In the beginning ...

... there was

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E-books: the kudzu of catalogers
In the beginning ...

Medical College of Virginia (1838)

+ Richmond Professional Institute (1917)

= Virginia Commonwealth University (1968)
• 32,000 students

• White lab coats & purple hair

• 32 ranked programs (#1 ranked programs in Sculpture and Nurse anesthesiology)

• Qatar: Art design campus

• VCU Rams basketball (Final Four in 2011)
• Two major libraries
• 2.5M volumes
• $9.8M collections budget
• Collection budget grown 500% in last 30 years
• 60 professionals, 73 staff
• Anticipated application to ARL in 2016
James Branch Cabell Library (Monroe Park Campus)

- 2012/13 visits exceeded 2 million
  - 15 x VCU Men’s Basketball home games
  - 5 x Woodstock
  - More than LC
  - More than NYPL 5th Ave.

- Built in 1975

- Planned for
  - 16,000 students
  - 1 million volumes

- Less space for students than any other university in Virginia (per SCHEV)

- Major building addition coming soon!
2000/2001

- Wikipedia
- Apple iPod
- Microsoft Windows XP
- Hanging chads
- VCU began purchasing electronic books
  - Space at a premium
  - No need to label, bind, repair, or shelve
  - Supported growing distance education programs
- 24/7 access
- Cost-effective
In the beginning ...

... there was
In 2000/2001, Lyrasis was still a part of Solinet.

Series of shared collections:

- January 2001: 10,973 records
- End of FY2001: 13,356 records
- 2001-2007: 56,000 records

Cataloging game changer
To the Rescue!

- MARCMaker / MARCBreaker
- NOTIS GTO record loader
- Perl scripts
- “Good enough” cataloging.
process:

• Retrieve files of pretty good MARC records via OCLC (N$T)

• Manipulate files

• Load files

• Count records

• OCLC holdings symbol set automatically (established a precedent for maintaining OCLC holdings for e-resource titles)

• An adventure in cataloging. And then ...
FY2001:

Ebooks added: 13,356
Print books added: 33,937

Ebooks in collection: 13,356
Print books in collection: 1.3 million
**FY2013:**

- Ebooks added: 44,989
- Print books added: 24,259
- Ebooks in collection: 679,826
- Print books in collection: 2.2 million
No two vendors/ebook packages are alike.

- Good MARC records with OCLC record numbers (but no arrangement with OCLC to set holdings automatically unless you purchase the OCLC record sets)
- Pretty good MARC records without OCLC record numbers
- Unacceptable MARC records.
- No MARC records (but title lists/spreadsheets, etc.)
- Notification / No notification
Process = variations on a theme:

1. Get the records (directly from the vendor or via OCLC search keys derived from title lists)

2. Attach holdings symbol to OCLC records

3. Manipulate the records

4. Load the records

5. Count the records.
Why bother manipulating the Metadata?

It’s all about Discovery!

Growing percentage of e-books vs. print books in collection

→ → Shelf browsing = increasingly irrelevant

✓ Increased reliance on public interface to integrate e- and physical book metadata
✓ Importance of metadata to differentiate e- from physical books in public interface
Discovery downside:

Duplication of titles among packages

→ multiple records in WorldCat (allowed and commonly accepted ... at first)

→ multiple records in local catalog
This mindset is a fundamental approach to cataloging online resources that emphasizes recording only fields that apply to all online manifestations of the resource.

Multiple URLs may be included in the record for packages that contain the complete text but only if the URL can be used by all licensed users.

There are no notes or added entries for specific packages or aggregations.

... a single bibliographic record that covers all equivalent manifestations of an online monograph ...
• Vendor-supplied records rarely (never?) incorporate 856 fields for their competitors

• Attempts to set holdings in OCLC frequently reveal holdings already set (from other vendor packages)

• OCLC records frequently include 856 fields for providers not relevant to local needs.

• Rely on system loaders to discover duplicates and apply increasingly intricate merge routines.

• Ongoing maintenance / cleanup of non-provider-neutral records already in local catalog
Arts in exile in Britain 1933-1945 politics and cultural identity
Shulamith Behr; Marian Malet
Amsterdam ; New York : Rodopi, 2005
Online access

View Online  Details  Reviews & Tags
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Ebrary
Online Access: Available to VCU users at: [http://site.ebrary.com/id/10062773](http://site.ebrary.com/id/10062773)

(856 40 $z Available to VCU users at: $u [http://site.ebrary.com/id/10062773](http://site.ebrary.com/id/10062773))
Implications of 856 field encoding

$z$
$3$
$y$
Indicators

Call numbers / Classification numbers?
Assign?
Display?

OCLC holdings?
WorldShare™ Metadata Collection Manager

Library sets up once

- Request Collection Manager
- Activate WorldCat holdings option
- Define MARC record options

Library and/or provider maintains as needed

Profile collections

Maintain WorldCat holdings

Provide reports

Automated, ongoing process

Deliver WorldCat MARC records
Local Zone

Data Services

Global Authorities

Shared repository of standard authority files
Managed by Ex Libris

Community Catalog

Shared metadata repository
Seeded by Ex Libris, stewarded by the community

Central KnowledgeBase

Shared administrative information for e-resources
Managed by Ex Libris

Inventory

Holdings, items, activated electronic resources, and digital objects
Can link to the local or Community Catalog

Local Catalog

Metadata repository stewarded locally
Managed by your library

The Characteristic Symphony in the Age of Haydn and Beethoven

ISBN: 0-521-80201-6 and others
Subject: Electronic books. -- Symphony. -- Music - 18th century - Philosophy and aesthetics.
Language: English  Medium Type: [electronic resource].  Record number: (OCoLC)56317629
Availability: Electronic version at ebrary Academic Complete: Full Text
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My prediction for the future is to have a set-up for ebooks that is almost universal. Just as we did for cataloging with OCLC and World Cat, ebooks could be accessed and dispensed on one major platform subscribed to by many, and not fragmented into many different platforms, publishers, aggregators, etc. etc. etc.

I think [the world of ebook vendors] is a mess and getting more out of control.

“The ebook world continues to be a primordial swirl of chaos. However, the maelstrom of platforms and formats and DRM headaches is spiraling down toward an eventual semblance of calm.”

Institute and the land international resources about several broad cate creating, and more etc. etc. etc. exactly the same class either, since much has changed since I developed the original syllabus in early 2013 — so much, in fact, that the new list of required readings is quite different from the original. While this class still requires no prior knowledge of ebooks and we will again be going over the basics (e.g., formats, reading devices, dominant brands, DRM, purchasing options, etc.), we will also take a closer look at the trends that are currently
Thank You!

"That's all Folks!"

Thank You!