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ALCTS YouTube Channel

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Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) YouTube Channel

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genres of music and is very up-to-date. Catalogers who are working on popular music will find this site useful.

Rating: 2 out of 5.

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Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) YouTube Channel

https://www.youtube.com/user/alctsce/

Looking for free training? The webinars from the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) are freely available to everyone 6 months after presentation via the ALCTS YouTube channel. On the channel’s home page, the videos are organized into several categories: Collections, Cataloging, Continuing Resources, Preservation, and Uploads. A few videos for each category appear with the title, video length, number of views, and how long ago they were uploaded. The Uploads category presents the most recent videos, while the other categories display the oldest videos. The Videos, Playlists, Channels, Discussion, and About links near the top of the page help navigate throughout the channel.

To locate the most recently posted videos, click the Videos navigation link or the Uploads category link. The videos in all the categories appear with the title, length of the video, number of views, and how long ago they were uploaded. Unfortunately, the videos lack a brief description on this page. The display can be filtered to show all videos or liked videos, and sorted by most popular or the oldest. Additionally, list and grid views are available. Changing the list/grid view carries throughout the channel. To see more videos, click the Load more button at the bottom of the page.

For groups of related videos by topic, click the Playlists link. The topics include: liked videos, Spanish webinars, MOOCs, continuing resources, virtual preconference, collections, cataloging, preservation, institutional repositories, and RDA series webinars. The number of videos in each playlist appears. This page can be sorted by the newest or oldest, and list and
grid views. However, on the Playlists page, the List view shows the titles of the first three videos, their play times, and a link to see the list of all of the videos in the playlist. If unsure what video to view, the List view is the more useful display.

The Channels page shows the currently associated channels and a link to subscribe to the channels. Currently, there are only a few listings. The Discussion page displays posted comments. However, this section of the channel has not had much usage. The About page provides a description of the channel, number of subscribers, number of views, and links to related channels. A search channel button is located next to the About link. To search for videos, click the search button and enter the search term. The videos that are the best match appear first. Unfortunately, the search results include too many listings, some of which do not seem to be related to the search term.

Unsure how to begin? Click on a category of videos or a specific video. Clicking a category displays the playlist for the category. All the titles included in the playlist appear with the play time of the videos. The videos appear in the order posted (generally the oldest first). This is helpful to view a set of related videos in order. However, if a user wants the most recent information, they have to scroll to the bottom of the page to find the most recent videos. After clicking on a video or its title, the video begins to play, with standard video controls available. On this page, a brief description of the webinar finally appears. Click Show more for the full description. The number of views, likes/dislikes, date published, and comments are also included.

The ALCTS YouTube can be an introduction to a new skill or a refresher. Navigation follows the standard YouTube navigation. Some of the older videos may be a little stale, so it may be preferable to display the more recent videos first. Plus, descriptions of the videos would help narrow down desired videos with fewer clicks. On a positive side, this site contains a wide variety of videos to satisfy the training needs of technical services professionals. To keep up-to-date with this channel, click the Subscribe link on the home page to receive notifications of new videos and highlights from the channel. For those with a limited training budget or who only need a brief introduction to a topic, the ALCTS YouTube channel is a great beginning point.

Rating: 4 out 5.

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