SWAN Cataloging Advisory Notes

Chair:

- Scott Brandwein, SWAN

I. Serials Cleanup update
   a. Analytics
   b. Item removal
II. Item Type Consolidation
   a. Update
   b. Item Category 5 "Carrier Type" proposal
III. Library of Things / Shared Record Discussion Revisited
IV. Diversity and Inclusion in Subject Headings and Descriptive Data
V. Video Game Backwards Compatibility Inquiry
VI. Open Discussion
VII. Next Meeting
   Thursday, May 06, 2021, 01:30 PM – 04:00 PM
   https://www.gotomeet.me/SWANLibs/cataloging-advisory

Serials Cleanup Update

SWAN has completed a series of trainings on serial call numbers and is monitoring incoming items to ensure that library staff are properly encoding serial call numbers for new magazine, journal, and newspaper issues.

The next step a large-scale serial clean-up project is the identification of item, MARC holdings, and serial control records that can be removed from our database. We suspect there is a large amount of data that is no longer being used be member libraries, and the presence of certain types of unused records can prevent discarded item records from being removed.

The first step in this process is a survey that we will send to all member libraries gathering information about their serials practices, including retention policies, use of MARC holdings and serial control, and OCLC considerations. We will use this information to tailor cleanup efforts towards the most relevant candidate records. No records of any type will be deleted without consent from member libraries.

Item Type Consolidation

We provided a quick update to the group about some success we've had in consolidating portions of certain libraries' item type vocabularies according to our recommended guidelines. We continue to meet with library staff about this possibility as a standalone topic and as part of fine-free considerations.

We also proposed use of the Item Category 5 to support this effort. On major concern staff have raised with Item Type Consolidation is the loss of statistical insight into the performance of their collections. For example, many staff were hesitant to convert because of losing the distinction between Blu-ray and DVD formats. Cataloging Advisory has agreed to the use of Item Category 5 as a "Carrier Type" field, wherein libraries may select a policy representing the physical format of their materials while maintaining a simplified Item Type vocabulary.

Proposed use of this field is to identify Blu-rays and DVDs, audiobooks on CD vs. Playaway, paperback vs. hardcover books, and types of objects in Library of Things collections. Item Category 5 possibilities will be part of the discussion for all future Item Type Consolidation consultations, and we are willing to expand the policy list to accommodate your library's needs.

Library of Things / Shared Record Discussion Revisited

This discussion was a kickoff to future refinement of recommendations for these types of materials. The bulk of the discussion concerned 590 Format usage. Advisory wishes to clarify the definition of these terms and promote consistent usage across libraries, which will be necessary as we continue to promote use of shared bibliographic records. SWAN will perform some analysis of the 590 term use, and we will return to this discussion during our May meeting to come up with recommendations and possibly simplify the vocabulary overall.

Diversity and Inclusion in Subject Headings and Descriptive Data

Responding to member staff requests, similar projects taking place at our sibling Illinois consortia, and general buzz in the library community, we will be discussing diversity and representation in our bibliographic data. We want to ensure that our metadata describes materials by, for, and about different classes of people in a way that is respectful, modern, and easy to search. This may include how

catalogers compose notes and name special collections, but it will definitely include consideration of standardized subject heading terms. For example, the term "illegal aliens" is used over a dozen Library of Congress Subject Headings, and this term has been under scrutiny for a long time and is considered by many to be disrespectful. Furthermore, analysis of patron search tendencies in the SWAN catalog suggests that this term is not useful as an access point in the first place. Due to the slow nature of government work, some libraries are not waiting for Congress to make changes to their catalog.

We will be assembling a working group of Cataloging Advisory members and possibly other SWAN representatives to identify opportunities and recommend updates to our metadata practices. We expect that most of these recommendations can be implemented through automated processes on the Symphony server in concert with consultation with MARCIVE, our authority record and bibliographic clean-up vendor.

Video Game Backwards Compatibility Inquiry

This was a response to a question posed to SWAN about representation of backwards compatible video games. The PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series X both advertise that their system are backwards compatible, meaning that games designed for the previous generation of consoles will work on the new hardware.

Cataloging Advisory decided that this feature is likely known to users of the consoles and that no special provision is necessary.