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Cataloging and Metadata Committee -- Music Library Association (Open Access)

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Available at: https://works.bepress.com/michael-monaco/23/
The website of the Music Library Association's Cataloging and Metadata Committee (hereafter, MLA CMC) gathers together numerous resources of interest to catalogers and metadata librarians who work with music.

The website’s landing page has two main “menus,” one running across the top of the page and another along the bottom. The menu has the tabs Groups, PCC Funnels, Cataloging Resources, Metadata Resources, Archives, and FAQ. Along the bottom, the tabs are: Blog, Best Practices, Reports, and Videos.

The top menu provides access to various tools documents of interest to music catalogers and metadata librarians working with music. “Groups” links to a list of committees and task forces within the MLA CMC, and this list in turn links to pages for each group with a full roster and links to their documents. “PCC Funnels” links to the BIBCO, SACO and NACO funnels dedicated to music. “Cataloging Resources” is a robust, nearly exhaustive set of links to internal and external documents of the MLA CMC, Library of Congress, and other organization useful to catalogers. The resources are organized into fourteen categories, each category bringing up its own page of links. “Metadata Resources” is likewise is arranged into categories (in this case seven) which have varying depths. For example the “Issues and trends” category has just one link, to the BCC BIBFRAME Task Force’s blog, while “Management trends” links to a long list of tools which itself has several categories such as Software, Content Management Systems, and Mobile Apps. “Archives,” collects all of the CMC’s documents, including committee rosters, presentations, and reports, arranged both topically and chronologically. This must be of special interest to CMC members. “FAQ” serves to explain the CMC’s mission and organization and give starting points for those who want to propose changes or additions to standards, best practices, and vocabularies that the MLA CMC has influence over.

The bottom menu has larger graphic links, some of which seem to be intended to highlight specific resources already linked above. “Blog” is a link to the CMC’s blog, which carries announcements about the CMC’s activities. “Best practices” links to the best practices documents also linked in the “Cataloging Resources” mentioned above. “Reports” goes to the same archive of reports that can be found in the “Archives” tab. “Videos” is a link to a YouTube channel with the ten videos uploaded by the CMC since December of 2016.

As the reader will have noted, there is a certain amount of redundancy in the links provided in the two menus, both within a given tab item and among the different tabs. This is mostly a good thing, as some resources logically fall into multiple categories. However other resources are not listed where a user might expect. For example, videos of the MLA’s videos of presentations (such as “Music Cataloging Basics”) are not found in the “Videos” tab, but under “Cataloging Resources,” then “Training,” which has a link to the “MLA Vimeo Channel.” The principles of organization for the many links on each page and the page layouts as a whole seem inconsistent, perhaps because different tabs are maintained by different task forces or subcommittees. Another minor issue is the presence of ads. The “Metadata resources: Issues & trends” page has just one link, and beneath it the page is dominated by a large ad for project management software. There are relatively few such ads, but they are disruptive. Lastly, it is difficult to tell when pages have been updated. The “Metadata bibliography” page under “Metadata resources” has no publications after 2012, and most seem to date from 2010 or earlier.
Similarly there are no entries to the lists of RDA conferences or presentations after 2014, suggesting that parts of the site are being neglected. However the CMC’s documents are up to date, and must be the main attraction of the site.

In spite of some shortcomings, the site is an amazing resource and will save the time of any music cataloger.

Rating: 4 out of 5 stars

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