History of Bibliographic Control

Library and Information-type Work

– Undertaken through much of human history.
– Information packages of various types, e.g.:
  • Tablets
  • Papyrus (scrolls)
  • Books (codex)
  • Periodicals
  • Web and other networked resources

Development of Bibliographic Control

• Bibliographic control has a long history. Two major influences:
  – 1) Communications technology and commercialization
  – 2) Man’s need to know

General Periods in Bibliographic Control

• Ancient times: Lists
• Middle ages: Inventories
• Seventeenth century: Finding lists
• Nineteenth century: Collocating devices
• Twentieth century: Mechanization and codification

• Each period represents a turning point that reflects changing societal information demands and the development of new technologies

Societal Problems with Info Packages

– Stuff (i.e., information packages) piles up over time.
– Stuff proliferates over time:
  • A work can “morph” (e.g., Plato’s Republic)
  • Translations
  • Editions
  • Formats, such as audio books and movies
  • Commentaries
– Facilitating effective and efficient access to all this “stuff” can be very expensive for society.

Tension in User Needs – Cutter Revisited

1. To enable a person to find a document of which the author, or the title, or the subject is known
2. To show what the library has by a given author on a given subject in a given kind of literature
3. To assist in the choice of a document bibliographically (e.g., edition, format, etc.) as to its character (i.e. literary or topical)
Cutter Objective 1: Finding Known Items

- Situation: Users know the exact item that they want.
- Problem: How to locate OR relocate items that users know are in your pile of information packages.
- Solution for libraries: Cutter's Finding Objective.
- Parameters for addressing problem depend on category of user:
  - Experienced users (e.g., scholars)
  - Inexperienced users
- A relatively inexpensive service (i.e., minimal cataloging required to meet objective).

Cutter Objective 2: Collocating

- Situation: Users want to find out what is available in pile.
- Problem: How to determine what is held.
- Solution in libraries: The Collocating Objective.
- Parameters for addressing problem depend on category of question:
  - Author search
  - Subject search
- A relatively expensive service:
  - Requires detailed cataloging and codification of cataloging rules
  - Approach serves ALL users, not just those who know what they want

Tension in Library Use: Summarized

- We must balance the needs of all library users:
  - Those who know the exact item that they want
  - Those who only know the author, subject, etc of those items that they want
- We must minimize expense:
  - Therefore, we codify practices and
  - Share cataloging records
- Historical precedent – Panizzi in mid 19th century Great Britain:
  - Made the case for detailed cataloging and subject analysis
  - Produced the first cataloging code: The 91 Rules.

What is Collocation? (Full Definition)

- Bringing physical information packages together in a systematic way according to a criterion:
  - Shelf arrangement following a classification scheme ("classified shelf arrangement")
  - Useful for browsing information packages directly
- Retrieving surrogate records in a systematic way according to a criterion:
  - Catalog cards – author, subject, title
  - Stored as database records – OPAC

Why Surrogate Record Collocation?

- Overcomes limitations of physical information packages:
  - Can only be in one place at a time
  - Expensive to buy multiple copies
- Enhances access to information packages:
  - Cataloging cards can be replicated to create multiple access points (e.g., author, subject, title)
  - Surrogates in computerized catalogs can provide many more opportunities for access points

More Historical Notes on Libraries

- Up until the latter part of the 19th century (1876), libraries largely maintained closed stacks.
- Open stacks became part of the legacy of American libraries (people’s university and literacy issues).
- Standard classifications schemes, such as the DDC, began to emerge to provide criterion for systematic shelf arrangement across libraries.
Purposes of Classification

- Effective for both physical information package arrangement on library shelves and surrogate arrangement in library catalogs.
- Holistic (i.e. “universal”) view of knowledge provides the basis for systematic organization.
- “Serendipity.”

History of Cataloging Codes

- Early Library Organization Methods
- British Museum Rules (Panizzi’s 91 rules, 1841)
- Cutter’s Rules for a Dictionary Catalog (1876)
- Prussian Instructions (1898)
- Anglo-American Code (1908)
- ALA Code (1949)
- Library of Congress Rules (1949)
- AACR (1967)
- RDA