



Computer And Technical Services

a division of SCLA

Technically Speaking

The Newsletter of CATS

Fall 2004

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“FRBRizing” Those Bibliographic Records

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John Richardson, of the Suffolk Cooperative Library System (SCLS), presented a program on “What is FRBR?” to an audience of approximately 75 on November 10th at SCLS. “FRBR” stands for “functional requirements for bibliographic records.” Pronunciation practice of this acronym has ranged from “fur bear” to “frubber” to “ferber” (as in “Edna Ferber”). Regardless of how one chooses to pronounce it, however, FRBR addresses this problem: How do we structure bibliographic records so that they do what we want them to do, especially in the online cataloging environment?

John traced the history of the FRBR movement, which began with the issuance of the Paris Principles in 1961 under the auspices of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). In 1971 the International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD) for monographic publications was released. Seven years later the AACR2 (revised) was

published. FRBR was first published (in book form) in 1997.

FRBR, John emphasized, is not a new cataloging code. Its goals are “to delineate in clearly defined terms the functions performed by the bibliographic record with respect to various media, various applications and various needs,” and “to recommend a basic level of functionality and basic requirements for records created by national bibliographic agencies” that would meet “essential user needs.” Recent efforts in

Technically Speaking's Featured Quotation

“Books are for use. For every reader his (or her) book. For every book its reader. Save the time of the reader. The library is a growing organism.”

—S. R. Ranganathan,
Five Laws of Library Science

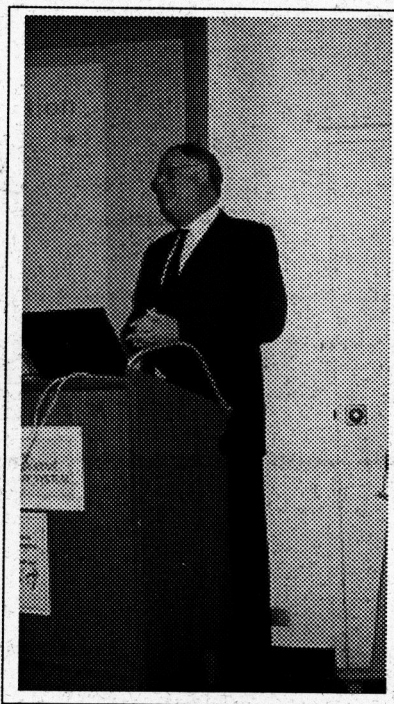
"FRBRizing" online catalogs have aimed to reexamine the structures used to store, display, and communicate bibliographic data and to enable users to navigate better through massive amounts of bibliographic data. Central to understanding FRBR is an understanding of what FRBR calls "level 1," "level 2," etc. entities and their attributes. At the first level, a "work" is realized through an "expression", which is embodied in a "manifestation," and exemplified by an "item." For example, Tobias Smollett conceived of the idea of *The Expedition of Humphry Clinker* (the "work"). He then created the intellectual content in written form (the "expression"). Next came the book (the "manifestation"), and finally the object you can hold in your hand (the "item").

A show of hands indicated the audience consisted of roughly two-thirds reference people and one-third tech-services people. John demonstrated the use of FRBR in new products such as OCLC's FictionFinder and Research Library Group's "Red Light Green" online catalog.

—Tom Cohn

Presidential "Meowsings"

It has been a quick, productive, slightly controversial, sometimes frustrating, and wonderful presidential year. I would like to express my appreciation to the CATS Executive Board who made it all so easy. This is, without a doubt, the most committed (no not to the asylum) and supportive



**John Richardson of SCLS
speaks about FRBR on
November 10th.**

group I have worked with. And thanks to next year's president, Ted Gutmann, for taking me off the hot seat.

This year, the division sponsored several interesting and educational workshops for members and nonmembers alike. We hope all who attended our programs left enlightened and enriched. For those who didn't attend, you missed "Blogging Basics," "How to Balance Priorities and Manage Multiple Projects: a Fred Pryor Workshop"; the marvelous annual library tour of the libraries of Northport, Huntington, and the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, "Dewey Demystified (DDC22)"; "PowerPoint Basics"; and the annual technical services open forum.

Okay, so we sort of "dropped the ball" on the Long Island Library

Conference. Not to worry, we are proposing a double dose for next year's conference. Ron and Angela Richards will entertain all with a great program on "Geek-speak: How to Communicate with Your Techies." Speaking of techies, SCLA's very own Stephen Ingram will present a program on "Taking the Mystery out of Digitization." Also scheduled for next year is "LC for Dewey Users," a workshop explaining LC and comparing the two classification systems to be given by Susan Ketcham of LIU-Southampton. In the works are programs on PDAs (still), book repair, and the return of the highly popular technical services open forum.

Your association is only as good as its members. We all lead busy work and home lives—but we can all spare an hour or two a month to help create a division that is active, enlightening, and productive. The CATS division exists to provide educational experiences and support for our members. We are always searching for new ideas, new blood, new workshops, new sacrificial lambs (just want to be sure you are paying attention!).

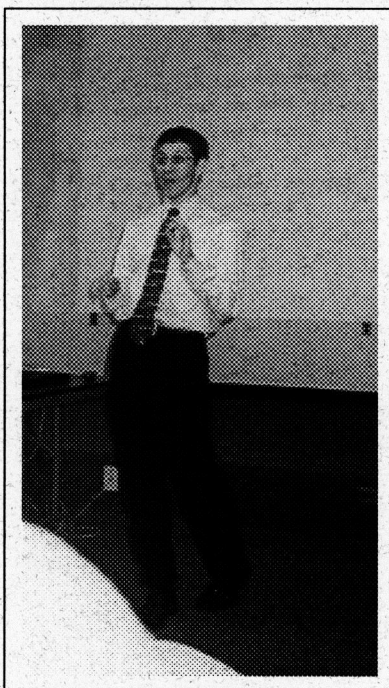
Join SCLA, and choose CATS as your primary division. We're a great bunch. We are dedicated to promoting the computer and technical services departments in our libraries. And we don't take ourselves too seriously. For all the newbies, the shy and reticent, the dazed and confused, or those just looking for some cataloging help (I really don't have any answers), I am always available via e-mail at renee@sachemlibrary.org.

Thanks for the great year!

Renée Capitanio



Above: Audience at CATS-sponsored program on weblogs.



Left: The speaker, nationally known blogging expert Steven Cohen

Weblogging Basics

The CATS division and SCLA jointly sponsored and held the workshop "Blogging Basics: An Introduction to Weblogs" at Suffolk Cooperative Library Services in Bellport on Wednesday, September 29, 2004. Our guest speaker was Steven Cohen, Assistant Librarian at the law firm of Rivkin Radler, LLP.

Steven showed us many examples of successful weblogs currently on the web, including his own, Library Stuff (www.librarystuff.net). He also demonstrated how you can create a blog in just 5 minutes using software freely available on the web, and explained how you can customize a blog to your specific needs, no matter what kind of library you are.

Some of the different types of blogging software were showcased, including Blogger, Moveabletype, Radio Userland, WordPress and Live Journal. Also discussed was what to look for when choosing which type of software you want for your blog. Different blogging software setups have different features. Some allow for automatic archiving of all posts, have a spell-checker, or offer free web space for

your blog. You can also customize your blog to allow users to make comments on each posting or not, depending on how much discussion you want to allow on your blog.

Steven also did a brief introduction to "really simple syndication" (RSS), a technology which allows you to keep updated on many websites in one place. Instead of having to go to each of your favorite websites to see if they've added any content, RSS will tell you if there is anything new. Weblogs can create an RSS feed to any website that offers them, and then the new content added to those websites will be automatically sent to you. This can be a great tool for librarians whether they are doing ongoing research or just need to stay up to date on various topics.

Weblogs are a great way to distribute information, both inside your library or to outside users. Just because your library may be relegated to a back room in your organization, doesn't mean your information has to be. Creating a weblog that is accessible to everyone is a great way to put a face on your library, and as Steven pointed out, creating them is EASY.

Both the topic and our speaker were enthusiastically received by all 55 guests from the various divisions of SCLA who attended the free workshop.

—Michael Aloia