



Technically Speaking

The Newsletter of CATS

Spring/Summer 2006

Also in this issue:

Presidential Meowings2

Introduction to RFID.....3

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Security in the Electronic Age

At the CATS annual meeting on December 8th, Detective Marc Shrier of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office and Steve Gardner of the 3rd Alternative corporation made cutting-edge presentations on security issues in the electronic age.

Detective Shrier specializes in identity theft, that unfortunate by-product of the "information age" in which we live. He cited the ubiquitous use of computers, cordless and cell phones, and ATMs. All of these technologies create opportunities for scammers, and as Mr. Shrier noted, "criminals are creatures of opportunity." You wouldn't think disposed fax machine canisters could contain valuable information. They do. Mr. Shrier also discussed so-called "phishing" and "farming" scams.

"Phishing" is the use of spyware and viruses to log keystrokes from a target computer. "Farming" is the use of spam e-mail or seemingly

legitimate websites to trick unsuspecting persons into revealing personal information.

Mr. Shier stated that Nassau and Suffolk counties rank 12th in the nation in credit-card fraud among major metropolitan areas. Some tips to prevent identity theft:

- Make copies (front and back) of all of your credit and debit cards.

—continued on page 2

Technically Speaking's Featured Quotation

"There is a pattern to this elegant process that we call cataloging. In fact, there are many patterns in this web of information that we have been trying to weave into coherence long before the days of www."

--Deborah A. Fritz, *Cataloging with AACR2 & MARC21*, 2nd edit., ALA Editions, 2004

Presidential Meowsings

by Michael Aloï

I'm pleased to be serving as the new president of the CATS division for 2006. The Executive Board is in the process of planning some wonderful programs relating to technology in libraries, with a wide range of topics to benefit our members.

I would like to thank our outgoing President, Ted Gutmann (Emma S. Clark Memorial Library) for his superb job in 2005 and for his help in making my transition into the top spot a smooth one. I would also like to thank the rest of the executive board for their efforts in planning, organizing, and promoting our programs each and every year.

Recently, John Richardson of SCLS presented an informative program on the evolving technology of MP3s and how they are being used in libraries. His presentation also addressed the unique concerns of trying to catalog MP3 files and including them in library catalogs.

Another one of our programs, the Cataloging Roundtable formed by Tom Cohn (Vice President/President Elect) will continue with two more meetings in 2006. This year the group will focus on the

more practical applications of using AACR2 to catalog difficult items. Members are encouraged to attend and bring some complex cataloging questions for a lively discussion. The next meetings of the roundtable will be on Tuesday, June 13 and Tuesday, October 24th at 9:30 at SCLS.

At this year's Long Island Libraries Conference, we are sponsoring a program on "RSS and XML for Libraries" presented by Steve Cohen, Senior Librarian at PubSub Concepts, Inc. The program will explain how libraries can take advantage of XML and RSS feeds to enhance their library's web presence.

In June, we will be sponsoring a two-part training session on Microsoft Access, to be led by Ceil Hearn of Sharper Training Solutions.

Be sure to visit our website, <http://cats.suffolk.lib.ny.us>, for the latest information about our upcoming programs, including our annual events: the summer Library Tour and our Technical Services Open Forum.

Better than Television!

Check out this website to see records being added to OCLC's WorldCat in real time: <http://www.oclc.org/worldcat/grow.htm>.

—continued from page 1

- Get a personal shredder.
- Read website privacy policies.
- Don't be shy, ask questions of everyone with whom you do business about all their practices you don't understand.

The second speaker's topic was quite different. Its focus was on the liability issues faced by libraries that offer wireless internet access to its patrons. Mr. Gardner cited three potential security challenges:

1. Protecting the library's data.
2. Protecting the patron's laptop.
3. Protecting the library from the activity of the patron.

For example, say a patron uses his laptop and the library's network to commit identity theft. Since the perpetrator can't be traced but the library can, is the library liable? He offered two solutions: (1) firewalling, and (2) installing devices that can detect what network users are doing.

Mr. Gardner noted that a pioneer in wireless networking – Starbucks coffee shops -- has withdrawn connectivity to users because of such security issues. Mr. Gardner recommended that libraries take a serious look at just how secure their networks really are.

Introduction to RFID

by Sue Ketcham

Radio frequency identification (RFID) technology has slowly begun to replace laser scanning and barcodes in some libraries. (McWilliams 12-13) But what is it and why haven't more libraries converted their collections to RFID?

According to Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, the first attributed device and forerunner to RFID technology was invented in 1945 by Léon Theremin as an espionage tool for the Soviet government.

So, how does it work? Data is transmitted by a mobile device, called a tag, which is then read by an RFID reader and processed according to the needs of a particular application. In a library, for example, "security gates can detect whether or not a book has been properly checked out of the library. When users return items, the security bit is re-set and the item record in the integrated library system is automatically updated. In some RFID solutions a return receipt can be generated. At this point, materials can be roughly sorted into bins by the return equipment. Inventory wands provide a finer detail of sorting. This tool can be used to put books into

shelf-reader order." (RFID) So, what are the advantages: streamlining checkout and check in procedures; security functions (RFID tags replace magnetic security strips); self-checkout just like laser scanners are currently used; collection maintenance (a hand held tool will enable you to read information from an RFID tag in materials standing on the shelves); sorting processes; no patron information is ever recorded on RFID tags (libraries do not use the same tags as retail).

With all those advantages, why aren't more libraries switching to an RFID system? Because currently it is just too cost prohibitive, especially for large collections. An increase in usage may eventually drive the price down. (Ward 19-20, 22-4)

Will this technology ever become the norm? Only time will tell.

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Calendar of Events
Wednesday, May 3:
Long Island Library Conference
Friday, June 2/16:
MS Access Workshop
Tuesday, June 13:
CATS Cataloging Roundtable
Friday, July 28:
Annual Library Tour

Computer and Technical Services Division
Suffolk County Library Association
c/o SCLS
627 N. Sunrise Highway
Bellport, NY 11713

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