Cataloging Calculator

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In a previous “Tech Services on the Web” (Technical Services Quarterly 27:1, 2009) review, the Cataloging Calculator designed by Kyle Banerjee was examined. This site has recently been updated to become more streamlined. The multi-pane display has been replaced by a single search screen. The search options are now on the left and the search results mostly appear on the right.

This handy tool is useful for librarians to determine an LC cutter or geographical cutter for a call number, geographical code for the 043 MARC field, country code for fixed fields, language code for fixed fields and 041 MARC field, abbreviations in AACR2, and links to descriptions of the variable MARC fields. As noted in the previous review, the MARC variable fields option still brings users to the OCLC website instead of the suggested MARC 21 Format for Bibliographic Data website.

The Cataloging Calculator is still easy to use. Typing “Haw” displays H39 for LC cutter, H3 for geographic cutter, hiu for country codes, haw Hawaiian and moh Mohawk for language codes, Hawaii T.H. for AACR2 abbreviation, Hawaii—n-us-hi and Sunbelt States Assigned codes: n-usu—Southern States n-ust—Southwest, New, and if appropriate, n-us-hi Hawaii for Geog. area codes. For these fields, entering the desired search term in the search box and then selecting the radio button next to the search option displays the results without having to click the “Find it!” button. If a wrong term is entered, the site displays “No matches were found. Please try again.”

Since the last review, the Cataloging Calculator has added RDA content types, LCSH, and Getty AAT plus links to lookups for Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine (SNOMED), International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD), 10th revision (ICD-10), MeSH, or NLM. Selecting RDA content types (no entry needed) shows a list of the content types used in MARC field 336 and their associated abbreviations. However, the site should also include MARC field 337 – Media Type and MARC field 338 – Carrier Type descriptions because these fields are used together.

Additionally, it might be nice to include links to the Library of Congress and MARC pages for some of the other options, such as language codes.

Unsure of a subject heading? The Cataloging Calculator offers LC, and Getty Art and Architecture Thesaurus options. For LC, typing “Hawaii” in the search box and then selecting the LCSH radio button presents a long list of terms containing the word Hawaii. Clicking on a displayed term brings up the LC subject headings page. For Getty, typing “Hawaii” and then selecting the Getty AAT option shows the terms that contain the word: Hawaiian (culture or style), Hawaiian flag quilts, Hawaiian (language), and Hawaiian quilts. Clicking on a term displays the Getty Art and Architecture Thesaurus full record display page.
Below the search area, there are two drop-down options. The “Select Standard Subdivisions Below” drop-down provides an extensive list of the most common types of subject heading subdivisions. Selecting one choice shows the term and the free-floating form subdivision, such #x, #z, etc. The “Enter Fixed Field Below” option displays the required fixed fields for that type. Options include: books, computer files, maps, mixed materials, scores, serials, sound recordings, visual materials, and authority data.

Previous users of the Cataloging Calculator may remember how sometimes reselecting the search options was necessary since the older version took longer to load and then defaulted back to MARC various fields even after clicking another option. The new version loads more quickly and has a better visual display on a mobile or tablet device (Note on a tablet, the fixed fields may display below the drop-down instead of to the right). For those who miss the old display, a link to the “classic version” is available in the display results area.

The original review stated, “Yes, all of the information on the Cataloging Calculator is available on other websites, but not always together, and generally not without a fee. The Cataloging Calculator is fast, free, and accurate. It can easily be bookmarked and left open on a desktop, so as to be referred to throughout the day.” These statements still ring true 7 years later as the Cataloging Calculator has proven to be a tool catalogers use daily. It is impressive Kyle Banerjee is still continuing to make improvements to the site and is looking for feedback. With these new updates, the Cataloging Calculator is even more indispensable than ever.

Rating: 4.5 out 5

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