CATALOGUING FOR THE USERS: from catalogue objectives to bibliographic data

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• new initiatives → an opportunity to set up a framework and infrastructure that could

  ↪ enable more powerful retrieval and semantics
  ↪ create more functional, informative, useful, technologically advanced catalogues
  ↪ better meet users’ needs
Transition

• important to understand the limitations and potential of the current format, cataloguing rules & practices

• derive from
  ... the objectives of the library catalogue
  ... the vision of user’s interaction
Catalogue objectives

• help users find a known item

• give an overview of the library collection & support exploration and selection
  – editions of a work
  – works by an author, topic, or type of literature
Catalogue objectives

How well does it answer user’s questions?

What questions should a catalogue be able to answer?

What kind of information and seeking behaviour should it support?
Catalogue boundaries

What works by Charles Dickens does the library hold?
Which is the most recent work (not edition) by Haruki Murakami?
Which works in the library collection have been performed by and which composed by Vladimir Horowitz?
Which English translations of Iliad can I choose from?
Borrowing Pinocchio, whose illustrations can I choose from?
What novels have been written based on Pride and prejudice?
Which adaptations based on Don Quixote does the library hold?
Don Quixote

Year
Translation
Original / Revised / Abridgement
Selections
Dual Language
Illustrations
Foreword
Text/Speaking Adaptations (for Children)
Comic Book Adaptation
Results for "don quixote cervantes"

Found 89 items

Sort by: Relevance

Cervantes' Don Quixote
A Casebook
By Mancing, Howard
863 C41dZG6c
All copies in use. Availability details

Cervantes' Don Quixote
A Reference Guide
By Mancing, Howard
863 C41dZM2c
Available in some locations

Miguel De Cervantes, Don Quixote
By Close, A. J.
863 C41dZC6m
Available in some locations

Approaches to Teaching Cervantes' Don Quixote
By Close, A. J.
863 C41dZB62a
Available in some locations

The History and Adventures of the Renowned Don Quixote De La Mancha / Miguel De Cervantes ; Translated by Tobias Smollett ; Introduction by Carlos Eustace ; Notes by...
novel
motion picture
musical
picture book
play

adaptations
imitations
complemented with

subject of

novel
literary criticism
TV documentary

illustrations
foreword
Catalogue boundaries

- users
  - frustrated by the functionality of library catalogues
  - shaped their expectations based on existing systems
  - do not expect such questions to be answered by a catalogue

- Wikipedia as the resource for many of these questions

Is it not the role of the library to provide answers to such questions?
The user interface

**FRBR** (*Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records*)

... framework that could enable users to get the answers

**but**

How to fully implement these concepts in a user interface?
The user interface

- forgotten (put aside) in the last decade
- divide between the ideas and the limitations of bibliographic data
- solutions to catalogue displays lie in changing the cataloguing practice
Experiment: FrbrVis prototype

objective:

– bring together different versions and editions of a work
– display relationships within a broader work family
– provide a good overview of what is available, navigational infrastructure for exploration & information needed to distinguish between individual entities and relationships
FrbrVis prototype

user interface

frbrization algorithms

MARC21 records
FrbrVis prototype

FrbrVis :: VISUALIZING FRBR DATA

Cervantes Saavedra, Miguel de
DON QUIXOTE [novel - satire]

versions related works works by/about the author

Don Quixote > English

English

Spoken word
narrated by: Guidall, George
Don Quixote
year: 2003
format: audio book - CD
publisher: Recorded Books,
description: 35 discs (2 containers)

narrated by: Sachs, Andrew
Don Quixote
year: 2007
format: audio book - CD
publisher: Hodder & Stoughton,
description: 3 CDs

Text
abridged by: Jenkins, Martin
Don Quixote
year: 2009
format: book - print
publisher: Walker,
description: 347 p.

abridged by: Sheridan, Susan S.
Don Quixote
year: 1926
format: book - print
publisher: Macmillan,
description: xxv, 479 p.
FrbrVis prototype

a) versions and editions of a work

- author relator code
- preferred title
- original language
- form of work
- genre
- language of expression
- content type
- contrib. relator code
- carrier type
- media type

linking field

WORK

work title

WORK PARTS:
work part title

NAME OF LANGUAGE

CONTENT TYPE:
text, spoken word

VERSION:
translation, abridgement, original text, selections

MANIFESTATION:
year, carrier & media

Don Quixote

1965 book print

1976 book print

2007 book print

abridged by Sala

abridged by Körösi

abridged by Červený

abridged by Heré

Spanish

Italian

German

English

Slovenian
FrbrVis prototype

b) related works

- analytical authorized access point
  *rel. designator, creator, title, form of work*

- subject added entry
FrbrVis prototype

c) works by/about the author

- clear identification of works
  preferred title, form of work, creator
- consistent use of relator codes
our experiment

... substantial amount of editing required

... not easy to transform current records to achieve the desired presentation due to missing & inconsistent data

... needed: better specification of obligatory elements & vocabularies created with final output in mind
• MARC will (eventually) be replaced
• a new format will not necessarily bring the needed changes
• important to understand which elements should be included in records to create the desired output
Future library catalogues

**OBJECTIVES**

- What kind of questions need to be answered?
- What should be offered to match/surpass other information sources?

**INTERFACE**

- How should the interface look like?
- What functions/interaction should be supported?

**DATA**

- What data is needed?
- How should the data be encoded?
Future library catalogues

... MORE SPECIFIC

How will functions and data depend on the type of material?
How should entities be clustered?
How do we deal with the varying complexity of works and authors?
Is there a one-size-fits-all solution?
What will be presented to the user at each point in their search?
What kind of links-paths for exploration should be enabled at a particular point in the catalogue?
Future library catalogues

Cutter’s advice (1876):

“the best catalogue answers the most questions with the least amount of trouble to the asker”
thank you