Collection and Discovery Services Open Forum: We Want to Hear From You - Transcript

Please stand by for realtime captions.

Hi everybody. Can you hear me, Kelly?

Yes, you sound great.

Welcome back, everybody. This is Jennifer Morgan with the resources working group. Welcome to our open discussion forum. We want to discuss issues affecting you. We can talk about cataloging metadata and technical services for collection development and management and discovery services. We want to hear your ideas and suggestions and comments. With me as moderators are Merri Clark, Stephen Kharfen and Cindy Etikin will monitor the chat. Let's start with the first poll. Does your library have a dedicated technical services department for government documents? Please select one of the following answers. Yes, no but we have dedicated technical services staff for government documents, or no.

The poll takes just a few seconds to wrap up and then I will display the results.

It looks like the responses were even for B and C? 71 and 71?

Correct.

Interesting. The question was does your library have a dedicated technical services department. 27 of you said yes and then it was even 71 and 71 for no but we have a dedicated technical services staff for government documents and just know. Okay, let's move on to the second poll question. Has your library's recently reorganized technical services department. Please select one of the following answers. Yes, no but we are considering it or no. Kelly will get that poll set up. There it is.

This one is wrapping up and the results will display momentarily.

Okay, 32 of you responded yes. Your library has recently organized the tech services department. 18 said no but were considering it. The majority of you said no. Okay, that brings us to our first discussion question. So, in the working group update, I mentioned that one of the working group members was facing some retirements in her department. I posed this question to the working group so we thought we would take it to the community. What should the ideal library technical services department look like in the 21st century? If you could type your questions and comments in the chat, we will be monitoring that.

Hi everyone. This is Merri Clark. I can turn on my camera. I don't want to get rid of Jennifer but let's see. I am actually the one that came up with this question. We are facing a number of retirements and I am curious about what your position descriptions would look like if you had any opportunity to redo them. Right now at the Library of Virginia, we have an animus picture photograph collection and we hope to apply for funding for this position. The job would be to describe these images and make them available through our online catalog but there are a couple of other interesting facets to this that we are looking at. Overseeing crowdsourcing to identify people in pictures that we don't know who they might be. Having a role as a blogger in outreach and beyond just descriptive services. Those are the things that are among the things that I am thinking about. Those can be applied for government publications as well

and more of an outreach role. I am curious if anyone out there has those kinds of position descriptions currently in operations.

Also, think about if you have reorganized your technical services department, have you renamed the department to reflect these changes? If you had to redo everything, how would you do it? What kind of skills would be needed or what kind of roles and responsibilities would librarians and staff undertake?

I could go ahead and read some of the comments. Jenny said it would depend on the type of library. Perhaps all staff has computer coding skills. Joslin says just more than one person doing the database updates with withdrawals in the barcoding. I am sorry if I am mispronouncing names but the type of work being done is moving away from cataloging and towards resource wrangling. Alicia says more crosstraining so we don't struggle when people retire or leave. Someone else mentioned crosstraining. At least one person said they are trained and experts in cataloging government information. Would you like me to continue to read the chat comments?

Yes, please do. For some reason, I have lost my feed of the chat so I cannot see it. I am not sure what I have done. There it comes back. Thank you.

No one wants to learn crosstraining documents. Leslie says renaming management. John says a difficult question. I think technical services will be less physical and more electronic. A bunch of our technical needs are connectivity issues. Sarah says technical services should not also have reference to these at the same time. Robbie commented on Jenny's comment. Tech services catalogers need to understand the public service side so they can understand what they do to impact users. We have one cataloger that serves as the head of resource services. Need to understand special formats including vendor negotiations and software and migration. Retaining staff with specialized processing and cataloging skills and allowing us to rely less heavily upon outsourcing to third-party vendors and services. So, seeing a lot of comments about technical skills and programming skills and the impact of newer technologies and expanding. Maybe what we would think of as the traditional areas of technical services into other areas with public services and putting those two together more closely. There are a lot more comments. Vast research collections and they are mostly handled and I would love to have someone come to my department to help with the projects. I can't justify a dedicated tech services visit fairly often. I would say the department is not much of an issue but the system does not display online resources as well. Other comments about name changes. A lot of places are calling it discovery services. I think this'll work well for the library of the future.

I did see a comment on here that I think is very important as I am looking for the future in my department and that is really being able to milk your system and get as much out of it as you can with the bedframe and having new policies and procedures and it will just be huge in changing everything that we do. We are making it look different and we will have to have someone to document this. We have done everything by corporate memory and that will be very big.

Sorry, I think I may have skipped some portions but more comments about name changes. We have data management and access and change to cataloging and metadata services when they were split out into a different department. Do others have a library and cataloger that also does regular collection cataloging? Just curious. Several more comments about issues related to retirements and to catalog special collections and discussions among staff, we would like a cataloger with the ability to work with other departments in the special collections. Joslin says we did rename technical services a few years ago. A comment from miles. As a new librarian, I could use a webinar that could be titled something like

government documents for those that don't know how to tell what is a good question to ask. More comments related to taking webinars technical services. Elizabeth says library ministries needs to understand that even though there may be less print acquisition, the roles of technical services and librarians and staff is still important and especially with new cataloging and RDH changes, etc. Chris says it sounds like a cataloging webinar is needed. John says one aspect of technical services would involve cleaning up all the materials with data documents no longer being outdated. How to read electronic materials. A couple of the comments with agreement. Amy asked if you mean the rebranding for discovery services which implies a shift in emphasis. Staff have been trying to get a cataloging webinar going. We would love to have multiple presenters on this key topic. They provided a link to a news alert to teach the community for federal publications. More agreement about an talk webinar and might help educate student workers on shelving and becoming familiar with the material. Carol asks, sorry if this has already come up but is GPO considering how to provide something like documents and data mining.

There is about 30 minutes left of the session. Would you like to continue on or move on to the next poll?

I was looking for my unmute button. It is time to move on. I was trying to keep up with the chat. We have some really good input and I love the suggestion for the cataloging webinar as a public services library myself. Thank you everyone for your ideas and comments. Let's move on to our next poll. Poll number three. Okay, we would like to ask you, has your depository taken on cataloging projects to work towards having your depository collection 100% catalog? Please select one of the following answers. A. yes B. no or C. know because my depository collection is fully catalogued.

The poll is wrapping up. As soon as it is finished, I display the results.

Okay, it looks like 74 responded yes that they have taken on cataloging projects and 50 replied no and 33 responded no because my depository collection is fully catalogued. Excellent. We have another poll question. Would knowing the cataloging projects of other depository libraries be of interest to you? Please select one of the following answers. A. yes B. no or C. maybe.

This one is wrapping up. Stay tuned for results.

It looks like 12 of you responded no. You would not like to now and then it was almost evenly split between yes and maybe. You might like to know the cataloging projects of other depository libraries of interest. So, this brings us to our next discussion question. Before we move on to that question, Stephen is going to explain the project that I mentioned earlier about the cataloging register. Go ahead, Stephen. Tell us what we are looking at here.

Thank you, Jennifer. Hello everyone. We greatly appreciated all of your wonderful work for your communities in the library program. We know you are doing great work to catalog new publications and GPO is working on multiple cataloging projects. We are thinking that perhaps a central location for information about your and our cataloging projects might be useful for you and us. Sharing this information might be helpful for planning future projects and keeping the community aware of our ongoing initiatives. Our preliminary idea is to create a guide with basic information about projects. Such as depository library name and number and the stem ranges of publications being catalogued in the number and types of publications and project dates and status. We would like to ask you what you think of this idea.

Okay, let me move to the next line. Our question is thinking about the example for the previous slide. The question is what information would you like to see in a registry for cataloging and metadata projects? You can let us know your thoughts on this question in the chat. I will go back to that slide. You can see what the types of data elements are.

I am already seeing questions come in about managing reading. Glenn is saying to try the date range format and whether it includes depository items or unreported publications. Someone else's asking about excel tricks and I would throw in some Marquette it tricks. I think they are talking about reading projects I would put that into your electronic collection. People were speaking earlier about things that are out of date. I think that comes to a skill that our catalogers will have to have with learning how to run reports and create ways to extract those items from our catalogs and do reports to delete them. People are still asking about item numbers. Somebody is asking if we can share batch records. Someone else is asking if there is an equivalent capability.

Sorry, Mary. I would just like to maybe clarify. Our initial idea is that libraries working on projects would send this information and we would post it in the guide. For informational purposes so if someone was thinking of working on a large group of materials of this agency, they might see that someone else is already working on it. If you are looking for materials perhaps for other research purposes or something, you can see what is being worked on across the FDLP community. Those are some of our thinking about how the registry would sort of work.

Barbara asked the question if the records are complete for giving the range and FA are complete, it might be easier to sell a project to get small chunks out of that collection catalog. A registry would give us a guide to others to catalog at our own institution. I think that is really what Stephen and our working group was considering. So you can know where you would add something and help out. Excuse me. Somebody is asking about SuDoc changes within registry. Valerie asks the question about how would you ensure that the registry is kept up-to-date? We had a challenge before the digitization registry that ended up being decommissioned a few years ago.

The thought would be that the information would be submitted by the library working on the project and GPO would manage the data in the web guide. We could periodically check in with the library working on a project to see how things are going. We can update the status and we would have to sort of gauge a level of interest and level of effort. What I think our group was hoping for was for the libraries working on projects to sort of minimize their level of effort in order to share this information with the community and with GPO. Again, that is the data management aspect of it. That is our general idea at this point. I did see a specific question from miles. I think it was about the OCLC collection in the chat. We can send you more information about that if anyone else wants to respond to that. I think you are referring to the OCLC collection and those work in a particular way. Our involvement is that we are creating those records. Records get added to that collection or removed depending on certain metadata elements. That is the protocol to create the collections. I am sorry if that was not very clear but I am glad to send you more information and talk more specifically about your situation.

Okay, I think it is time to move to our next question. We are recording the chat so if your question was not specifically answered, we will be able to get back to you with that. So, the next question we would like to ask is what challenges or issues would you like to see the collection and workgroup address? We would really like to know what you are thinking. The areas of purview with the working group with cataloging and metadata and collection management and some examples of the working group's previous work were discussing that process of records so that the working group discussed partially

automated methods of large number of records and discussing the advantages and disadvantages of that approach. Also, another topic that the working group worked on was the fugitive publications lost docs review. So, if you could give us your ideas as to what you think the working group should address next, that would be really helpful to us.

Theorist is way to get money grants for Metro cataloging and produces comparison of the national archives collections. What is missing from both. Chris agrees with Sarah. There is a large collection but there is only a shelf list. Jenny agrees with Bernadine. Carol, replacement of documents data minor peer Karen says transaction to the new version of RDA examples of records in addition to instructions in the libraries working on the treatment of records and I do not want to just use their approach. We need info from GPO. Would it be possible to do some how-to's for various systems and the best ways to use them for guv docs? We have several additional comments about documents and data minor. Also hosting the replacement and several more comments supporting that.

Yeah. The working group agrees with you about DDM. That has been a topic of conversation.

Ashley posted a link to the mark edit webinar. You can enhance the CRD records. Sarris as ways for duplicating the dock records. For the shared catalog. Stolen catalogs for GPO to take on DPM and documents data minor. We are working with the GPO council in technical details at this stage.

Okay, I am seeing great responses. We have eight minutes left and another poll question and two more discussion questions. You can keep on typing those ideas in the chat and then I will tell you another way where you can communicate your ideas to us but I do want to move on to the next poll question. For the last poll, we would like to ask you are you building your depository intellection with or providing access to digitized historical content? Please select all of the answers that apply to your situation. A. yes, we are building a digital collection with historical content. B. yes, we provide access to digital historical content. C. yes, we provide access through links in cataloging records. D. no, we are considering building a digital collection or E. no, my library is not interested in historical content. So, here is the poll.

The poll is wrapping up and I will display the results as soon as they are ready.

Okay, it looks like only a few view responded know that your library was not interested in historical content. 21 responded no but you are considering building a digital collection in the majority of you responded yes. We provide access in cataloging records. 50% said yes to historical content and 31% of yes that we are building a digital collection with historical content. That brings us to our next question. Library services and content management is exploring a new series of item numbers for historical publications. What do you think of this idea? If you could put your questions in the chat and just a little background about why we are exporting this possibility. Some of the digital historical content that LSCM is cataloging predates the system that we know today. The tangible version might not have been distributed through the FDLP so they don't have active numbers. What do you think of LSCM exploring a new series of item numbers for historical publications?

Right now, it looks like people are very interested in having a new series for historical and Ted mentions it would help with consistency. Somebody suggested that maybe we already have enough item numbers.

I just wanted to mention that our preliminary counts and this is just preliminary. This is my account so I am probably wrong but I count 60 current agency classes. Our staff members did some great research

on defunct agency classes and at this point we have identified 58 so that would be a total of 118 and the idea would be that -- when idea would be that we would only create an item record or new item number when we needed it. We would not automatically create 118 right away. We would create them as we need them. The number is about 118 120.

I do see that as we discussed before that we are revisiting the whole item number scenario. If we were to accept that item numbers are here to stay, it sounds like that at least for the time being that having a series for the historical materials would be helpful. Also, people have said that as long as they don't that there is a different format with different item numbers and that was Margaret.

We have two more minutes and these are great responses so you can keep them coming but I do want to go to the last discussion question. It is simply what new cataloging services and products would you find useful? Or, would you like to see changes to any existing cataloging services and products?

[Captioners transitioning] you include the website. That is the selection. Open forum. So include that in your message to the e-mail so we know what we have been talking about here today. I see that it is now 3:00. And the working group would like to thank you for participating in our discussion forum and all of the great information that you V.P. given us today.