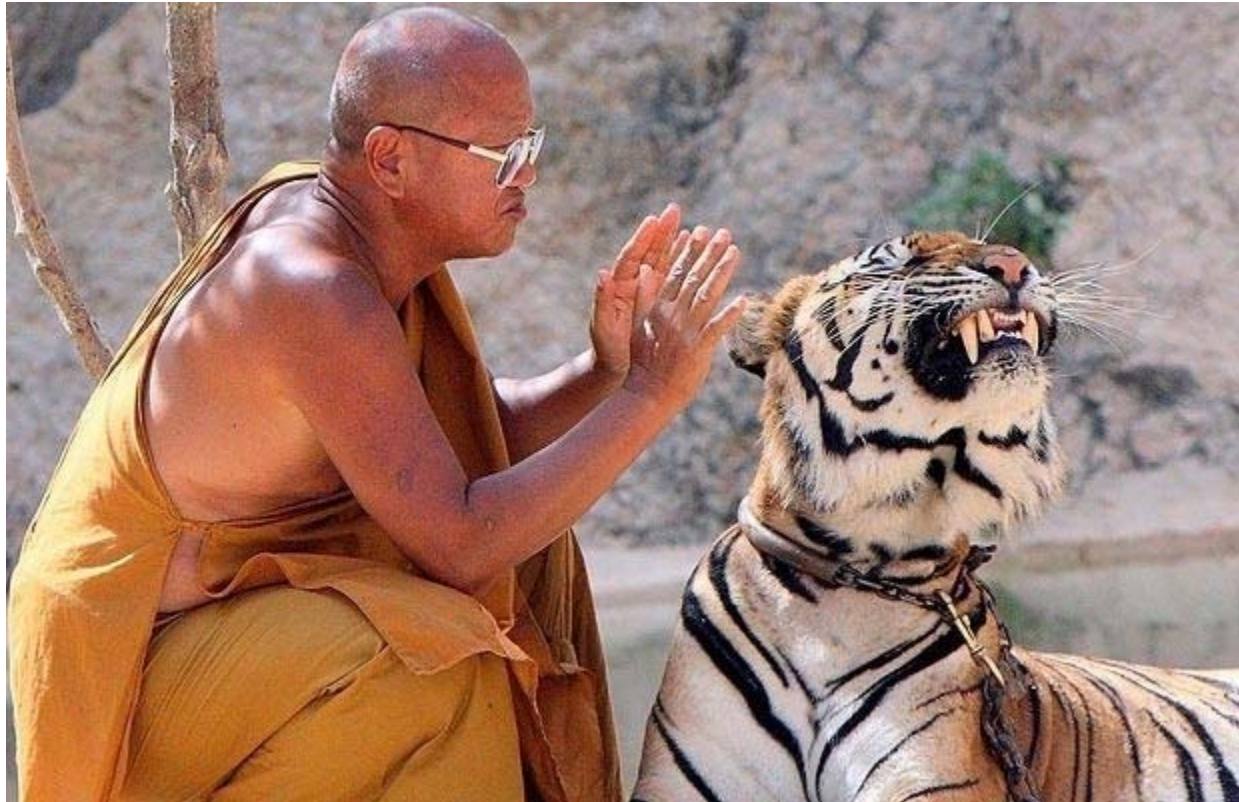
OhioLINK

- Files of records to load
- Contribute to Central Catalog or not
- 856 vs 956 implementation and the elimination of b3=g
- Proxy vs Central Sign-in
- OCLC TechPro cataloging for EJC titles enabling local changes

ERM

- Implementing in stages
- How NOT to duplicate ILS and work in Acq, Cat and Ser modules
- Staff tool or what public display – many unanswered questions remain
- Unchartered territory – no one standard to follow (DLF ERMI guidelines notwithstanding)

Taming the Tiger



Implementing an ERM

- UC had III ERM installed November 2008
- III populated ERM with 644 resource records for databases
- Review of records in process
- Decisions needed for new records – trials, duplicate OPAC records for new databases or add only to ERM?

Implementing 856/956

- Once completed, this will improve clarity for users for local for universal access to electronic resources
- Provides the opportunity to examine local practices for contributing records to Central Catalog; when to add proxy to URLs, reduce duplicate records and access

Record, URL, ERM Policies

- Under “construction” or i.e. in development:
- Standards for batch record loads
- When to add URLs
- What coverage information to add
- Proxy and use of 956 MARC field
- ERM, SS and OPAC

Taming our tigers



Questions?

Contact Information



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