University of Kentucky
UKnowledge

Library Presentations | University of Kentucky Libraries

1-21-2017

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

Marsha Seamans
University of Kentucky, marsha.seamans@uky.edu

Kathryn Lybarger
University of Kentucky, kathryn.lybarger@uky.edu

Right click to open a feedback form in a new tab to let us know how this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: https://uknowledge.uky.edu/libraries_present

Part of the Cataloging and Metadata Commons

Repository Citation

Seamans, Marsha and Lybarger, Kathryn, "Providing Access to and Discovery of Oral Histories at the University of Kentucky" (2017). *Library Presentations*. 160.
https://uknowledge.uky.edu/libraries_present/160

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the University of Kentucky Libraries at UKnowledge. It has been accepted for inclusion in Library Presentations by an authorized administrator of UKnowledge. For more information, please contact UKnowledge@lsv.uky.edu.

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: 20th 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)

ACCESS

PASS THE WORD

A PROJECT OF THE KENTUCKY ORAL HISTORY COMMISSION

DISCOVERY?

WE CAN DO BETTER

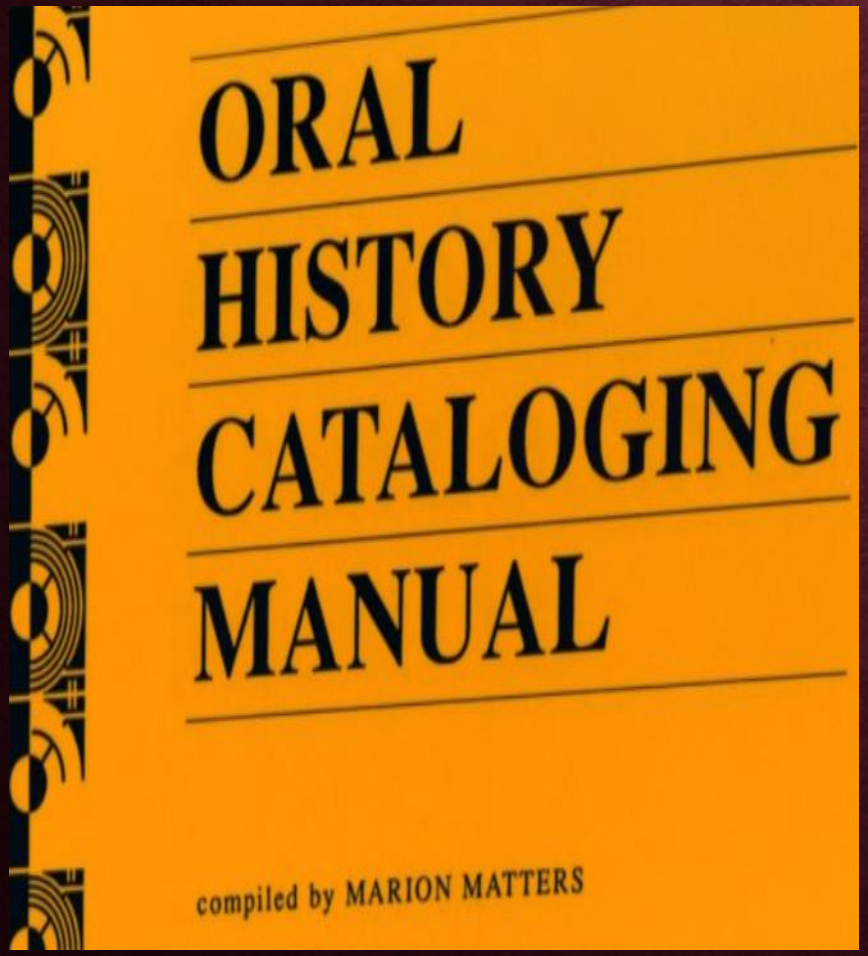
WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH?

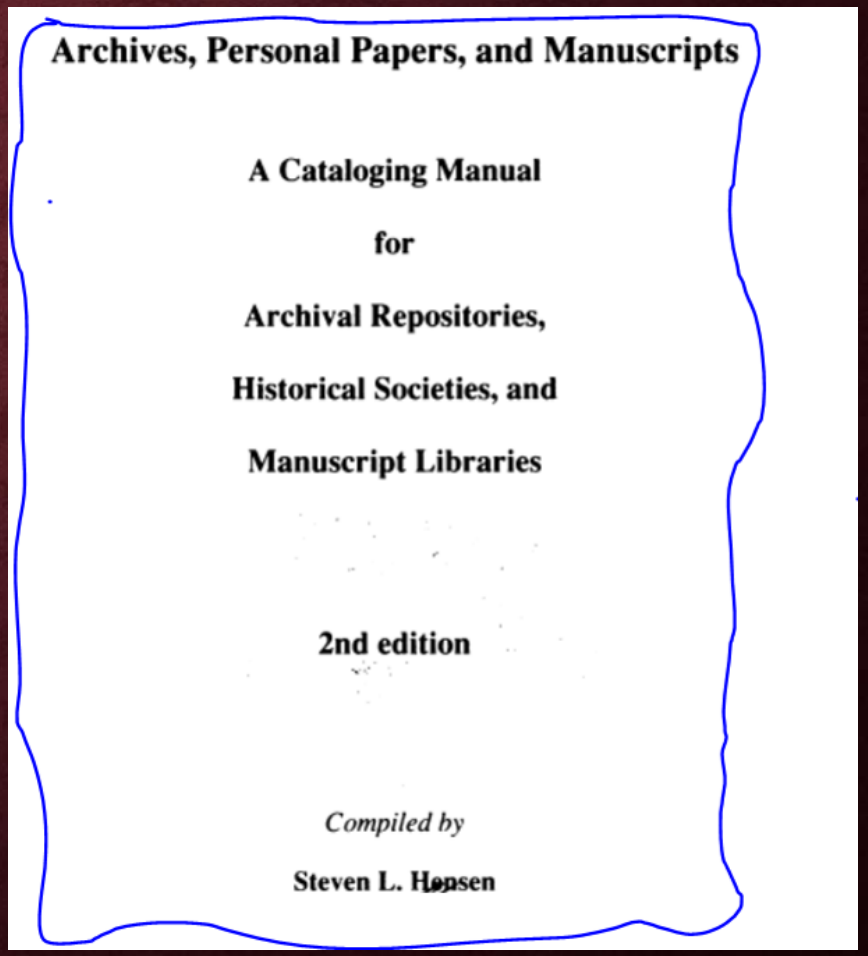
- Facilitate research in the areas of Appalachian studies, Kentucky, and Kentuckians

- Expose oral history through the library catalog and WorldCat

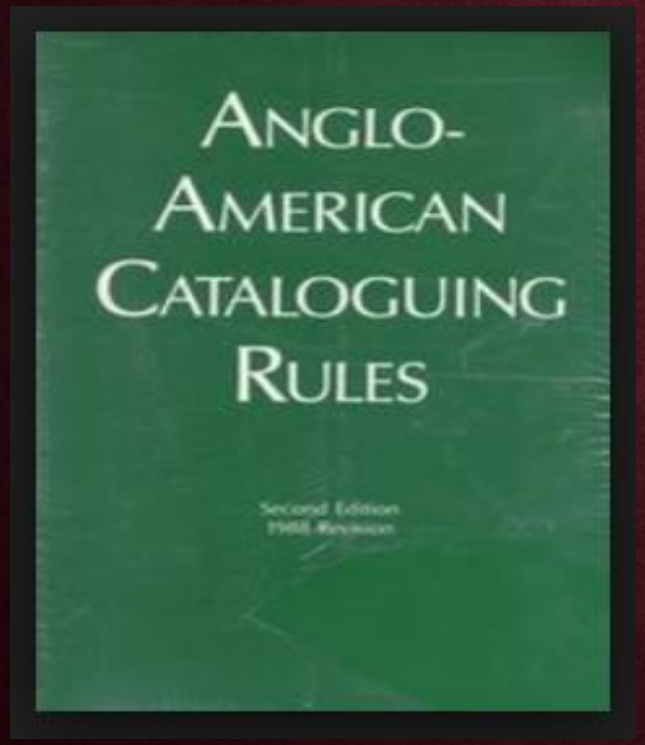
- Direct the user to the "Spoke" database, Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History catalog for more detailed information

ORAL HISTORY CATALOGING





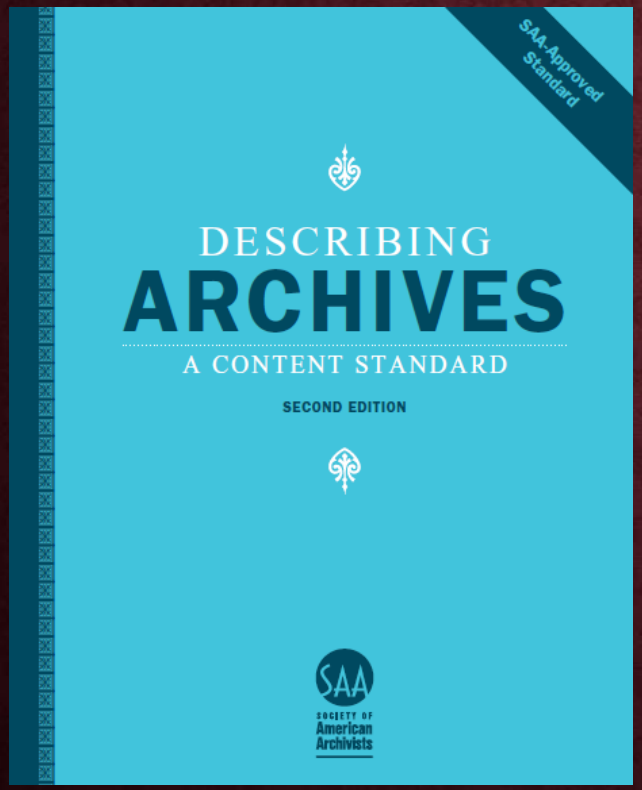
CATALOGING STANDARDS



RDA TOOLKIT

RESOURCE DESCRIPTION & ACCESS

DACS



- **D**escribing **A**rchives: A **C**ontent **S**tandard
- 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
1 Level of Description	<archdesc> and <c> LEVEL attribute	351$c
2 Identity Elements		
2.1.3 Local identifier	<unitid>	099, 090
2.1.4 Repository identifier	<unitid> REPOSITORYCODE attribute	040$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

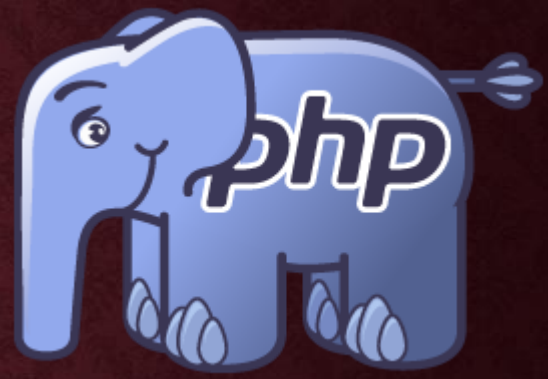
DECISIONS

- 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

Marsha Seamans

Marsha.Seamans@uky.edu

Kathryn Lybarger

Kathryn.Lybarger@uky.edu

@zemkat

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/