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Generating QR code or bar code labels based on information from online marketplaces for use on physical music releases to keep online and offline inventory synchronized

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Generating QR code or bar code labels based on information from online marketplaces for use on physical music releases to keep online and offline inventory synchronized

Abstract

A significant part of the global trade in physical music releases, such as vinyl records, CDs, and so on has moved from physical stores to online market places such as Discogs[1]. Many brick and mortar stores also sell their inventory online. Keeping inventory in the physical store and online store synchronized is a challenge, but can be made easier using labels with QR codes or bar codes.

Keywords

music, vinyl, CD, Discogs, QR, labels, connected world

Background

In the last 15 years the market for music collectables has changed significantly. The vinyl record revival has increased sales and record shops are thriving once more. Many record shops now sell both online at for example Discogs, as well as offline in a shop or on record fairs. Keeping inventory in the real world and online in sync is important: if people buy a record online and then hear that it was sold a few hours before in a shop or on a fair leads to a bad user experience. This disclosure document specifically focuses on Discogs.

To minimize the time between syncing of online and offline inventory automation can help, but not entirely prevent it. This can be done by printing a QR code or bar code onto an adhesive (sticker) and sticking that onto the physical release, or by using an insert with that code and keeping that with the physical release.

In Discogs each item that is up for sale is called a "listing". Each listing has a number associated with it, the so called "listing ID". This listing ID can be used with the Discogs API[2] to get information about a listing, but also to delete it.

Using a companion program (for example, a mobile app, or a program running on a computer that receives data from a bar code scanner) various actions can be performed, such as:

- retrieving information about a listing
- deleting a listing

Method

1. retrieve a list of listing identifiers from Discogs
2. for each listing identifier create a QR code or bar code that embeds said listing identifier.

3. print each QR code or bar code on a sticker and add it to the sleeve of the physical item, or print it on paper and store it with the physical item

When an item is sold:

1. scan the QR code or bar code with a scanner (mobile phone, portable or fixed scanner, and so on) and accompanying application (mobile app, or application running on a computer.
2. choose an action in the app, for example "delete listing"

References

[1] https://www.discogs.com/

[2] https://www.discogs.com/developers/