

Catalogue and Index

Periodical of the Cataloguing and Indexing Group,
a Special Interest Group of CILIP, the Library and Information Association



Editorial

December 2017, Issue 189

Welcome to Catalogue and Index 189 where our theme this issue is about cataloguing non-text based, and unusual material. We wanted to hear from people who catalogue this kind of material as part of their daily job, and who might be able to offer advice to those who only encounter it occasionally. As a result we have a wonderful selection of articles looking at a wide range of material from audio files to board games, pig lungs to meteorites, and pop music to volcanoes! With a gamut of useful information you may need to keep a copy of this issue close at hand to help with those unexpected items arriving at your desk.

We are also very privileged to have an article from Prof Eric Hunter which describes the contribution CIG made to the cataloguing of non-text material in the context of AACR; giving us a fascinating window onto a little bit of our own history.

Looking at the complexities of music and sound cataloguing we have three articles offering different perspectives. Margaret Jones gives us insight into the world of music cataloguing, and a closer look into the archive of British composer, William Alwyn. She demonstrates that to catalogue music it is vital to have musical knowledge, especially when items are not what they seem, and instrument parts might be missing. Two articles about procedures at the British Library complement this one, with Ian Moore discussing cataloguing pop music at the British Library and the use of their Sound and Moving Image Catalogue; and Robert Smith giving an insight into audio cataloguing and the BL sound archive.

Jacob Adler describes his time at the Paley Centre for Media in New York cataloguing audio visual material and utilising a unique classification system, with a very descriptive text entry for each item.

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Some of the articles contain very practical information, for example if you ever have the occasion to catalogue a board game for your library then you will find Alissa McCulloch's article invaluable as she guides you through all the necessary steps. Whilst Julie Renee Moore takes us through examples of three-dimensional objects (such as anatomical models) that she has encountered throughout her career, and what effect the change from AACR2 to RDA has had. Beatriz Flora and Simine Waliyar Marine discuss their use of MarcEdit with an online collection of audio files of lectures, which have been enhanced with scrolling images.

Maria White describes the difficulties attending Artists' books, especially when there may be no title, and the artist's name is also absent. These items range in material and size, and at first glance may not even resemble a book, but they are often fascinating.

Bernadette O'Reilly walks us through the challenges faced by a legal deposit library receiving 'toy books', explaining how they store them, catalogue them, and what they do with the dangerous parts!

We are sure you will find this issue completely engrossing, and next time something unusual crosses your desk you will hopefully feel better equipped to deal with it.

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