



Technically Speaking

The Newsletter of CATS

Spring/Summer 2007

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Open WorldCat and WorldCat.org Program

By Mellissa Hinton

A program focusing on OCLC's newly-launched free service, WorldCat.org, was presented to an audience of 48 participants by Doug van der Zee, OCLC Library Services Consultant. The well-received program, co-sponsored by CATS and LILRC, was held March 15, 2007 at the Half Hollow Hills Community Library.

Mr. van der Zee provided some interesting background to the development of OCLC's new product and cited OCLC's published 2005 report *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources* by Cathy De Rosa. Mr. van der Zee shared both good news and bad news for libraries as highlighted in the report. In the survey conducted by OCLC, the good news reported that 93% of the respondents felt Google contains worthwhile information and that the same was true for 78% of library websites. However, when respondents were asked where they typically begin a search for information on a given

topic, 84% reported using search engines, while only 2% use library portals. This gap is of obvious concern to library professionals, and WorldCat.org is conceived as a product with potential to narrow the gap.

WorldCat.org is the next generation product developing

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Technically Speaking's Featured Quotation

The Two Laws of Cataloguing:

"Law #1. No cataloger will accept the work of any other cataloger.

Law #2. No cataloger will accept his/her own work six months after the cataloging."

—Jesse Shera

Presidential “Meowsings”

By Tom Cohn

It is an honor and a privilege for me to serve this year as president of the CATS division.

First I would like to thank Mike Aloï of Dowling College for his excellent work last year as president of the division. Mike has helped make my transition an easy one.

The CATS division offers its members three primary benefits: quality programs that promote professional growth; access to information via our two “media outlets”, the *Technically Speaking* newsletter and the CATS web page located at <http://cats.suffolk.lib.ny.us>; and networking opportunities with other members of the library IT and technical services communities from around Suffolk County. The latter perhaps stands as the most enduring benefit. In the long run I don't remember the last detail of every program I've attended, but I never forget the many colorful characters I've met!

This year is shaping up to be an exciting one for our division. One important focus will be programs on digital photography. “Digital Photography in your Library101” is the title of our Long Island Library Conference program on May 3rd, presented by Steve Ingram of Northport Public Library. On June 8th and 15th we will host a two-part Sharper Training Solutions program on working with digital photographic files.

Also in June will be the return

of our Cataloging Roundtable, a venue for the open exchange of ideas on best cataloging practices. Mark your calendars and save up your questions for the next two meetings of this group, which will take place on Tuesday, June 19th and Tuesday, October 23rd at SCLS.

On the horizon are our annual library tour, which always affords a fascinating “behind-the-scenes” look at several noteworthy libraries during the summertime months, and our technical services open forum in the fall.

On March 15th, CATS co-sponsored a program on Open World Cat and WorldCat.org (see page 1) with the Long Island Library Resources Council (LILRC). Our board member Min Liu was instrumental in putting together this program. We thank Min and congratulate her on her appointment as assistant director of LILRC. I also wish to extend a warm welcome to two new members of the CATS board, Dana Motola of Sachem Public Library and Wendy Reeve of Cutchogue-New Suffolk Library.

Online Calendar Creations

Last December 5th, at the CATS annual meeting, a program on “Online Calendar Creations” was presented. The speakers were Laura Pope Robbins of Dowling College, Mary Keller of St. Joseph's College, Ellen Druda of Half Hollow Hills Community Library, E. Terrence Madden of Smithtown Library, and Jim Balletta of the Suffolk Cooperative Library System. The use of online calendars in has greatly proliferated. They are used to publicize events on library websites and even to post staff schedules. Some presenters demonstrated commercially available software (for example, the Thyme program is used at Half Hollow Hills Community Library and SCLS), while others showed self-programmed products. We extend a heartfelt “thank you” to all the presenters and hope the program has helped to keep both our library programs and patrons “on track.”

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from the Open World Cat project. In that project five million records from the WorldCat database were made available to research partners such as Google and Yahoo. Users could follow the “Find in a library link” from a search engine page to connect to library holding information in their geographic area. Multiplying the access exponentially, WorldCat.org will provide access to OCLC’s entire database of over eighty million records with similar functionality. Libraries can download the OCLC WorldCat.org search box directly to their online catalog or web portal to provide access to their patrons. The system recognizes the IP address where the search originates, because as Mr. van der Zee put it to a somewhat skeptical audience, “all IP addresses in the world” have been loaded by OCLC.

Mr. van der Zee noted that WorldCat.org is a global library network that (1) connects users and consumers to libraries at the global level; (2) allows library services to be reused in other environments; and (3) offers management services where specialized views of the

When respondents were asked where they typically begin a search for information on a given topic, 84% reported using search engines, while only 2% use library portals.



The freely distributed WorldCat search box

WorldCat.org platform can be offered to the local or regional consumer environment.

Since WorldCat.org was launched in August 2006, OCLC has monitored statistics showing usage that has grown ever upward. Mr. van der Zee displayed a slide indicating extremely impressive statistics for LILRC ILL group libraries where “conversions to library services” grew from 824 conversions in January 2006 to 5,722 in January 2007, an increase of 594%.

Mr. van der Zee also presented future initiatives of OCLC. For instance, the loading of 30 million records into ArticleFirst is projected for the spring of 2007. A much-discussed social network service, “My Profile,” is another option in the works. (Some members of the audience were quick to note the similarities to MySpace.com.) Additionally, coming down the road and currently in Beta format, is the platform to customize WorldCat.org views on the local level.

The CATS division of Suffolk County Library Association extends its thanks to Min Liu, LILRC, for arranging the successful program, and to Half Hollow Hills Library for providing the venue.

Cataloging Blogography

The editor of *American Libraries*, Leonard Kniffel, has written that 2006 just might go down as “the year of the blog”. These blogs fed to your RSS reader (available in current versions of most browsers) will help keep you current.

Catalogblog

<http://catalogablog.blogspot.com/>

LITA blog

<http://litablog.org/2007/04/>

Blog about Technical Services

<http://blogs.minitex.umn.edu/bats/>

FRBR blog

<http://www.frbr.org/>

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Web:
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Calendar of Upcoming Events

Thursday, May 3:

Long Island Library Conference

Friday, June 8 and Friday, June 15:

“Working with Your Digital Photos”

A Sharper Training Solutions Two-Session Training Program

Tuesday, June 19:

Cataloging Roundtable