Measuring the Impact of Change: A Case Study Exploring the Impact of Integrating Non-MARC Metadata Production into the Duties of Traditional Catalogers

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Abstract

While there is a growing body of literature addressing metadata integration in technical services departments, the impact of this integration on catalogers' job yet to be explored. This poster addresses this gap in the literature, measuring the impact of metadata integration on Technical Services team members at the University of Tennessee Libraries.

In early 2007, the Digital Library Center of the University of Tennessee Libraries invited staff in the Technical Services Department to get involved in the creation of descriptive metadata for digitized archival collections. Volunteers were trained in a 12-hour workshop led by the Metadata Librarian, and then participated in a pilot phase to test the workflow. Adjustments were made to the workflow based on findings from the pilot, and the team began production of metadata as part of their weekly duties.

To assess the impact of the duties that came with integration, the Metadata Librarian and Cataloging Librarian jointly conducted an in-house survey of metadata team members. The survey measures the team's satisfaction with procedures and workflow, and the impact new responsibilities had on their overall job performance and workload. This poster examines the survey findings and draws conclusions about catalogers' attitudes toward metadata integration.

1 Attitudes

How catalogers feel about having non-MARC metadata duties integrated into their traditional job responsibilities:

- Like it: YES 100%  NO 0%
- Where intimidated by it at the beginning:
  - Yes 44%
  - No 56%
- Cataloging in non-MARC metadata is more difficult than cataloging in MARC:
  - Yes Acquisitions 50%  Catalogers 22%
  - No Same Acquisitions 29%  Catalogers 33%  No difference
- These duties make me feel more important than before:
  - Yes Acquisitions 50%  Catalogers 33%
  - No Same Acquisitions 25%  Catalogers 22%  No difference
- Have this skill will improve job security in the future:
  - Yes Acquisitions 100%  Catalogers 100%
  - NO 0%

2 Demographic Data

Age Range

- 21 - 29: 7%
- 30 - 39: 22%
- 40 - 49: 14%
- 50 - 59: 50%

In which section of technical services do you spend most of your time?

- Acquisitions: 29%
- Cataloging: 64%
- Serials: 7%

3 Satisfaction with Workflow

Tool to generate MODS metadata

- Like it: YES 100%  NO 0%
- Would like to make adjustments to it:
  - YES 93%  NO 7%
- These areas would like to see adjustments:
  - Subject heading boxes 73%
  - Copy & paste functionality 55%
  - Abstract box 0%
  - Other 22%
  - Personal names boxes 55%

4 Impact of Integrating Non-MARC Metadata Duties into Job

- Is Good Enough: YES 87%  NO 13%
- Should be more: 80%
- Should be less: 7%

We found people between the ages of 21-49 are less intimidated to take Non-MARC metadata responsibilities than people 50 and up.