Sherlock Holmes and the Five Pounds of Fat

Presented August 21, 2006 at the MINITEX Staff Forum
By Yours Truly …
Contract Cataloging
The ConCats Unit
Mission

MINITEX Contract Cataloging Program (MCCP) provides supplementary cataloging services and expertise to libraries in the MINITEX region and elsewhere in order to support quality cataloging and resource sharing.
Services

- Eliminate backlogs
- Catalog special collections
- Catalog in all formats, classification schemes and thesauri
- Use of and upgrading to current standards
- Catalog in various languages
Services (cont’d)

- Creation of metadata
- Work in OCLC or local system including order, item and holdings data
- Physical processing for items to be shelf-ready
- Reclassification
- Barcoding
Services (cont’d)

- Retrospective conversion
- Database cleanup
- Consulting services relating to cataloging and technical services
- Help with transition from one on-line system to next
Languages

Among the languages we have cataloged in
are:

- English
- French
- German
- Spanish
- Portuguese
- Italian
- Danish
- Norwegian
- Swedish
- Finnish
- Dutch
- Czech
- Slovak
- Hungarian
- Bulgarian
- Croatian
- Polish
- Romanian
- Croatian
- Serbian
- Ukrainian
- Slovenian
- Russian
- Modern Greek
- Classical Greek
- Latin
- Pig Latin
- Hmong
- Vietnamese
- Somali
History

- (MCCP) began in late-1995 as a partnership between MINITEX and the Minnesota State Law Library (one half-time cataloger)

- First client: Minnesota Trade Office International Library—classify and catalog their entire library: 547 original titles, 1,848 copy titles, 12,137 total volumes
On-going Cataloging

- MCCP catalogs for libraries within the 3-state MINITEX region as well as outside the region
- Serve 50+ libraries, including technical/community colleges, medical libraries, state colleges/universities, and state agencies; for example:
On-going Cataloging (cont’d)

- **St. Cloud S.U.**
  - Theses (Education, Engineering, Sports, etc.)

- **MLR**
  - Local legislative materials

- **XOW/XOV; MDH; ANR**
  - Original cataloging in all formats

- **St. Olaf College** (Rolvaag and Kierkegaard Libraries)
  - Norwegian, Danish, a. o. European languages

- **Fire/EMS/Safety Library (MNSCU)**
  - “Hot” stuff in all formats
Special Projects in the Past

- **U of M St. Paul Campus**
  - Serials backlog

- **Barcoding Project**
  - 18-mo. project for 14 state agency libraries (LSTA grant)

- **State agency backlog project**
  - 18-mo. Project (LSTA grant)

- **“TC3”**
  - Backlogs and special problems for 29 technical college libraries (LSTA grant)

- **U of M Libraries**
  - Wilson Resea and St. Paul Forestry backlogs (Title VI)
Special Projects (cont’d)

- Hubbs/Holmes Project
  - $150,000 grant from Hubbs Family Foundation to catalog Sherlock Holmes collection at the University of Minnesota
  - 3-yr. Project working in cooperation with T.S. of TCC Libraries
How Holmes Inspired Us!

- “Things must be done decently and in order.” (‘Retired Colourman’)
- “My dear Watson, there we come into those realms of conjecture where the most logical mind may be at fault.” (‘Empty House’)
- “Chance has put in our way a most singular and whimsical problem, and its solution is its own reward.” (‘Blue Carbuncle’)

Special Projects (cont’d)

- **Dakota County Historical Society**
  - 1,300 local history clipping files
- **Dakota County Library**
  - Three months of on-site cataloging
- **Canby Public Library**
  - Conversion of collection for assimilation into Pioneerland Library System (still on-going)
Special Projects (cont’d)

- State transportation libraries project
  - Minnesota and South Dakota DOTs

- Air Force Project
  - Provided cataloging for ca. 1,500 items from the Air Force Historical Research Center backlog (first non-MINITEX library project)

- U of M Libraries Serials
  - German Parliamentary Session Papers
Special Projects (cont’d)

- Elmer L. and Eleanor J. Andersen Collection
  - Cataloged Governor Andersen’s private collection
  - 18-mo. working in cooperation with T.S. of TCC Libraries
How Andersen Inspired Us

“What is a library? At the high school now, they call the library the media center. I don’t like that word much because it has such a cold, technological ring to it. To me, really, a library is more an attitude of mind that can be reflected in many ways."

"I think books have an ambience like a cathedral."

(Elmer Andersen)
Most Recent Special Project: MIA (=Missing in Action?)

Minneapolis Institute of Arts Library
- Sue Landgraff
- Renae Ellingson
- Andrew Kidd
MIA Project Objectives

- Four collections:
  - Main, Reference, Prints & Drawings, and Photography
- Inventory of all books
- Make corrections in online catalog
- Re-label books to match catalog records
- Identify titles without bib records
Museum Findings

- Original 1923 publication of the discovery of King Tut’s tomb written by the archaeologist who found his tomb.
Museum Musings

"The artist is a receptacle for the emotions that come from all over the place: from the sky, from the earth, from a scrap of paper, from a passing shape, from a spider's web." (Pablo Picasso)
Current Stats

Through June 30, 2006:

- Original titles: 20,071
- Copy titles: 37,025
- Metadata titles: 111
- Total items: 85,234
“Value Added”

- Name Authority Cooperative Project
  - As a member of NACO, MCCP submits name headings to the Library of Congress
  - Requests the Library of Congress to assign literary author classification numbers
  - Hosts the Minnesota NACO Funnel Project, including 6 Minnesota libraries

- Subject Authority Cooperative Project
  - Submits proposals for concepts not present in the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH)
“Value Added” (Cont’d)

- British Airways London Eye (London, England)
  - UF London Eye (London, England)
  - UF Millennium Wheel (London, England)
  - UF The Eye (London, England)
  - BT Observation wheels--England

- Observation wheels
  - BT Visitors’ centers
  - BT Wheels
  - RT Ferris wheels
“Value Added” (cont’d)

- Rumble strips
  - UF Strips, Rumble
  - BT Road markings
  - BT Roads---Safety measures
“Value Added” (cont’d)

- 221B Baker Street (London, England: Imaginary place)
  - UF Two twenty-one B Baker Street (London, England: Imaginary place)
  - BT Imaginary places
The Infamous Five Pounds of Fat
(“heaviest” item thus far--OCLC # 47916863)
It’s Not All Work
(celebrating the state agency libraries’ barcoding & cataloging projects)
Sometimes It’s Fun …

Some recent thesis titles:

“Success in marriage and its correlation with successful football coaching …”

“An exploration into the relationships between birth order and success as a college tennis player”

“Comparing academic performance of student athletes in baseball programs and non-student athletes in two Minnesota junior colleges” [what’s wrong here???]
Sometimes It’s Cryptic …

- “Thunda unda the rotunda : floats like a butterfly, stings like a fee”
- “Oltah bii jiil sisxe” (a Sherlock Holmes pastiche in the Navajo language)
- “Poetry sucks, a boy’s story”
- “Sex, sexual relationships, and Søren Kierkegaard”
- “Encyclopedia of ghosts and spirits”
“Eine besse Mit-Gab der Jugend die man in die Fremde schicket” (P.J. Spener’s book on chastity written in the 17th cent.)

De Consolationae Philosophiae (a 1556 edition of Boethius’s famous title valued at $8000/$12,000)
Conway the Mascot Says
“It’s time to sign off!”
For More Information ...

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Thank You!

Cattitude is everything