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The Library Catalog

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The Library Catalog

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What is the catalog?

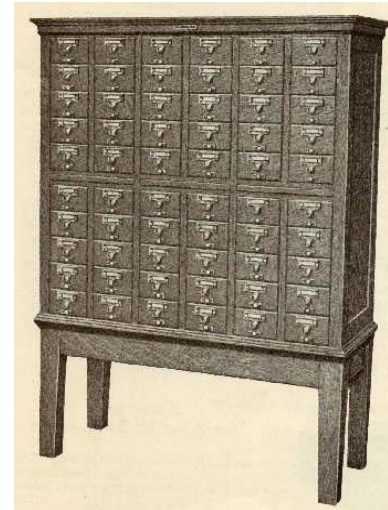
- The data (metadata)? ... or
- the mechanism used to find and present resources to the patron? ... or
- Physical resources? ... or
- Everything the library has access to? ... or
- a combination of all of these?


Modern library theories

- Charles A. Cutter (classification) – objectives of a catalog (No code of cataloguing could be adopted in all points by everyone, because the libraries for study and the libraries for reading have different objects, and those which combine the two do so in different proportions. Again, the preparation of a catalogue must vary as it is to be manuscript or printed, and, if the latter, as it is to be merely an index to the library, giving in the shortest possible compass clues by which the public can find books)
 - To enable a person to find a book (resource)
 - To show what the library has [access to]
 - To assist in the choice of a book (resource)
- S.R. Ranganathan (Five laws of library science)
 - Books (resources) are for use
 - Every reader his/her book (resource)
 - Every book (resource) its reader
 - Save the time of the reader
 - The library is a growing organism



Brief history of library catalogs





Thomas G. Carpenter Library

Library Home | Journal Articles & Databases | E-Journal Locator | Course Reserves | Other Library Catalogs

Books and more

Quick Articles

Other Collections

Course Reserves

☒ Basic Search

☐ Search begins with (browse)

☐ Advanced Search

Anywhere

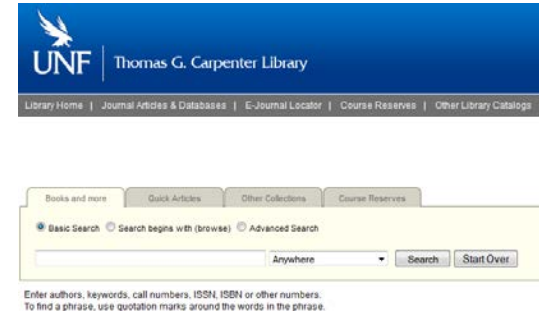
Search

Start Over

Enter authors, keywords, call numbers, ISSN, ISBN or other numbers.
To find a phrase, use quotation marks around the words in the phrase.

Modern Developments

- OPACs in 1980s
- Web based systems in 1990s
- Online Databases
- Integrated Search
- OneSearch (desiloing)
- Some new library management systems have no OPAC component



So what is the catalog?

- ONESEARCH is the catalog!

Cutter

- It is most efficient at enabling a person to find a resource
- It is the most comprehensive way to show what the library has access to
- Because it is most comprehensive, it is most effective in assisting in the choice of a resource

Ranganathan

- Resources are for use – Greatest amount of exposure to resources
- Every reader his/her resource – Greatest ability to lead them to what they want
- Every resource its reader – provides greatest accessibility to what we have
- Save the time of the reader – Is most efficient for casual browsing
- The library is a growing organism – Is more flexible than traditional OPAC



References and further reading

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QUESTIONS!