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# Providing Access to and Discovery of Oral Histories at the University of Kentucky

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**PROVIDING ACCESS TO AND  
DISCOVERY OF ORAL  
HISTORIES AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY**

**Marsha Seamans, Kathryn Lybarger (University of Kentucky Libraries)**

**ALA Midwinter, Catalog Management Interest Group**

**January 21, 2017**

# LOUIE B. NUNN CENTER FOR ORAL HISTORY

- Our collection:
  - More than 9000 oral history interviews
  - Transcripts, sound recordings, video recordings
  - Older materials partially digitized
  - Focus: 20<sup>th</sup> century Kentucky history, Appalachia, Kentucky writers, agriculture, black history, the history of the University of Kentucky, broadcasting, sports, Kentucky medical history, and the experience of Kentucky war veterans



# WEBSITE (CATALOG)

The screenshot shows the website interface for the Louie B Nunn Center for Oral History. At the top left is the UK logo. The main header contains the text "Louie B Nunn Center for Oral History" and "University of Kentucky Libraries". On the right, there is a "Collection Catalog" link, a search bar with a magnifying glass icon, and links for "Help" and "Nunn Center". Below the header is a navigation menu with buttons for "Home", "Projects", "Projects Online", "People", "Subjects", "Advanced Search", and "Request Materials". Social media icons for Facebook and Twitter are also present. The main content area is titled "Browse by Topic" and features a grid of topic cards. The visible cards are: "agriculture" (with a photo of a person in a field), "appalachia" (with a photo of a mountain valley), "art, culture and tradition" (with a photo of a person on a path), and "athletics" (with a photo of people around a table). Below these are four partially visible cards.

**UK** | Louie B Nunn Center for Oral History  
University of Kentucky Libraries

Collection Catalog

Help Nunn Center

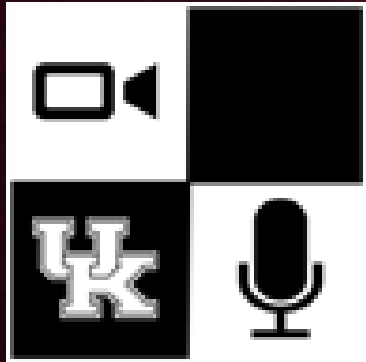
Home Projects Projects Online People Subjects Advanced Search Request Materials

Facebook Twitter

## Browse by Topic

- agriculture
- appalachia
- art, culture and tradition
- athletics

# ACCESS



**DISCOVERY?**

The Google logo is displayed in its characteristic multi-colored font. The letters are: 'G' in blue, the first 'o' in red, the second 'o' in yellow, 'g' in blue, 'l' in green, and 'e' in red. The logo is centered horizontally and occupies the lower half of the image.

Google



**WE CAN DO BETTER**

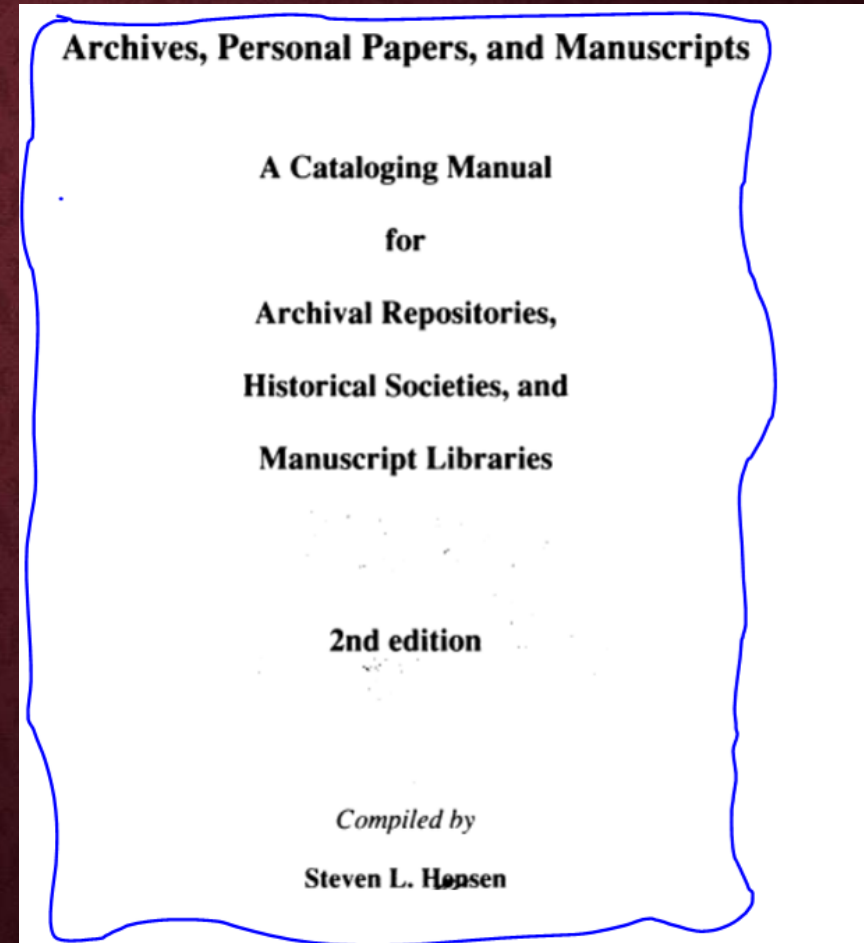
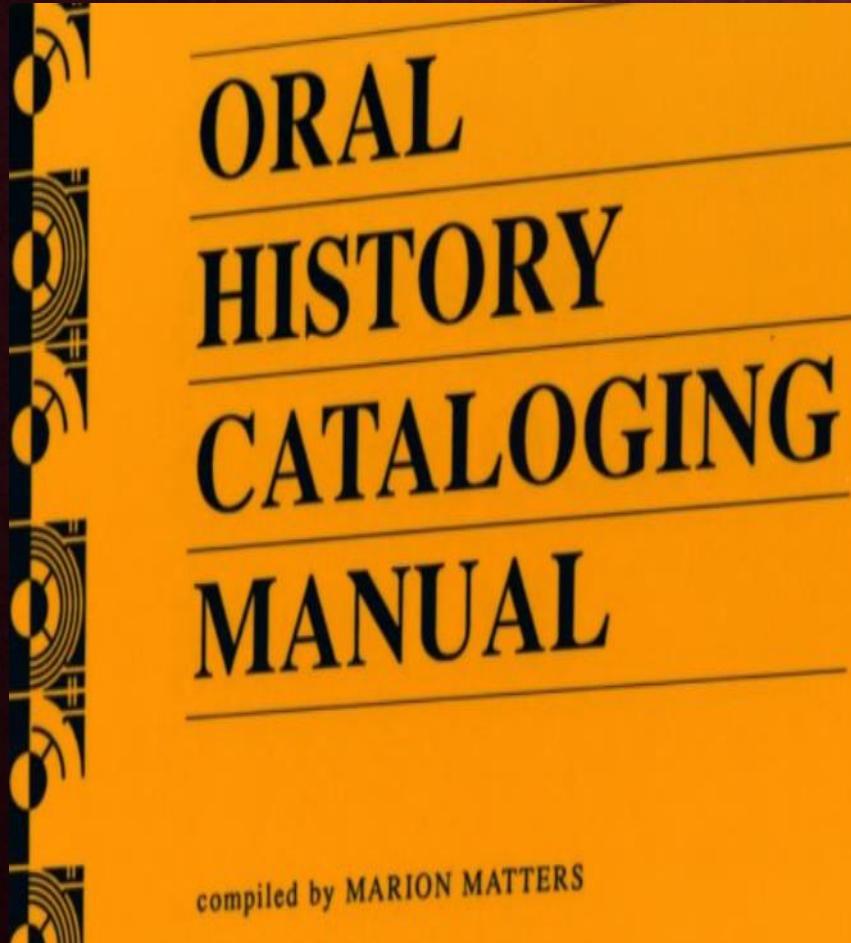


# WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH?

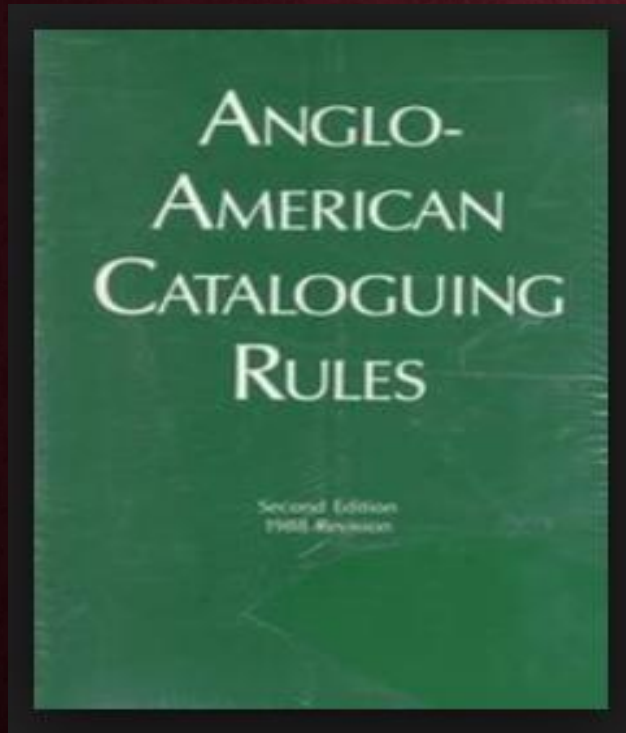
- Facilitate research in the areas of Appalachian studies, Kentucky, and Kentuckians
- Expose oral history through the library catalog and WorldCat
- Direct the user to the “Spoke” database, Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History catalog for more detailed information



# ORAL HISTORY CATALOGING



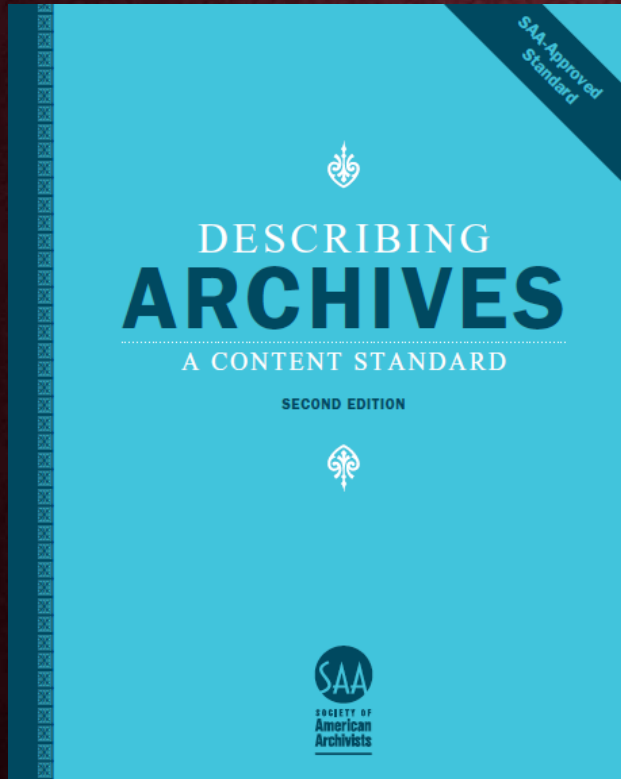
# CATALOGING STANDARDS



**R | D | A** TOOLKIT  
**RESOURCE DESCRIPTION & ACCESS**



# DACS



- **Describing Archives: A Content Standard**
- A common content standard used in archives
- Usually coded in EAD (XML), but can be coded in MARC



# DACS ELEMENTS -- MINIMUM

- Reference Code
- Name and location of repository
- Title
- Date
- Extent
- Name of Creator(s)
- Scope and Content
- Conditions governing access
- Language and Scripts of the Material

# DACS ELEMENTS – OPTIMUM / ADDED VALUE

- Administrative/Biographical History
- Scope and Content (full description)
- Access points
- Any other relevant elements





# CROSSWALK DACS → MARC

DACS to EAD and MARC		
DACS	EAD	MARC
<i>1 Level of Description</i>	<archdesc> and <c> LEVEL attribute	351\$c
<i>2 Identity Elements</i>		
2.1.3 Local identifier	<unitid>	099, 090
2.1.4 Repository identifier	<unitid> REPOSITORYCODE attribute	040\$a
2.1.5 Country identifier	<unitid> COUNTRYCODE attribute	The MARC21 format does not contain a straightforward mapping for this DACS subelement value.
2.2 Name and Location of Repository	<repository>	852, 524 (if the preferred citation indicates both the



# DECISIONS

- Cataloging standard: DACS / MARC
- Cataloging at project-level
  - No records for individual interviews
  - Collection included as added entry
- Name authority for interviewers, generally



# CHALLENGES

- Incomplete data available
  - Not all material digitized
  - Even if it were all digitized, not practical to examine all
- How to optimize workflow?
  - Large collection, cataloging should be consistent
  - Want to avoid typing in all data
- Export from main database?
  - A lot of work for developers (MARC!), startup and ongoing
  - Not highest priority





# WORKFLOW



- Metadata Extractor
  - PHP script
  - Script “screen scrapes” web site for an oral history project
  - Generates text to be copied and pasted into OCLC Connexion
- OCLC macros (OML)
  - Paste extracted output into blank OCLC workform (variable data)
  - Another macro completes fixed fields (like dates) from variable data



# ADVANTAGE: FAST, CONSISTENT

- Only a few clicks generates a nearly complete record
- No need to check over:
  - Punctuation
  - Spacing
  - All fields present?
  - Fixed fields
- Spend human time on human tasks:
  - Subject analysis
  - New authority work



# ADVANTAGE: FLEXIBILITY

- We can (and do) quickly make changes, based on:
  - New interviewers (authority work)
  - Any errors or bugs we might notice
  - Changing cataloging standards
  - Changing web site





# DISADVANTAGES

- Screen-scraping depends on the source web-site staying consistent
- Minor changes to the HTML (even if they don't affect the appearance of the page) could make the script not work
- Needed fields could be incomplete or difficult to access (in this case, it's not!)

# NEXT STEPS

- New procedure:
  - Large batch screen-scrape → MARC
  - Upload directly to OCLC and cleanup
  - Fewer steps per record
  - Any changes to site will only be a problem for newly added records



# CONTACT

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# REFERENCES

- Marsha Seamans, *Providing Access to and Discovery of Oral Histories at The University of Kentucky*, KLA Joint Spring Conference 2014
- Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History <https://kentuckyoralhistory.org/>