



Technically Speaking

The Newsletter of CATS

Spring/Summer 2008

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“Come on in, the Water’s Fine”

Helene Blowers, the director of public services technology at the Columbus Metropolitan Library and the visionary behind the well-regarded Learning 2.0 program addressed the annual meeting of the CATS Division last December 4th at the Suffolk Cooperative Library System on ‘Jumping into the 2.0 Pool ... without Drowning.’ Helene’s talk was a spirited ramble through many of the new areas web 2.0 technologies are taking us.

Of course there are a number of 2.0 ideas in circulation right now: “Web 2.0,” “Library 2.0,” even “Librarian 2.0.” What do they all share in common? They enable the user to make the web their own. Helene noted that it now takes about 45 minutes for a novice to create a blog from scratch.

She calls the community of

Web 2.0 users a “Renaissance Generation,” and highlighted a number of innovative 2.0-inspired happenings in libraries. These include photo archives of historical photos, a book-lovers wiki, RSS feeds to catalogs with readers comments, and tagging (so-called “folksonomy”) initiatives.

Of course, the social networking movement (sites such as FaceBook and MySpace) is also part of Web 2.0, as are 3-D virtual

—continued on page 2

Technically Speaking’s Featured Quotation

“Everyone knows there are far fewer catalogers than there used to be – the single greatest misstep in librarianship in the last quarter century.”

-- Michael Gorman, *Our Own Selves: More Meditations for Librarians*

Presidential Meowsings

By Susan Ketcham

Spring is getting off to a slow start but CATS is moving right along. Our first two programs, Computer Instruction in Libraries roundtable (jointly presented with the Reference and Adult Services Division (RASD) of SCLA) and our Cataloging Roundtable were both well attended. The next Cataloging Roundtable will be June 3rd and plans are in the works for another Computer Instruction in Libraries in the fall.

“Gadgets And Gear: Helping the Public Get a Grip on New Technology” was the title of our program at this year’s Long Island Library Conference. Bob Johnson and Dominic Iadiccio have been doing workshops for patrons at public libraries around the island in which they present an array of new technologies including USB flash drives, global positioning systems (GPS), digital video recorders, MP3 players, digital cameras, wireless networks. I hope you were able to attend this session in which we learned more about these technologies and received tips on how to help patrons overcome their technophobias. June is “Bustin’

Out All Over” with programs. Following the cataloging roundtable, we are offering a two-part workshop given by Sharper Training on Microsoft Office 2007. On Friday, June 6th, the workshop will focus on Word and the following Friday, June 13th we will focus on Excel. June 20th we will have our Annual Library Tour, in which we will tour the Cuthogue-New Suffolk, Mattituck-Laurel, and Southold libraries. •

“Become a knowledge player,” Blowers tells her audiences.

Library 2.0 rock star, Helene Blowers speaks at the CATS annual meeting on “Jumping into the 2.0 Pool without Drowning.” On the screen is a statement of one of Helene’s key themes: the promotion of lifelong learning.

worlds such as Second Life (check out infoisland.org).

Another theme of Helene’s talk was “small pieces loosely joined.” This means taking small pieces of your library and putting them into a patron’s own personal cyberspace, a catalog search tool embedded in a blog, for example, or GoogleEarth situated in the homepage of a large library system to help patrons find the nearest branch.

Helene made these key points regarding what 2.0 is “about” (and what librarian can resist clues as to the “aboutness” of something):

- It’s about human conversations
- It’s about collaboration
- It’s about shifting the focus
- It’s about *letting go*.





CATSers at the Long Island Library Conference held on May 8th of this year. Above, left to right: Renée Capitanio, Sue Ketcham; below: Dana Mottola, Tom Cohn, Joyce Bogin.

The Cataloging Roundtable

By Michael Aloï

The CATS Cataloging Roundtable began in 2006 as a forum to discuss and share knowledge of current cataloging rules. It has since evolved into a valuable interactive workshop for atten-

dees who catalog at their home institutions. The roundtable meets at SCLS in Bellport, where we utilize a computer and projection screen setup. We have access to the Suffolk County Catalog through the staff interface (Innovative Interfaces Integrated Library System). We also have internet access to view the public display of the catalog as well as the ability to log into OCLC Connexion Browser to view MARC records. Participants bring their cataloging questions and we can all view the records and discuss how we

would handle certain issues.

In addition, participants bring complicated objects requiring cataloging and we combine our expertise to tackle them together. At a recent meeting, we cataloged from scratch a musical playbill from a local theater. We have also discussed whether or not we would catalog certain items as series or not, when to create additional titles and added entries, as well as the best phrasing to add information into a note field.

The internet access also enables us to access OCLC and other websites to reference help pages for each and every MARC field, indicator, and subfield. The roundtable serves as a great learning experience, particularly for “lone wolf” catalogers who have no one at their institutions off which they can bounce cataloging questions. Several of our regular participants work in the Suffolk County Catalog, while others are from stand-alone libraries with their own systems and ways of doing things. Our goal is to make sure everyone walks away knowing something about cataloging they didn’t know before they came in. The hands-on, practical approach is also a nice change from the theory and discussion of most lecture-based workshops, and often appeals to catalogers who like to get right down to brass tacks. •

Visit us on the World Wide
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Calendar of Upcoming Events

Tuesday, June 3rd: Cataloging Roundtable, SCLS

**Friday, June 6th (Word) and Friday, June 13th (Excel):
“Microsoft Office, 2007 : A two-part Sharper Training Solutions
Training Session**

**Friday, June 20th:
Annual Library Tour
10 a.m.—11 a.m.: Southold Free Library
11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.: Cutchogue-New Suffolk Library
2 p.m.—3 p.m. : Mattituck Laurel Library**