

Common Threads: Music Information Literacy as Community Practice

MUSIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
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Today I'll explore:

Music librarians and the public/technical services divide

ACRL Framework for Information Literacy in High Education

Discovery: where the three must meet

What to do?

Where I Come From...

~10 years in cataloger + public service combo positions

~6 years public services + administration current position (Head, Music/Media Library)

- Including acquisitions, collection development, discovery interface work, but NOT cataloging

Music librarians & the public/technical services divide

Public/technical Services Divide?

Minimum 30% of music librarians have both public & technical services responsibilities*

29% of MOUG members had public services duties; 4% of OLAC members had public services duties.**

*2016 MLA Survey of Personnel Characteristics, using “reference” and “cataloging/metadata” as proxies for public and technical services responsibilities

**2016 OLAC-MOUG Merger Survey; technical services librarians predominate in both organizations

A music analogy....

Technical services  performance

Public services  teaching

Who touches more people?

At my university, in a year....

Main homepage search box search sessions: 400,000+

Questions (all types - reference, direction, technology): ~62,000

Students receiving class instruction: ~2,400

***Rough statistics! People not deduplicated. Do not report these to ACRL! 😊*

ACRL Framework for Information Literacy in Higher Education

[HTTP://WWW.ALA.ORG/ACRL/STANDARDS/ILFRAMEWORK](http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/ilframework)

ACRL Framework

Searching as Strategic Exploration

Searching for information is often nonlinear and iterative, requiring the evaluation of a range of information sources and the mental flexibility to pursue alternate avenues as new understanding develops.

“The act of searching often **begins with a question that directs the act of finding** needed information. **Encompassing inquiry, discovery, and serendipity**, searching identifies both possible relevant sources as well as the means to access those sources. Experts realize that information searching is a contextualized, complex experience that affects, and is affected by, the cognitive, affective, and social dimensions of the searcher. “

The researcher and technical services

Frames:

Information Creation as a Process

Information in any format is produced to convey a message and is shared via a selected delivery method. The iterative processes of researching, creating, revising, and disseminating information vary, and the resulting product reflects these differences.

Research as Inquiry

Research is iterative and depends upon asking increasingly complex or new questions whose answers in turn develop additional questions or lines of inquiry in any field.

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Collection Development

Searching as Strategic Exploration

Scores are important!

Open student eyes to our collections

Discovery

WHERE THE THREE MUST MEET

Discovery intersections

~1900 – Walter Rose Whittlesey organizes LC's scores by medium of performance. Oscar Sonneck builds the M schedule on this basis. This decision was to “appeal to both the general reader and the scholar” (LC M Schedule, 1917)

1966 – Isabelle Cazeaux: It would be convenient to find piano sonatas under both "Sonatas (Piano) and "Piano music"; furthermore, it would eliminate the frequent question: "Why doesn't all piano music appear under 'Piano music'?"

1978 – “concerned music users of the OCLC system” form MOUG

1984 – MLA preconference workshop on automation

1986 – “Automation Requirements for Music Materials” published in *Notes*

1989 – “music materials highlight the built-in shortcomings of computerized catalogs” (MLA preconference workshop “Music in an Online Environment”)

Discovery intersections

2006 – NCSU launches a faceted catalog (Endeca), spawning others

2009 – Web-scale discovery (Serials Solutions launches Summon)

2010 – MOUG recommendations for WorldCat Local

2012 – Music Discovery Requirements

2013 - RDA

2014 – LCMPT & LCGFT

2018 – Music Discovery Requirements 2

“Searching as strategic exploration”

What to do?

Technical services

Work for the whole ecosystem, not just the parts you can control

Take time for advocacy and lending your expertise to...

- Vendors creating metadata

- Vendors creating discovery interfaces

- Public services colleagues

Listen to public services colleagues – and users if you can!

Prioritize

Public services

Don't just put up with it. Talk to technical services colleagues. Talk with vendors.

Identify the underlying need. Formulate use cases

- Not: “could you make this bold?”
- Rather: “Users need this information to determine which one of these scores they want. Could you make it more prominent?”

Take time to understand and know the underlying constraints of the systems you use

Prioritize

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Thank you!

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