n00bs

a story of my people

Autumn Faulkner
Michigan State University
Biennial Educators Meeting @ ALA MW 2014
a little background

- MLIS from University of Alabama
  - real-time online courses
  - no previous library experience
  - courses in cataloging & metadata
- Hired March 2012 at Michigan State University
  - monographs, some music
me on the first day
things I definitely knew
the basics

- Dewey & LC classification
- MARC record structure and (most!) fields
- OPAC indexing and searching capabilities
- awareness of other content and encoding standards
cataloging theory

FRBR → RDA → post-MARC → Semantic Web
cataloging theory

courtesy of Joshua Barton, head of cataloging @ MSU
things I had practiced
cataloging

Provide descriptive cataloging for the following:

   020 9781594202629
   020 1594202621
   100 1# Brands, H. W.
   300 210 p. : $c 24 cm.

   020 0792849000
   020 9780792849001
   245 04 The madness of King George $h [videorecording] / $c directed by Nicholas Hytner.
   300 1 videodisc (1 hr., 50 min.): $c 4 1/2 in.
   306 015000
   300 Duration: 1 hr., 50 min.
   508 Director of photography, Andrew Dunn; editor, Tariq Anwar; music adapted by George Fenton.
   511 1# Nigel Hawthorne, Helen Mirren, Ian Holm, Amanda Donohoe, Rupert
metadata & misc

- Dublin Core
- local controlled vocabulary
- digital image description
- HTML & CSS
things that made my head explode
# the standards

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the system

☐ vendors?

☐ modules?

☐ interfaces?

☐ records?
the history

- national practice has evolved over decades
  - legacy records always lurking
- local practice can be very idiosyncratic!
  - notes, gifts, series, locations, collections, workflows....
the special formats

MUSIC
CDs
Tapes
Albums
Streaming

VIDEOS
Posters
Microfiche
Maps

MICROFILM
Ebooks
Kits
Reels
Tapes
Discs
the authority work

- knew how to find and use existing authority records
- NO idea how to create them
the immense universe of bibliographic data and practice

what I learned in class
why?

- this is true of most courses covering an entire field
  - only enough time for a broad overview
- personal experience also a factor
- but especially applicable for MLIS students interested in cataloging and metadata
tech services: the final frontier

☐ when we think of libraries, we think of public services

  • built-in context and awareness

☐ library school course offerings reinforce this pattern

  • no systems, no acquisitions, no ILL, only basic cataloging and metadata

  • why? -------> following student demand

☐ traditionally, tech services people learn on the job
what to do?
don't look at me, I'm just a n00b
but I do have a few ideas

- tech services track for interested students in every program
  - offer basic and advanced courses in cataloging, metadata, systems, databases, programming, acquisitions, ILL
  - require internship
- require cataloging & metadata survey for all students
- better information about & assistance for professional activity
- advocate for technical services!