LIS 640-01 Summer 2024

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Comparing Bibliographic Records Exercise

**Bibliographic resource:** Provide basic description of the item selected for the assignment.

**Catalogs:** List the three catalogs that you used for the assignment. If possible, include links or screenshots for the bibliographic record of the item in each catalog.

* Amazon – [link](https://www.amazon.com/Little-Fires-Everywhere-Celeste-Ng/dp/0735224315/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1XSJQA267XDNG&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.79KZDSx5eb4LJARdcgZKrBCZj_YsFFozCs_i9sxawP9v8Vrc-OqP_MwO6uSVpGZuI-Qu9yQMGMzkajHOXdVsORryj8zbJ_1neTMPKdGw7uullXUaC5FxY-EXwYG4Jb2fwKk3mvc_Zl7S5DfLEkw_YKr42CRtzbreODx_ZUqge4QWjblsGjh-CP4q1m6WU6homyhTb99J8RKt9QiDl48oOqyO4Kmjx32fjY-N1Ph4yro.vvXA1DWT3XUWxCCkWM38ptspNsCMgkwimiB1vRuD-LE&dib_tag=se&keywords=little+fires+everywhere+book&qid=1717772948&sprefix=little+fires+eve%2Caps%2C92&sr=8-1)
* UNCG Library Catalog – [link](https://uncg.on.worldcat.org/search/detail/969973342?queryString=little%20fires%20everywhere&databaseList=1708%2C143%2C1271%2C1542%2C1719%2C1730%2C2570%2C638&clusterResults=true&groupVariantRecords=false)
* Greensboro Public Library Catalog – [link](https://greensboro-nc.wise.oclc.org/wise-apps/catalog/3000/detail/wise/354146?offset=2&qs=Little%20Fires%20Everywhere&search_in=iets&state=search)

**Similarities:** List three similarities noticed across the records. The similarity can be between two of the records or something common across all three records. For each, provide a brief (1-2 sentences) elaboration on the similarity.

1. Description of the book: Each of the catalogs shows a description. They pretty much say the same thing, and it provides enough information for patrons or buyers to know if they want to read the book.
2. Page count: They all provide the page count. Which is useful for patrons who want to know how much time they want to dedicate to the book.
3. They all show the book's cover: Although they say to never judge a book by its cover, it can sometimes give you some idea of the general “vibe” it will provide.

**Differences:** List three differences noticed across the records. The difference can be between two of the records or something that differs across all three records. For each, provide a brief (1-2 sentences) elaboration on the difference.

1. The date of publication ranges:
2. The UNCG catalog includes subjects, but the others don’t: The UNCG catalog provides subjects about the different themes that the book explores, whereas the rest don’t. This small difference can help a patron decide whether they want to read the book.
3. Read a sample: Between all three catalogs, the only one that has a read sample is Amazon. The rest gives you general information about what the book is about, but it doesn’t allow you to read a bit of the book to see if you want to commit.

**Reflection**: In about 750-1000 words, reflect on the significance of these similarities and differences. What do these tell us about the contexts of organization, access, and use of information resources across these three different types of systems? What varying purposes and intended uses do the bibliographic records help to support? Would it be beneficial (or not) for one of the organizations to adopt some of the descriptive practices exhibited in the bibliographic records from the other organizations?

As I looked at the different online catalogs, including Amazon. I noticed that there were a lot of similarities, but also some differences. For the most part, they all provided a description and a page count. This is very useful to patrons because it lets them know if they want to commit to the book. A library catalog includes bibliographic records that describe and provide access to each item in a library’s main collection (Hoffman 2019). When I read the previous quote, I immediately started thinking about the ways that these descriptions, page counts, subject labels, etc. provide access for patrons. It gives them enough information to know if that’s the book that they’re looking for or if they would be interested in it. Other similarities that I found between these catalogs were that they all provided a page count. To me, this is something that can be important because patrons might look for this if they’re trying to figure out how much time to dedicate to the book.

Now as for differences, one of the ones that I noticed but I’m not quite sure if it’s important is the date of publication. I noticed that the dates ranged from 2017 to 2019. Although that might not affect the patron when it comes to access to materials, it was an inconsistency that I paid attention to while I was comparing the three catalogs. Another difference that I found was that the UNCG catalog provided subject tags for the book whereas the other two catalogs do not. I thought this was interesting because it provides even more information to the patron, and it allows them to see the themes that might be explored in the book. It can be helpful when searching for books based on certain themes. A difference that I really liked was that Amazon provides reading samples, and I noticed that the other two catalogs did not. Personally, this is something that I would enjoy because the first few pages are a huge indicator for me if I’m going to enjoy a book—I would imagine that other patrons perhaps are like this also.

The differences and similarities in these say a lot about the organization. They all, in my opinion, take a similar approach in their organization. They only have a few differences that make their organization slightly different. They do provide different information, which can affect the way that patrons or consumers interact with the book. Regardless of the differences, the organization of the three still provides enough information for the patron to know what the book is about. This is primarily done through the description that these catalogs provide.

Bibliographic records are important because they provide organization and access. Bibliographic records enable efficient organization of library materials. They provide standardized descriptions that help librarians categorize and arrange items in the library's collection. These records also facilitate users in finding and accessing the materials they need, whether physically within the library or through online catalogs like the ones that I examined. Bibliographic records also play a crucial role in resource sharing among libraries. This can be done through systems like interlibrary loan. Libraries can share bibliographic data, allowing users to access materials from other libraries that they might not have available locally.

I think it would be very beneficial for each system to adopt the other’s organization because it would help with standardization and user satisfaction. After all, in a sense, there would be more of a uniformity. I would like to see other systems implement subject tags because it would allow users to have even more access to the information of the book or material that they are looking for.

Overall, the way each of the catalogs organizes their information seems to be effective. At the same time, I would say that while these differences work, it would perhaps provide more accessibility to users and patrons if there was more standardization—this would also make it easier for libraries to exchange and collaborate when it comes to the information that they share on their catalogs.