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Cresting toward the Sea Change, 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

THE VOICE OF AMERICA'S LIBRARIES

ALA

American Library Association

CARNEGIE–WHITNEY GRANT

On My Way
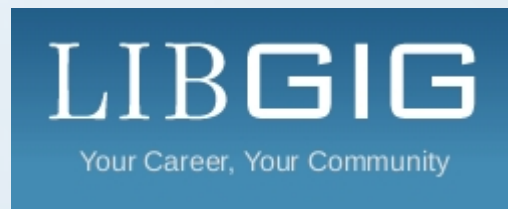

Image courtesy of Tufts University

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

Nebraska Library Commission

LIBGIG
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Anna Sophia Cotton

Image courtesy of omaha.com

- 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

Image created in Wordle

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

Cataloging & Classification Quarterly, Technical Services Quarterly, Library Resources & Technical Services, Journal of the Society for Information Science and Technology, Journal of Library Administration…

Method

Printed out 300+ papers

Took notes on hard copies

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

The Title, Explained

As I was reading the papers, it occurred to me that nothing less than a **sea change** was occurring in cataloging and classification.

Image courtesy of City College of San Francisco

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

Project Status Updates

Due biennially

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**

Image courtesy of University of Alaska

Deadline

The manuscript was due June 30, 2011

I got an 82-page draft in on schedule

Then I waited several weeks

Revisions, Revisions, Revisions

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.

Image courtesy of Columbia University

Much of the *flair* in the writing was stripped.

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

So You Have to Write a Paper:
Consider Writing a Literature Review

Sue Ann Gardner, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Nebraska Library Association, Oct. 7, 2011, Lincoln, NE

2011.10.7

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**

Published April 2012

Cresting toward the Sea Change

Literature Review of Cataloging and Classification 2009–10

Sue Ann Gardner

Sue Ann Gardner (sgardner2@unl.edu) is Associate Professor/Scholarly Communications, Technical Services, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska.
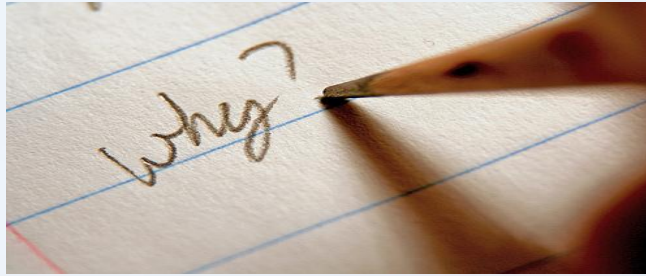
This review covers cataloging and classification literature published in 2009 and 2010, including relevant explorations of knowledge organization systems and theory. Only English-language literature is reviewed, though not all of the literature covered is U.S.-based. Overarching themes presented in the 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 reconsiderations 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 nascent 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 *FRBR*-ized catalogs, based on the *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records* (*FRBR*).[1] The limitations inherent in the more than forty year old Machine Readable Cataloging (MARC) format have been identified and shared, 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, eliciting analysis and commentary.[2] 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?

<u>What I gained from this experience</u>:

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

Image courtesy of Michigan Tech University

Write your own—

LRTS continues to commission reviews