

**Ideas for Making Your Catalog the Best it Can Be**  
**ALA 2008 Midwinter Meeting – Sunday, January 13, 10:30-Noon**  
**RUSA/RSS Catalog Use Committee**

**Surveys Returned = 30**

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Needs Improvement	Poor
Relevance of Topic	22	7			
Discussion Forum Format	15	11	2	1	
Setting	12	12	3	1	

**Why did you decide to attend this session?**

- Very interested in ways to improve the catalog
- On a catalog advisory committee at my library
- Committee member
- I wanted to learn more about how other libraries market their catalog and services and also how librarians view the future of their OPAC
- Our catalog needs help! We want to make it more useful for our students and faculty.
- Interest in catalogues
- Interest in the catalog
- Interest in a knotty problem. Work on local opac committee
- We are redesigning our library webpage and our catalog webpage
- Wanted to hear what people's highest priorities were
- Looking for a new OPAC system
- Topic choice
- Interesting
- Topic
- Interested in improving the catalog
- Concerned about state of resource discovery
- Catalog/access/usability concerns
- Get new ideas about enhancing online catalogs and user experience
- Discuss the role of outside apps and other discovery systems
- Relevance of topic
- Learn more about cataloging practices and new trends
- Changing to open-source ILS
- Topic
- Interest in perceptions of cataloging and areas for improvement
- Changes in opac
- Couldn't find other meeting ☺
- Sent by staff
- Very relevant to our library's concerns

- Working on statewide shared open source ILS
- Thought it sounded interesting and I like discussions
- Library is reviewing what changes to make to our catalog

**Did the session meet your expectations?** 25 Yes, 4 Somewhat, 1 No

**Why or why not?**

- Didn't know it would be discussion format, but got new ideas and found it useful
- Would have liked setup 5-10 talk, I'm crowded
- Good, engaging discussion
- I got a number of ideas about how to promote the catalog and the resources in the catalog
- Refined knowledge of topics discussed
- Discussion format somewhat lacked focus – a lead-in panel discussion with case study reports, etc. may have helped give direction
- Great info sharing

**What did you find...**

**Most valuable?**

- New ideas from catalog
- Ideas on small "add ons" for catalog
- Networking, range of experience
- Exchange of ideas
- Learned tips about new things to check out
- Getting ideas and information from colleagues
- Finding out what my peers are up to
- I don't know much info on catalogs, ILS, etc. and I did learn quite a bit
- Conversation with colleagues - great array of attendees/experiences
- Discussion of other libraries' experiences using RSS feeds and technology add ons to promote the catalog
- Great structure for summarizing many discussions
- Table discussion (2)
- Sharing
- Hearing concerns from other participants and learning from them
- Highlights board
- Chance to hear librarians from a whole range of backgrounds
- Seeing what other people are doing – what is working and what isn't
- Trends
- "how we did it" stories
- Diversity of the group
- Hearing others' ideas
- Round table format
- More from discussion than few presenters – good
- Learning/talking to catalogs
- Ideas from other participants

**Least valuable?**

- Bitch sessions
- Limited to small group and specifics often lacking (but I can track down specifics later)
- I work in a public library and my needs are different from that of an academic librarian – of which there were many. But still, good discussion group.
- Strange dichotomy between “open source is what we want” and “we don’t have enough staff time to work on catalog.” Who’s going to write that code?
- Not enough time for broad topics
- Off-track (non-opac) comments
- I think some have not done much experimenting yet so not too many new ideas

**Is there some aspect of this topic that you would like to see developed into a future program or committee project?**

- Discussion topic #1, especially things like widgets, etc. – how to create these tools
- This might be a nice “five minute presentations” thing – 12 or 18 “here’s a cool idea” bits
- Usability methodology
- Mobile technologies working with the catalog
- How to create a comprehensive/comprehensible integrated search interface for electronic/print materials
- How to make assessment & usability of the library catalog a regular event
- How do we make the library catalog relevant and engaging?
- Taking better advantage of what libraries already own – many, many free features not yet enabled in current systems
- Disadvantages/drawback to software (antidote to vendor sales/presentations)
- Integrating third-party discovery tools into the catalog
- Do it again!

**Please tell us about yourself:**

<b>Position/Library: (some selected more than one area)</b>	<b>Type of Organization:</b>	<b>Years of Experience:</b>
Cataloging – 5 Reference – 12 Administration – 8 Systems – 3 Serials – 1 Access Services – 1 Vendor – 1	Academic – 21 Public – 2 Special – 3 Other – 2 (one listed as an academic health sciences library)	1-5 years – 7 6-10 years – 2 11-15 years – 6 16-20 years – 21-25 years – 2 26+ years – 4

**Area of Responsibility:**

- Electronic resources (2)
- Science
- Tech services (3)
- Circulation, reserves, access

- Reference (5)
- Chair of user interface steering committee
- Library director (2)
- Collection development
- Cataloging (2)
- Public services
- Statewide projects

**How did you find out about today's discussion forum? (some checked multiple options)**

- Listserv
  - ERIL-L (2)
  - NGC4LIB (1)
  - NMRT (1)
  - RSS-L (1)
  - LIBREF (1)
  - RUSA-L (1)
  - Can't recall or didn't say (9)
- Website
  - RSS (1)
  - ALA (1)
- Facebook invitation (2)
- Colleague (5)
- Conference program (5)
- Other (1)