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6-9-2022

### Composers' collected works: a case study in remote work compatible catalog maintenance

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#### Recommended Citation

Floyd, David, "Composers' collected works: a case study in remote work compatible catalog maintenance" (2022). SUNY Library Association Conference.

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# Composers' Collected Works: A Case Study in Remote Work Compatible Catalog Maintenance

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## Background

The Fine Arts area in Binghamton University's Bartle Library is the primary location for music scores in our circulating collection. Like most library collections of notated music, it has its quirks, and one of our most odious is an inconsistent approach in our cataloging of sets of a composer's collected works (CCW). This poster illustrates the nature of the problem, the workflows developed to meet it, and the importance of flexibility for remote work in executing the project.

Since the late 1700s, music publishers have occasionally produced scholarly editions of the scores to every known authentic work by a famous composer. Today, these editions are mostly acquired by academic music libraries through standing orders. Cataloging practices vary because these sets often contain dozens of volumes and can take publishers decades to complete. Further, the requirements for representing large multipart sets in MARC have varied by the constraints of the technology, particularly the handling of holdings and item records. As a SUNY institution, our consortial use of Alma and Primo alleviates some of these issues, but cataloging decisions based on past systems may persist.

In general, there are two main types of cataloging practice used for CCWs. One approach is to assign a bibliographical (bib) record to each single- or multi-volume monograph in the CCW, establishing linkages through the series statement in MARC 490/830 and call number in MARC Holdings 852. In Resource Description and Access (RDA), this is called analytical cataloging (RDA 1.5). At Binghamton University Libraries, we refer to sets cataloged in this style as "Fully Transcribed" (FTC). The other approach is to assign a single bib record that describes the entire published contents of the CCW, and the items are linked by being placed all on the same holdings record. In RDA, this is called comprehensive cataloging. FTC and Comprehensive will be as shorthand in discussing these two cataloging styles.

If an item record is attached to an FTC bib record, the call number in the holdings record will include the item's enumeration information (volume number, etc.). If the item is on a comprehensive record, the enumeration information is located in the item record, and the holdings record will only include the portion of the call number that applies to the whole set.

FTC: M3 .B103 se.1 v.24  
Comprehensive: M3 .B103

## Identifying Problems and Solutions

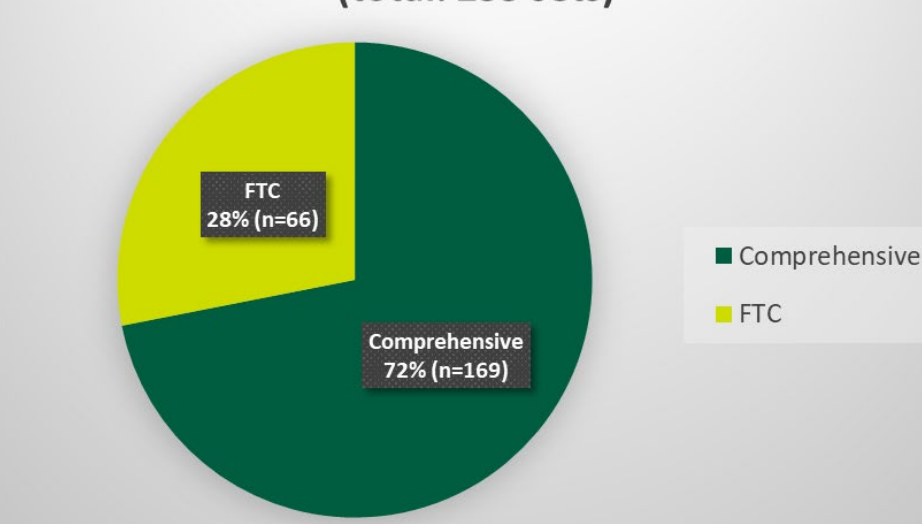
Our CCW collection's primary issue is that we have been doing both FTC and comprehensive cataloging on an inconsistent basis. To resolve this, consistency is needed in the cataloging of CCW sets. The CCWs with FTC records will be converted to Comprehensive ones wherever possible, because comprehensive cataloging better represents CCWs as a collected set, as opposed to separate monographs from the same series. This also better distinguishes our CCWs, which do not circulate, from our circulating scores. This distinction reduces title overlap between circulating and noncirculating scores in search results, making them easier for users to parse. To better understand the extent and complexity of the problem, the collection was analyzed, and a workflow was developed to collaboratively approach this as a cataloging department.

## Collection Analysis

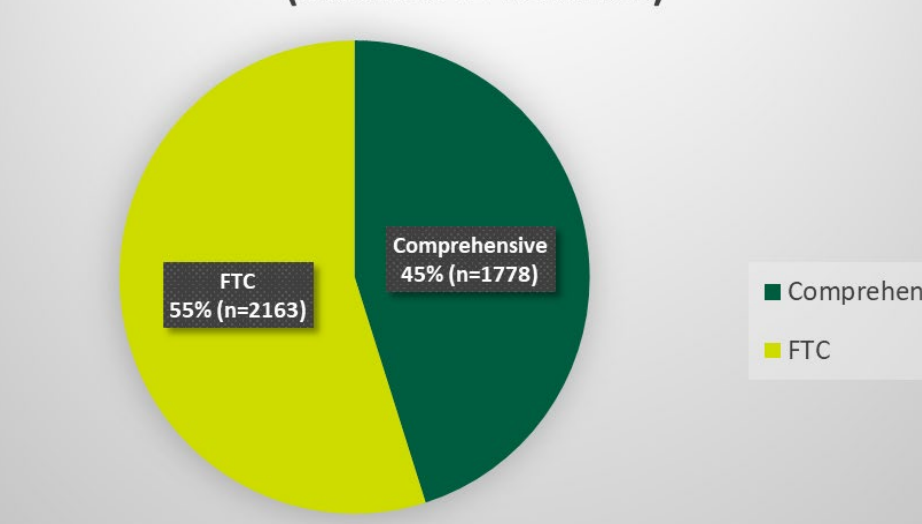
Using Alma Analytics, I generated a shelflist of every physical item in the call number range M3 (where all of our CCWs are classed) held in the Fine Arts area of Bartle Library. This shelflist provides the Title, OCLC Number, MMS ID, Holdings Call Number, Item Barcode, Summary Holdings, Library Code, and Location Code for each physical item.

Using Python and Regular Expressions, the call numbers from the shelflist were processed to remove all enumeration information. By comparing the length of the truncated call number to the original, each call number was coded as either FTC or Comprehensive. This revealed two critical data points that revealed the extent of corrections needed. As a proportion of CCW sets, of which there are 235, only 66 (28%) are cataloged as FTCs. However, of the 3,941 volumes comprising those sets, 55% (n=2,163) are cataloged as FTCs. Essentially, a minority of CCWs are cataloged as FTCs, but they make up a majority of the physical items in the M3 range.

Cataloging of Composer's Collected Works Sets in Fine Arts by Set (total: 235 sets)



Cataloging of Composer's Collected Works Sets in Fine Arts by Count of Physical Volumes (total: 3941 volumes)



## Parallel Workflows

### Workflow #1: Data Collection, Analysis, and Documentation (Project Manager)

This workflow models the ongoing development of the documentation used to track progress in converting CCWs from FTC to comprehensive records. Each CCW, regardless of FTC or comprehensive cataloging, is being reviewed for accuracy and consistency by the project manager. The work does not need to be complete for conversions to begin, so the process runs in parallel over time with workflow #2.

### Workflow #2: Conversion of records from FTC to Comprehensive (All catalogers)

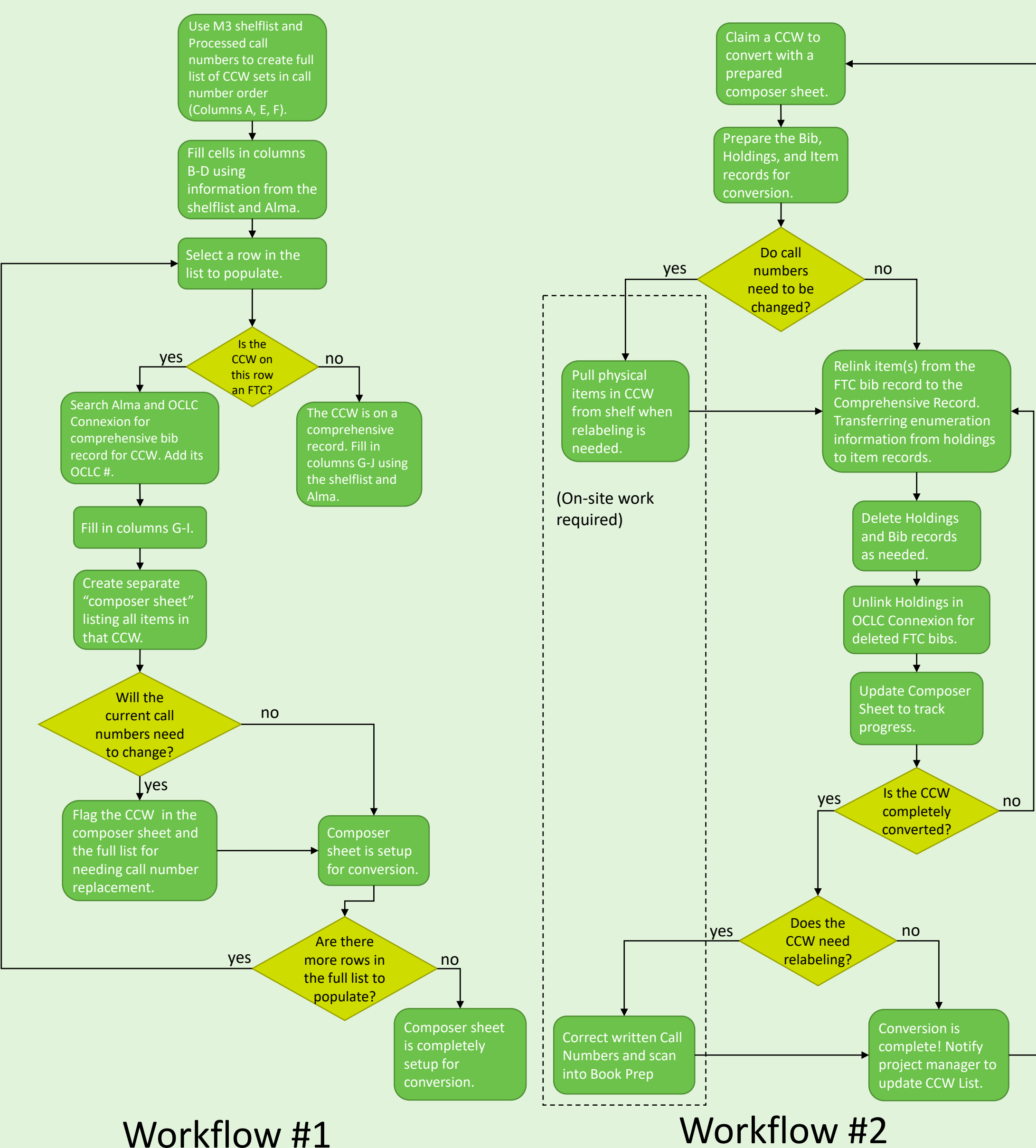
This workflow models the conversion of records cataloged as FTCs to comprehensive records. The actual steps in Alma used to convert the records are detailed in internal documentation. The core process involves copying enumeration information from the 852 Holdings call number to the enumeration fields in the item record.

### Relationship Between Workflows

Workflow #1 requires data processing and an advanced familiarity with music cataloging, two areas that are not expected competencies for other catalogers in the unit. Therefore, this work is siloed to allow the project manager to continue making progress while individual catalogers proceed with conversion.

### Work from Home Compatibility

With the exception of CCWs that are cataloged with the wrong call number, 100% of the changes affecting these sets are digital. In the case of a wrong call number, the cataloger working with that CCW will be aware of this from flags in the full list of CCWs and the sheet for that particular composer. These two steps are enclosed in a dotted box in the workflow diagram. Our catalogers are normally on-site full time, but as a consequence of changes in scheduling norms related to the COVID-19 pandemic, flexibility has taken new precedence in accommodating the circumstances that make occasional remote work desirable or necessary.



Cells in the Bib Type column are automatically highlighted when the value = FTC

Call Number	Set Title	Composer	Publisher	Volumes	Bib Type	Comp. Bib OCLC Number	Comp. Bib NZ?	Comp. Bib in?	Notes	Reviewer
M3 .B1133 suppl.	Die Neue Bach-Ausgabe auf dem Wege zu ihrem Abschluss	Bach, Johann Sebastian	Verlag G. Henle	1	Comprehensive			yes	Single vol. Probably fine	DF
M3 .B1133k	Neue Ausgabe sämtlicher Werke / Johann Sebastian Bach	Bach, Johann Sebastian	Kassel	31	FTC			yes	Critical Commentaries on M3 .B1133. Save for later	
M3 .B1134	Supplemente zur Gesamtausgabe / Beethoven	Beethoven, Ludwig van	Beuth & Habel	14	FTC			no	Save J. S. Bach for later. Supplemental (sub)Titles. Sheet check # 1 & 2 bound together. If so, update holdings.	
M3 .B3	Opera omnia	Burstein, Jacques	American Institute of Musicology	1 (27)	Comprehensive	555556		yes		
M3 .B377	Opera omnia / Giovanni Bassano, edited by Richard Chartes	Bassano, Giovanni	American Institute of Musicology	2	Comprehensive	5129376		yes	Check against inventory for errors	DF
M3 .B4	Complete edition of all his works	Beethoven, Ludwig van	Beethoven, Ludwig van	31	Comprehensive	5262258		yes	Check against inventory for errors	DF
M3 .B41	Supplemente zur Gesamtausgabe / Beethoven	Beethoven, Ludwig van	Beuth & Habel	14	FTC	1546326		no		
M3 .B44	Werke / Beethoven	Beethoven, Ludwig van	G. Henle Verlag	49	FTC	1365418		yes	Comp bib is suppressed (currently holds the standing order)	
M3 .B442	Werke / Beethoven. Kritischer Bericht	Beethoven, Ludwig van	G. Henle Verlag	14	FTC	12891466		yes	(8267487 currently holds the standing order)	
M3 .B48	Opera omnia	Berwoll, Oratio	Societas Universitatis Societas Cordae	18	Comprehensive	1108183		yes	Check against inventory for errors	DF
M3 .B48 1986	Sämtliche Werke	Berg, Alban	Universal Edition	9	FTC	51126320		no	Needs re-labeling for correct call number (M3 .B48 1986). Do not include Symphony Fragments OCLC #13170589) in CCW per 200 note. Instead, reclass as M3.B48 .B48 1986 in FA.	
M3 .B5	The complete works of William Billings /	Billings, William	Belmont, Hezekiah	4	Comprehensive	3352324		yes	Check against inventory for errors	DF
M3 .B52	New edition of the complete works	Beethoven, Ludwig van	Beethoven, Ludwig van	26	FTC	16715413		no	300 reads 26 volumes in 18	
M3 .B72	Le opere complete di Luigi Boccherini	Boccherini, Luigi	Istituto Italiano per lo Studio della Musica	10	Comprehensive	311961		yes	Check against inventory for errors	DF
M3 .B83	Sämtliche Werke	Brahms, Johannes	Beuth & Habel	26	FTC	999261		yes		
M3 .B835	Neue Ausgabe sämtlicher Werke	Brahms, Johannes	G. Henle	28	FTC	3609055		yes	Comp bib has no holdings, carries standing order	

"Full List" Screenshot: Composer's Collected Works Sets in Fine Arts

Titel	OCLC Number	MMS ID (U2)	Holdings Call Number	Item Barcode	Note	Comprehensive Bib Information
Partout des II. Aktes (Falkenle)	87144194	9600302921024802	M3 .B48 1986-Act 1 Bd.2 Opus	38091024048021		Comprehensive Bib OCLC Number: Sämtliche Werke 51126320
Partout des II. Aktes (Falkenle)	871442003	9600302921024802	M3 .B48 1986-Act 1 Bd.2 Facsim.	38091024048013		Collective Title: Sämtliche Werke
Kammerkonzert /	55022683	96001641610024802	M3 .B48 1986-Act 1 Bd.5 T.1	38091019442486		CCW Call Number: M3 .B48 1984
Valkkonzert /	35131678	96001168364024802	M3 .B48 1986-Act 1 Bd.5 T.2	38091009135502		MMS ID (U2)
Valkkonzert / Kritischer Bericht /	131011420	96370704274802	M3 .B48 1986-Act 1 Bd.5 T.2	38091025070435		Bib in NZ?
Sieben Tühe Lieder / Fünf Orchester-Lieder, op. 4. Der Wien /	37911817	96001172084024802	M3 .B48 1986-Act 1 Bd.6	38091011567383		NOTE: This set needs to be re-labeled with new call numbers. Pull from shelf before converting to Comprehensive CCW. Also see note for relocation of the Symphony-Fragments (row 11).
Instrumentalmusik und Chöre /	41343504	96001298987024802	M3 .B48 1986-Act 2 Bd.2 T.1	38091012281055		
Instrumentalmusik /	19173336	96001838182024802	M3 .B48 1986-Act 2 Bd.2 T.2	38091021333350		
Analysen musikalischer Werke von Arnold Schoenberg /	32336696	96001168365024802	M3 .B48 1986-Act 3 Bd.1	38091009196125		DO NOT ADD TO Comprehensive Bib Assign new call number in FA: M3.B48 .B48 1984. Needs relabel
Symphone-Fragmente /	13870898	96001253508024802	M3 .B48 1986 suppl	38091009196134		

"Composer Sheet" screenshot: Berg, Alban. Sämtliche Werke.

MARC21 Holdings Record (FTC)

Item Record (Comprehensive)

Conversion Example: Berg, Alban. Sämtliche Werke. Abteilung 1, Band 6, "Orchestergesänge."

Enumeration information for an FTC record is recorded in the holdings call number as shown on the left. Before the item record is re-linked to the comprehensive bib and its holdings record, this information is copied into the item's enumeration fields as shown on the right in Alma's physical item editor. This is done manually because the enumeration in the FTC record's holdings call number is not contained in its own subfield, making automation using Alma's normalization rules an impractical option.

References  
"Type of Description." Chapter 1.5 in *Resource Description and Access Original Toolkit*. <http://original.rdatoolkit.org/rdachp1.html>. April 11, 2017.