Business Unusual:

Highlights and Discussion of the Library of Congress Bicentennial Conference on Bibliographic Control for the New Millennium

A talk presented at the Annual Meeting of the Oregon Library Association
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by
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• library catalogs and the Web

• current library standards
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• future directions
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• experimentation
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• partnerships
• planning a national agenda for (a) resource description needs and (b) future directions for catalogs

• promoting needed changes to AACR2

• encouraging use of systems like LCSH, LCC, and DDC for Web resource organization and discovery

• collaborating with metadata communities and supporting interoperability

• developing and promoting standards that take Web users’ needs into account

• fostering software development to automate resource description

• addressing training issues and needs

• facilitating interfaces between catalogs and other metadata sources
Bibliographic Control Is Not Just for Catalogers Anymore!
Cataloging Is No Longer Just AACR2 and MARC!
“real cataloging” involves controlled vocabularies and adherence to the standards that have evolved in the past 100 years -- Michael Gorman

the traditional catalog is unsustainable economically, if extended to the Internet -- Carl Lagoze

the boundaries between the resource and the catalog are blurring -- Tom Delsey
Metadata is a fancy name for an inferior form of cataloging --

Michael Gorman
Librarians need to be more tolerant of dissonance in user search results --

Sarah Thomas
Libraries need to redesign their interfaces to provide a better representation of the relationship between resources --

Tom Delsey
We have been too long philosophically blind to what users do with the data in our catalogs --

Jennifer Trant
We are moving into an environment of increasing interaction and we must look to other cultural institutions for help and support in our quest to provide effective bibliographic control --

Priscilla Caplan
We need to make comprehensive changes to AACR2 that will provide coherent resource description and position library catalogs to integrate with other resource discovery tools --

Matthew Beacom
We need to develop a two-tiered approach and make use of other metadata schemes, as appropriate --

Ann Huthwaite
We have the potential to unite cataloging with the resources themselves --

Sally McCallum
We should consider different levels of control for different resources; Self-cataloging by authors is appropriate for some Web material --

Sally McCallum
It’s not either/or with respect to metadata schemes: it’s MARC and XML, MARC and Dublin Core --

Paul Weiss
The rapid growth of the Internet and the revolutionary transition from physical to digital artifacts jeopardize the role of the catalog and the library institution itself --

Carl Lagoze
A useful approach is to enthusiastically accept descriptive diversity and adopt a role as mediator --

Carl Lagoze
We have the potential for moving from today’s highly centralized model for cataloging to an iterative, collaborative, and broadly distributed model for electronic resource description --

Karen Calhoun
Picture an enhanced descriptive record, which would be dynamic and multi-faceted, with a series of concentric circles with bibliographic description at its core, surrounded by secondary or ancillary data such as tables of contents, book reviews, hooks to text, and so on --

Michael Kaplan
Envision a hierarchy of catalog records from “hand-crafted” to records containing automated description, some cataloger review, and automated authority control --

Regina Reynolds
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