The changing roles of cataloguers: a personal experience

by

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Defining: cataloguer or cataloguing librarian

- Professionally trained individuals
- Holds Master of Library Science (MLS) (MLIS)
- Equivalent library degree
- Distinction between professional and paraprofessional cataloguers.
Trends causing new roles

• Advances in technology
• User preferences for online access
• Digitisation of local resources
• Advances in scholarly communication
• Print to electronic resources
• Continuous growth of online resources
Trends causing new roles ...

• Involvement in non-MARC metadata cataloguing
• Implementation of Institutional Repositories
• Need for access to unique local library collections
• Using vendor services
Defining Institutional Repository

- University –based institutional repository
- Services offered to its community
- Management and dissemination of digital materials
- Commitment to the stewardship of these digital materials
- Long-term preservation
Welcome to the Unisa Institutional Repository (UnisaIR), an open digital archive of scholarly intellectual and research outputs of the University of South Africa. The UnisaIR contains and preserves theses and dissertations, research articles, conference papers, rare and special materials, and many other digital assets.

Communities in UnisaIR

Select a community to browse its collections.

- **Archives and Special Collections** [3085]
- **Archives (Inventories)** [44]
- **College of Accounting Sciences** [134]
- **College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences** [366]
- **College of Economic and Management Sciences** [1670]
- **College of Education** [1774]
- **College of Graduate Studies** [435]
- **College of Human Sciences** [5302]
- **College of Law** [819]
- **College of Science, Engineering and Technology** [774]
- **Electronic Theses and Dissertations** [7927]
- **Globethics.net South Africa (GE-SA)** [618]
- **Graduate School for Business Leadership** [397]
- **Harvested** [0]
- **ODL (Open Distance Learning)** [333]
What cataloguers do

• Potential opportunity
• Create metadata
• DSpace
• Quality check
• Print thesis and dissertations
Digitisation

• Conversion of data from analog to digital
• Create metadata
• ContentDM
• Quality check
All Collections

Arthur Nortje Papers
Describe your collection for visitors to your site.

Bibliovaria
Describe your collection for visitors to your site.

About the collections

Birch Collection
Documentation Centre for Africa Studies

Marivate Papers
- Marivate Papers: Miscellaneous Documents
- The Light (formerly Valdezia Bulletin)
- Valdezia Bulletin

Native Economic Commission
- Native Economic Commission Oral
Introducing the UNISA Library Digital Collection
Unlocking unique UNISA treasures - the past into tomorrow

The UNISA Library Digital Collection features:
- photographs, posters
- historical documents including journals, diaries, letters, etc.
- Printed materials including newspapers, reports from iconic individuals and university calendars

From the collections:

The UNISA Library Digital Collection aims to:
- Extend reach and access of material
  - Accessible 24/7
  - Accessible globally
- Knowledge sharing
- Promote visibility of African scholarship & African research collections

The collection is still growing

Online at https://aka.unisa.ac.za/cdlm/
Introducing the UNISA LIBRARY DIGITAL COLLECTION

Featuring digital collections of:
- Historic photographs, posters, and documents (journals, diaries, letters)
- Reports from iconic individuals
  Visit: http://uda.unisa.ac.za/cdm/
  for the growing collection.

Promoting and facilitating cultural and historical research

Unlocking the past into tomorrow
Survival tips for the cataloguer

• Training
• Mentor
• Good communication skills
• Being flexible
• Seeking learning opportunities
• Awareness of current trends
Moving with times

"You ought to wise up, and get into a more contemporary lifestyle - and the first step is to become a vegetarian."
Proactive versus Reactive

• Proactive
  – Plan ahead
  – Anticipate and prepare for problems

• Reactive
  – No initiatives
  – Each new wave catches you by surprise
  – The Nokia scenario
The Nokia scenario

• Adapt or obsolete

“We didn't do anything wrong, but somehow, we lost”

Nokia
Critical skills needed

• Skills in managing digital content
• Skills in creating metadata
• Knowledge of various metadata standards and schemas
• IT skills (ability to adopt new technologies)
Buzz words

- Attitude
- Positive
- Embrace
- Mindsets
- Upgrade
- Adapt
- Flexibility
- Change
- Acquire
- Willingness
- Adjust
- Ability
- Abreast
Questions?
Questions?
References

• Beilharz, R., 2013. Cataloguing is riding the waves of change. ALIA National Library & Information Technicians Symposium.  


