

Meeting Special Collections Cataloging Needs at the University of Washington Libraries

Managing Resources, Cataloging Critically, and Utilizing Semantic Web Technology to Increase Metadata Quality and Productivity

Crystal Clements, MLIS

she/her

University of Washington Libraries

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Outline

Part I. Harer Rare Historical Russian Children's Books

Part II. Exploration of:

1. Accomplishing More with Less
2. Cataloging Ethics
3. Semantic Web Technologies

Works Cited



Я ВИЛСЯ НОВЫЙ ЧЕЛОВЕК!
Я Я Да здравствует коммуны век.
Я я

Red-Army Alphabet (Azbuka krasnoarmeitsa) p. 28

Team Cataloging Rare Historical Russian Children's Books

- Donor: Pamela K. Harer
- Curator: Sandra Kroupa
- Capstone Student: Kirsten Painter
- Access the permanent online exhibit
- Access digitized selections from the collection

Challenges

- Choosing standard(s)
 - Learning LC Literature Classification Schedules
 - Children's materials
 - Russian Language & Cyrillic Script
 - Transliteration Tables
 - Team Cataloging
-

Preparation



Photo by [UX Indonesia](#) on [Unsplash](#)

- Stakeholder discussions
- Institutional knowledge gathering
- Consultation:
 - Relevant standards and published best practices
 - Existing records for similar items in other collections (Harvard, Princeton, New York Public had overlap)
- Technical preparation for new script
- Workflow planning with student

Cataloging



Photo by [Ugur Arpacı](#) on [Unsplash](#)

- Record Review with Supervisor, Curator, and Expert Rare, Slavic, and Children's Materials Catalogers
- Team Cataloging
 - Combined vision for what records should accomplish
 - Standardized format for student notes
 - Catalog side by side
 - Progress to efficient exchange of notes and records
 - Consult as needed with other catalogers

Follow-Up

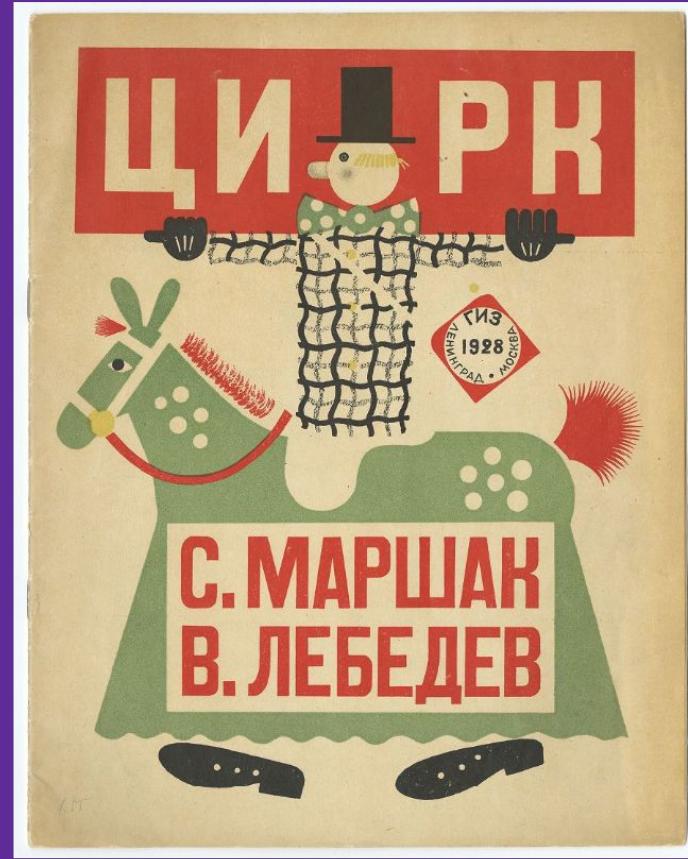


Photo by [John Schnobrich](#) on [Unsplash](#)

- Follow exhibit progress
- Review Dublin Core descriptions of digitized subset in CONTENTdm
- Create MARC records for digitized versions to increase visibility and ease of access, and to reduce wear and tear on originals
- Link between MARC records for originals and digitized versions, and link to digitized versions from both records

Rec stat	c	Entered	19930201	Replaced	20220119						
Type	a	Elvl	I	Srce	d	Audn	j	Ctrl	Lang	rus	
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- 040 HLS #b eng #e rda #c HLS #d OCLCG #d OCLCQ #d TOH #d OCLCO #d OCLCF #d OCLCQ #d OCLCO #d WAU #d OCLCO
#c (N
- 066 4 PG3476.M3725 #b T73 1928
- 090 #b
- 049 WAUW
- r100 1 Marshak, С. #q (Самуил), #d 1887-1964, #e author.
- r100 1 Marshak, S. #q (Samuil), #d 1887-1964, #e author.
- 242 1 0 Circus. #y eng
- r245 1 0 Цирк / #c С. Маршак ; В. Лебедев.
- r245 1 0 T's'irk / #c S. Marshak ; V. Lebedev.
- r264 1 Ленинград ; #a Москва : #b ГИЗ, #c 1928.
- r264 1 Leningrad ; #a Moskva : #b GIZ, #c 1928.
- 300 16 unnumbered pages : #b color illustrations ; #c 29 cm
- 336 text #b txt #2 rdacontent
- 336 still image #b sti #2 rdacontent
- 337 unmediated #b n #2 rdamedia
- 338 volume #b nc #2 rdacarrier
- 385 Children #2 lcdgt
- 386 Russians #2 lcdgt
- 386 Soviets #2 lcdgt
- 386 Men #2 lcdgt
- 500 Cover title.
- 520 A poem about the visit of the Tsaniboni Circus to Russia. The circus includes human and animal performers of multiple nationalities: Don Pedro the monkey riding a horse, Mademoiselle Fricassé riding a unicycle, Jumbo the Elephant playing the drum, Spiridon the famous Russian clown, and Miss Jenny the horseback-rider.
- 500 Single signature stapled into publisher's pictorial paper wrappers. Wrappers included in pagination. Chromolithographs.
- 530 Also available online.
- 650 0 Circus #v Juvenile poetry.



650 0 Circus in art.
650 0 Children's poetry, Russian.
650 7 Children's poetry, Russian. #2 fast #0 (OCOLOC)fst00856471
650 7 Circus. #2 fast #0 (OCOLOC)fst00861646
650 7 Circus in art. #2 fast #0 (OCOLOC)fst00861666
650 1 Russian language materials.
653 0 Illustrated books, Children's #a Soviet Union #a 20th century.
655 7 Picture books. #2 lcgft
655 7 Poetry. #2 lcgft
655 7 Lithographs. #2 lcgft
655 7 chromolithographs. #2 aat #0 (CStmoGRI)aatgf300041384
655 7 Juvenile literature #z Soviet Union #y 20th century. #2 rbgenr
655 7 Juvenile works. #2 fast #0 (OCOLOC)fst01411637
655 7 Lithographs. #2 fast #0 (OCOLOC)fst01986261
655 7 Picture books. #2 fast #0 (OCOLOC)fst01726789
655 7 Poetry. #2 fast #0 (OCOLOC)fst01423828
700 1 Лебедев, Владимир Васильевич, #d 1891-1967, #e illustrator.
700 1 Lebedev, Vladimir Vasil'evich, #d 1891-1967, #e illustrator.
752 Russia #d Saint Petersburg.
776 0 8 #i Online version: #a Marshak, S. (Samuil), 1887-1964. #t T^сsirk. #d Leningrad ; Moskva : GIZ, 1928 #w (OCOLOC)1135817681
856 4 1 #u <https://digitalcollections.lib.washington.edu/digital/collection/childrens/id/2808/rec/36> #7 0



Improvement



Photo by [John Schnobrich](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Improvements can always be made,
as time allows

- Batch-addition of “chromolithographs” term from LCGFT
- Addition of new MARC fields, such as 340
- Conversion of description to linked data formats, such as LRM/RDA/RDF or BIBFRAME

Accomplishing More with Less, Cataloging Ethics, and Semantic Web Technologies

Interconnected Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities
in Special Collections Cataloging



**While budgetary challenges lead to reduced staff hours
and narrow the scope of institutional knowledge,
expectations for library metadata increase**

Shifting Expectations

Descriptive Metadata:

Detailed

Accurate

Up-to-date in form and content

Interoperable

Ethically created and maintained

Catalogers:

Specialists → Generalists

Expert in wide variety of:

- Physical formats
- Descriptive standards
- Metadata formats
- Repositories
- Languages
- Subjects

“Metadata management is shifting away from systems that support relatively fixed, curated text strings to a more dynamic process of knowledge work that documents conceptual relationships and is continuous.

Cataloging has evolved from being a solitary work practice to one that is increasingly more collaborative, and even a community activity that produces catalog records that have been enriched by many hands.

The opportunity to move from cataloging as a process confined by restrictive rules to an even more collaborative ecosystem that supports layering multiple vocabularies, identifiers, and rule sets will enable the creation of rich descriptions that maximizes opportunities for discovery”

(Frick & Proffitt, 2022)

Consequences

- Growing backlogs, particularly when:
 - Materials require specialized knowledge
 - Materials require extra care and/or collaboration
 - Outsourcing is difficult, expensive, or both
 - (In other words, in distinctive collections)
- Increased reliance on outsourcing and vendor metadata, resulting in consistency and quality problems
- Frustration for catalogers, selectors, public services staff, instructors, researchers, and students

Opportunities

- Creative problem-solving
- Improved technologies and workflows
- Increased cooperation, internally and internationally
- Distribution of control
- Broader training and education for individual catalogers

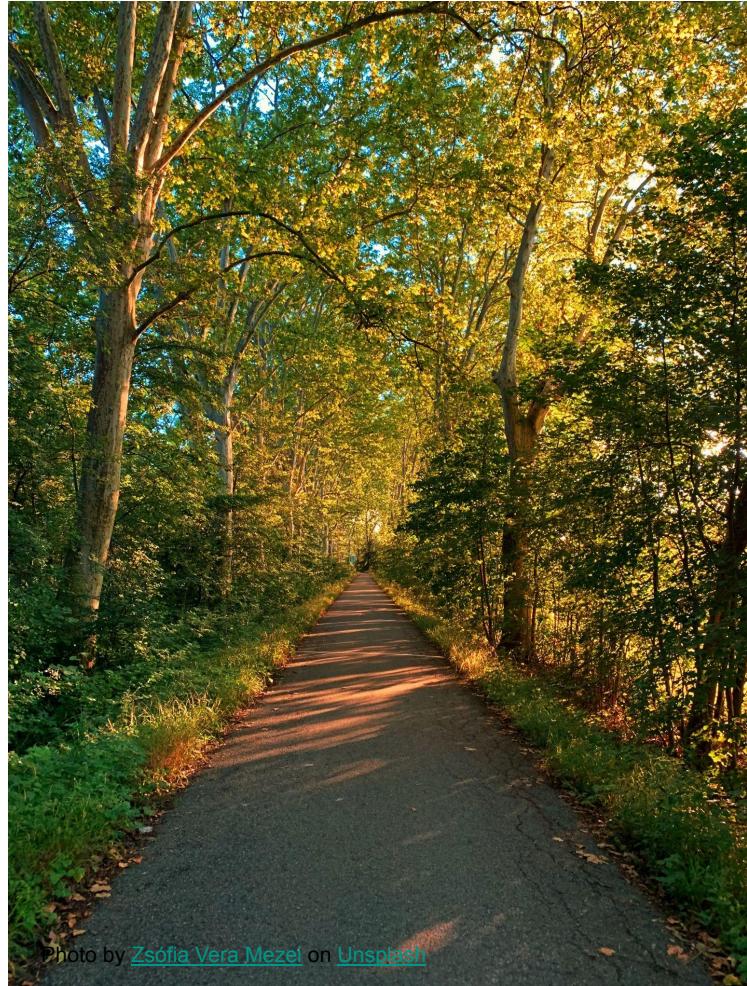


Photo by [Zsófia Vera Mezei](#) on [Unsplash](#)

UW Libraries Special Collections Context

Prioritization

- Collaborate with curatorial staff on assessment of backlog and cataloging needs
 - Set priorities transparently and inclusively
 - Establish flexible, efficient workflows
 - Address the backlog without neglecting the front-log
 - Open, frequent communication with stakeholders
 - Adjustment
-

UW Libraries Special Collections Context

Resource Allocation

- Collaborative, realistic assessment of cataloging needs vs. resources
 - Creative problem-solving centered on equity and library values
 - Open, collegial communication with stakeholders
 - Adjustment
-

UW Libraries Special Collections Context

Streamlining

- Maintain or establish flexible, efficient workflows
 - LEAN workflows
 - Archival materials cataloging
 - SC/Preservation spreadsheet
- Abandon practices that aren't working
- Consult with experts within the Libraries:
 - Special Collections staff - materials
 - Catalogers - cataloging
 - ARCS - Quick Cat workflow and Alma
 - East Asia Library catalogers - backlog success
- Harness new technologies as they emerge

UW Libraries Special Collections Context

Resource Generation

- Grow and retain institutional knowledge
 - Student labor and mentoring
 - iSchool collaboration
 - Advocacy for cataloging positions
 - Grant and donor funding
 - Cross-institutional partnerships
 - Semi-automated workflows
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Automating Language

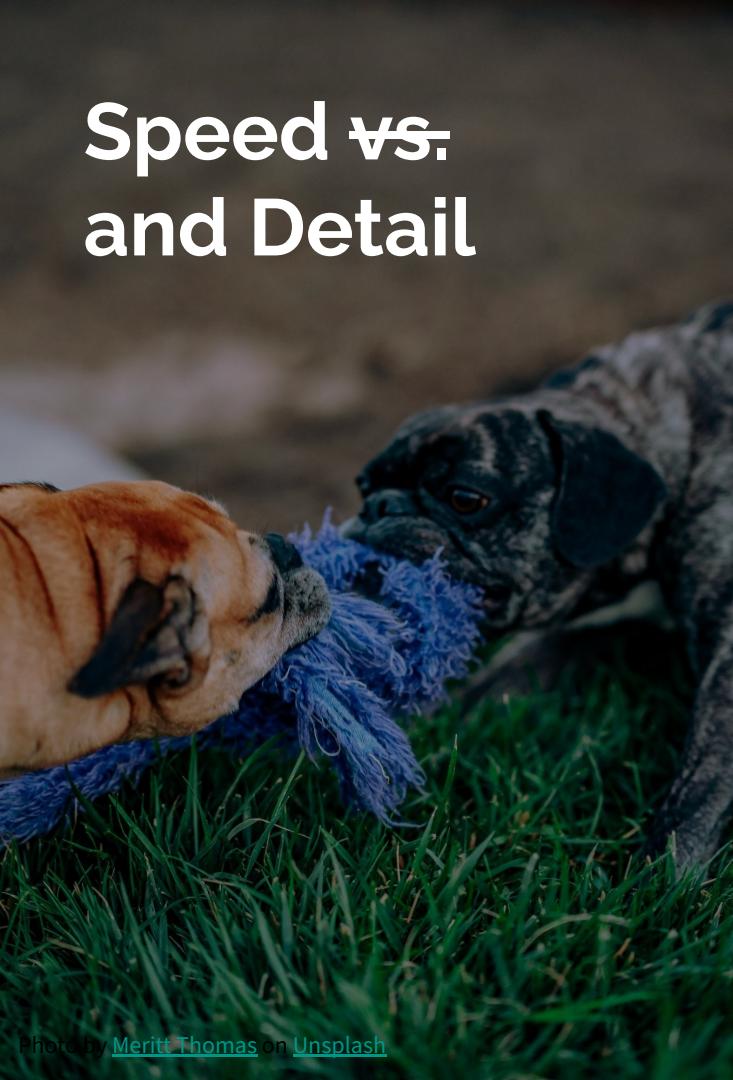
“In more recent years, the practice of hiring librarians with familiarity of a particular language is falling out of favor with many institutions. The lack of multi-lingual personnel and a general decrease in funding is causing libraries to search for other resources and tools, from online methods to outsourcing” (DuBose, 2019)

Using new tools and workflows, catalogers can meet the challenge of cataloging in unfamiliar languages and even scripts with a fair level of accuracy and in a reasonable amount of time, most of the time (DuBose, 2019)

Is “good enough” good enough in a special collections context?

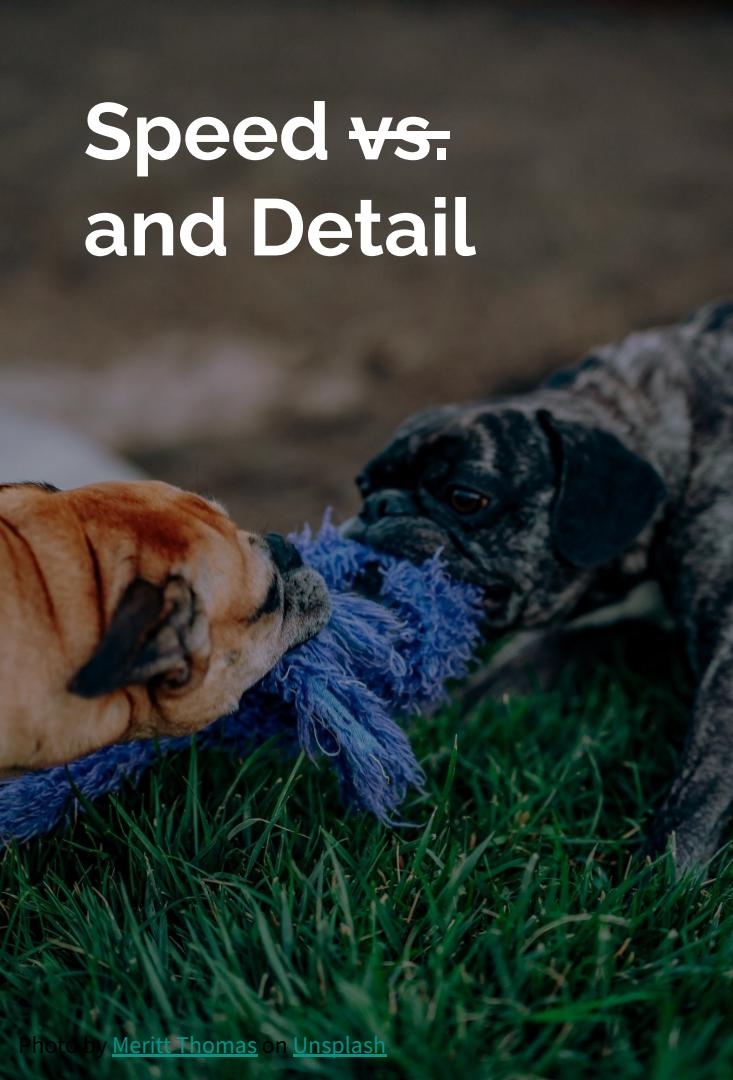
Cataloging Ethics

Speed vs. and Detail



“[T]he ethical tension between the speed of cataloging and the detail of cataloging ... has been exacerbated in recent decades by shrinking library budgets, which has generally led to attrition in the number of cataloging positions at any given library, putting additional pressure on catalogers to increase their speed or face (larger) backlogs of uncataloged materials” (Martin, 2021)

Speed vs. and Detail



“Current cataloging culture prioritizes efficiency, where cataloging workflows have evolved to be low touch to maximize throughput ... There are many cases where efficiency is appropriate. However, it is important to recognize, value, and budget for the times when metadata needs to be remediated, repaired, or handled with more care”

(Frick & Proffitt, 2022)

Slow Down When Materials Are:

- In unfamiliar languages or scripts
- Significant, scarce, fragile, or otherwise special
- Reflective of marginalized points of view
- In need of authority work for living persons
- Misleading
- Harmful





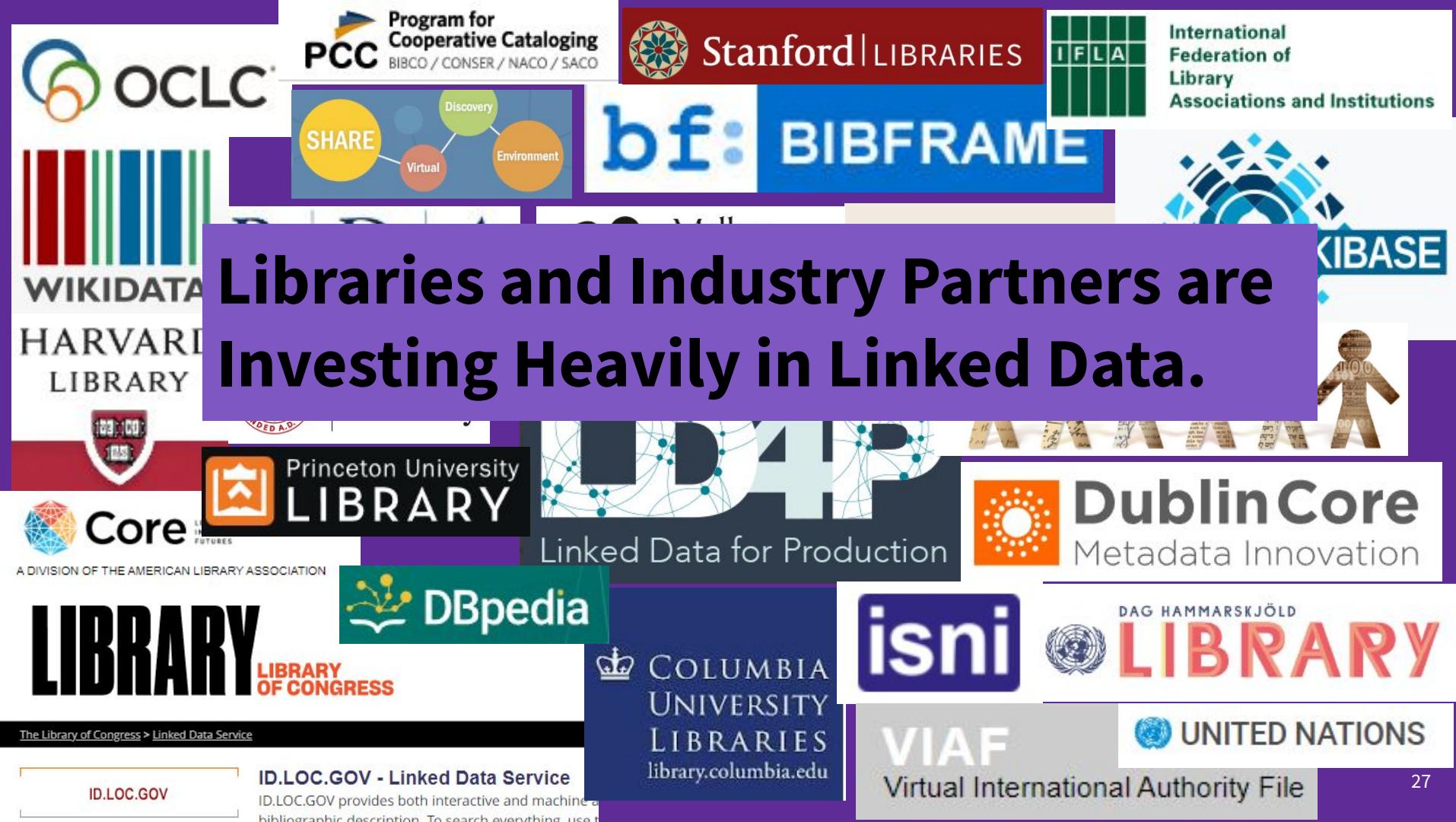
UW Libraries Special Collections Context

Efficiency, quality, and ethics are essential

Limited resources challenge our ability to efficiently deliver high-quality, ethically-created-and-maintained metadata

We can meet these challenges through:

- Strategic development and use of resources
- Creative employment of information technologies
- Flexible, responsive workflows
- Cataloger training opportunities
- Teamwork and trust between cataloging and special collections staff



Libraries and Industry Partners are Investing Heavily in Linked Data.

LIBRARY

LIBRARY
OF CONGRESS

The Library of Congress > Linked Data Service

ID.LOC.GOV

ID.LOC.GOV - Linked Data Service

ID.LOC.GOV provides both interactive and machine-readable bibliographic descriptions. To search everything, use the search bar above.

VIAF

Virtual International Authority File

UNITED NATIONS

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Possibilities

“Catalogers will trade re-work for pioneering new work, refocusing on materials and not on formatting strings, abandon local aggregation and cleanup of others’ data, and integrate ‘authority work’ through more efficient ‘identity management.’

Special collections staff will reveal hidden collections, gain methods for handing new or odd formats, encourage the participation of their communities of practice, and surface materials for community experts to enrich.

End users will encounter context-enriched data, access language and script versatility, find their communities of practice, and discover new pathways of inquiry with an ability to answer questions they didn’t know to ask”

(Pace, 2018)

POSSIBLE



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Thank You!

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