

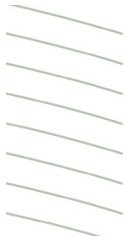
Library Catalogue Projects – the story of one library’s never- ending quest for unobtainable catalogue perfection

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Abstract

This paper looks at a number of library projects that, together, have improved the quality of the college’s library catalogue. Through a necessary project involving searching for thousands of titles on a title-by-title basis, several smaller related library catalogue projects developed resulting in overall catalogue enhancement and improvement. Ultimately, this work has resulted in an increase in usage of our physical resources. The paper also discusses the benefits of such projects to both the library and patrons and considers future related projects that could be undertaken.



The perfectly correct library catalogue – don't be disappointed, but it doesn't exist!

Hewitt¹ recognized that obsolete cataloguing practices contribute to a catalogue of conflicts and errors, and as long as cataloguing practices are being updated and revised, this problem will not be resolved. Petrucciani² describes library catalogues as having uneven and low quality often due to faults, duplication and unwise cataloging standards and practices. And many authors have discussed the unobtainable goal of the perfectly correct bibliographic/catalogue record³.

However, as unobtainable as perfection may be, that doesn't mean we sit idly by and overlook mistakes, and errors, and allow other inconsistencies to remain in our library catalogues. The purpose of the library catalogue is to assist users to locate relevant resources for their search queries, and if it can't do that, what's the point? The quest for continual improvement of our library catalogues should be a focus for all library staff. We might not be able to achieve perfection, but we can continue to strive towards it!

It is with this mindset that I began a project to sort titles from another library campus collection, discovering duplicates, typographical errors and many other inconsistencies along the way. What began as a seemingly straightforward project, developed into multiple smaller projects – all of which have contributed to a much improved and more accurate library catalogue that enables patrons to locate what they are searching for and satisfy their research requests.

This paper tells the story of my library's quest toward the perfect library catalogue, and the multiple library jobs created from the initial project described below.

¹ Hewitt, J.A. (1972). Sample audit cards from a university library catalog. *College and Research Libraries*, Jan, 24-27.

² Petrucciani, A. (2015). Quality of library catalogs and value of (good) catalogs. *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*, 53(3-4), 303-313.

³ See Cann Casciato, D. (2010). An essay on cataloging. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*, 468.

Bade, D. (2008). The perfect bibliographic record: platonic ideal, rhetorical strategy or nonsense? *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*, 46(1), 109-133.

Nero, M.D., & He, J. (2018). Is it necessary: quality control in cataloging? *International Journal of Librarianship*, 3(2), 85-95.

Elliott, L. (1953). Fundamental concepts of law librarianship. *Law Library Journal*, 46, 83.

Crittenden, Victor. (1971). The problem of perfection: Library of Congress cataloguing, MARC tapes and their use in Australian libraries. *The Australian Library Journal*, 20(4), 20.

Whisner, M. (2001). The trouble with utopia. *Law Library Journal*, 93(1), 203-208.



Project Background

The initial project started at the Melbourne Campus library of Harvest Bible College in 2017, which then used Koha library management software. After some consolidation of other Harvest campus libraries, the Harvest Queensland campus library was packed into a shipping container and transported to Melbourne for sorting. Since this sorting involved searching for what titles were already held in the Melbourne collection (duplicates), and which titles were not and therefore desired to be added into the Melbourne collection, it meant a significant amount of catalogue searching was required. Although the titles were mostly already in the catalogue with a location of Queensland, there were enough instances of duplicate records to warrant individual title-by-title searching in order to merge records and have a single bibliographic record with multiple location or item records. This was an essential task as duplicate records waste searchers' time through needing to screen the same records multiple times⁴ and they compromise quality control⁵, overquantifying statistics for the number of individual titles held.

The duplication of records was a result of multiple catalogue mergers and upgrades over the library's 30+ year history. These had involved various library management systems: Oasis, Alice, Bookmark, Destiny, and Koha. Despite best efforts at the time of the catalogue upgrades or mergers, there were always a few issues that seem to slip through and had persisted in the catalogue.

In December 2018, Harvest Bible College became the Melbourne campus of Alphacrucis College, now known as Alphacrucis University College (AC). The work on the shipping container of Harvest's Queensland books continued and the Koha catalogue remained in place. Plans for a joint catalogue using AC's Liberty were discussed, but at the time, retaining two separate catalogues was decided as the best option due to the less than optimal nature of Harvest's catalogue records. I didn't want to downgrade the Liberty catalogue with sub-standard records if we were to merge catalogues.

Little did I realise however, the Liberty catalogue had many of the same sorts of issues due to previous mergers and upgrades too (involving Alice and Bookmark), and AC library staff didn't want to downgrade my catalogue with sub-standard records either!

Now that the Harvest Queensland library items have been processed in the way that is described below, the project continues across all the AC collections, including the 60% of the Melbourne physical collection

⁴ Rathbone, J., Carter, M., Hoffmann, T. *et al.* (2015). Better duplicate detection for systematic reviewers: evaluation of Systematic Review Assistant-Deduplication Module. *Systematic Reviews*, 4(6).

⁵ Sitas, A. & Kapidakis, S. (2008). Duplicate detection algorithms of bibliographic descriptions. *Library Hi Tech*, 6(2), 287-301.

that is currently in storage due to limited shelving space available at the AC Melbourne campus library. These items are being evaluated for retention, disposal or redistribution. Those that are being retained, either in Melbourne or at another AC campus collection, are having their records updated as thoroughly as possible according to the processes below.

The Process

Work began on the Queensland titles and the searching began... Items were searched for on a title-by-title basis and duplicates were confirmed using other bibliographic information. At the start of this process, it was decided that it could benefit patrons who were using keyword searching to include the tables of contents from items in the catalogue records, especially since the title of an item does not always contain the keywords that people are searching for or is descriptive enough to inform what the book is actually about⁶. For example, see the record below for a conference proceedings – the conference papers themselves would be undiscoverable unless they were included in the bibliographic record as they have been in the updated record that follows:

RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE IN WORLD RELIGIONS [Text]
By: HAYES, VICTOR C.
Series: SELECTED PAPERS (AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGIONS) 3.
Publisher: BEDFORD PARK, SA AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGIONS 1980
Description: vii, 176 P.
ISBN: 9780908083060.
Subject(s): EXPERIENCE (RELIGION) | RELIGIONS
DDC classification: 291.42

Figure 1: Original bibliographic record

Religious experience in world religions / edited and introduction by Victor C. Hayes.
Contributor(s): Hayes, Victor C [editor] | Australian Association for the Study of Religions.
Series: Australian Association for the Study of Religions. Selected papers: No 3 Selected papers (Australian Association for the Study of Religions): No 3
Publisher: Bedford Park, S.Aust. : Australian Association for the Study of Religions, 1980
Description: vii, 176 pages ; 21 cm.
Content type: text Media type: unmediated Carrier type: volume
ISBN: 0908083068 :
Subject(s): Religions | Experience (Religion)
DDC classification: 291.4/2
Other classification: 11.09
Contents:
 -- Introduction: Exploring religious experiences Victor Hayes
 -- On the notion of religious experience Max Charlesworth
 -- Dream, trance and spirit possession: traditional religious experiences in Melanesia Michelle Stephen
 -- Dreams and visions as religious experiences in Polynesia: three cases of pastoral counselling James Irwin
 -- Personal meaning in the Charismatic Renewal Movement: a Verstehen approach Christopher Bennie
 -- The personal ritual of glossolalia Richard Hutch
 -- Theism versus pantheism in Jewish mystical experience Alan Unterman
 -- On mystical experiences and their limiting case Philip Almond
 -- Deliberate religious transformation in Japanese Buddhism - through the methods of Shingon and Rinzai Zen Carmen Blacker
 -- Generating experiences of egolessness in Buddhism Peter Fenner
 -- The reconciliation of Dharma and Moksha in the experience of Ramakrishna Timothy Jensen
 -- Getting it right: the everyday experience of Pentecostalism and spiritualism in a northeast Brazilian town Rowan Ireland
 -- Carols by candlelight: the analysis of an Australian folk ritual Norman Habel

Figure 2: Updated bibliographic record

⁶ Jackson, B.D. (1882). Misleading and misconstrued book-title. *Bibliographer*, 1(3), 91-92.

Whilst the decision to include the tables of contents in records meant an addition of sometimes significant time to process the records, it also meant that the titles were opened up to patrons in a way they had never been before. Now patrons could search for a chapter author, or a word appearing in the chapter title, but not in the book title or subject headings of the resource and find the resources. I describe in detail the impact including tables of contents and summary data in bibliographic records has had on the usage of my library's physical resources in a recent article that demonstrates a significant increase in usage⁷.

More descriptive records were downloaded using the z39.50 protocol from Libraries Australia. Many of these records included tables of contents, but they were in an unsatisfactory format and displayed in such a way that it was difficult to easily ascertain the information they included. One of the academic staff at Harvest assisted with providing code for our library catalogue (Koha) to display the tables of contents in an easy-to-read format.

Instead of displaying like this:

T&T Clark handbook of pneumatology / edited by Daniel Castelo, Kenneth M. Loyer.
Contributor(s): Castelo, Daniel, 1978- [editor.] | Loyer, Kenneth [editor.]
 Series: T&T Clark Handbooks
 Publisher: London : Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2020
 Description: x, 387 pages
 Content type: text Media type: computer Carrier type: online resource
 ISBN: 9780567667403 (ePub ebook) ; 9780567667427 (PDF ebook) :
 Other title: Handbook of pneumatology | Pneumatology
 Subject(s): Holy Spirit
 DDC classification: 231.3
Contents:
 1. The Holy Spirit in the Synoptic Gospels, Laura C. S. Holmes (Seattle Pacific University and Seminary, USA)2. The Lord the Spirit: Paul's Pneumatology, Nijay K. Gupta (George Fox University, USA, Robert W. Wall (Seattle Pacific University and Seminary, USA)4. The Spirit in the Catholic Epistles, David R. Nienhuis (Seattle Pacific University and Seminary, USA)5. Pneumatology in the Johannine Corpus, Robert W. Wall (Seattle Pacific University and Seminary, USA) 6. The Holy Spirit in the Work of Christ, D. Stephen Long (Southern Methodist University, USA)7. The Spirit-Infused Hope of Christ, Margaret B. Adam (University of Oxford, UK)8. The Spirit and the Old Testament, Lee Roy Martin (Pentecostal Theological Seminary, USA) 9. The Spirit and Learning in the Hebrew Scriptures, John R. (Jack) Levison (Southern Methodist University, USA) 10. The Spirit, Mediation, and Sacramentality, Kenneth M. Loyer (Independent Scholar, USA)11. The Spirit and Science, Wolfgang Vondey (University of Birmingham, UK)12. The Spirit and Visions of Life: Seeing the World and Humanity Otherwise in the Light of God's Face, Daniela C. Augustine (University of Birmingham, UK)13. Spirit and Ecology, J. J. Johnson Leese (Seattle Pacific University and Seminary, USA)14. 'The Giver of Life': The Spirit and Creation, Marco Cortez (Wheaton College, USA)15. Pneumatological Development in Trinitarian Perspective, Jackson Lashier (Southwestern College, USA)16. The Filioque: Theology and Controversy, Thomas G. Weinandy, O.F.M., Cap. (Capuchin College, USA)17. 'Who Together with the Father and Son is Worshipped and Glorified': Roman Catholic Perspectives, Matthew Levering (University of Saint Mary of the Lake, USA)18. Eastern Orthodox Perspectives, Marcus Pliested (Marquette University, USA)19. The Holy Spirit: Lutheran Perspectives, Cheryl M. Peterson (Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University, USA)20. Reformed Perspectives on the Holy Spirit, Shannon Nichole Smythe (Independent Scholar, USA)21. The Theology of the Holy Spirit in Anglicanism, Ephraim Radner (University of Toronto, Canada)22. The Holy Spirit in Wesleyan Perspectives, Jason E. Vickers (Asbury Theological Seminary, USA)23. Quaker Pneumatology, Cherice Book (George Fox University, USA)24. The Holy Spirit and Antiochianism, J. Alexander Sider (Bluffton University, USA)25. Pentecostal Perspectives in Pneumatology, Peter Althouse (Independent Scholar, Canada)26. Charismatic Perspectives on the Holy Spirit, Andrew K. Gabriel (Horizon College and Seminary, Canada)27. Perspectives on the 'Spirit' in Africa, Daniel K. Darko (Gordon College, USA)28. Towards an Asian Pneumatology: A Reflective Reading, David Sang-Ehil Han (Pentecostal Theological Seminary, USA)29. Spirit of Integration and Solidarity: Asian American Pneumatologies, Daniel D. Lee (Fuller Theological Seminary, USA)30. The Spirit in the Colonial Difference: A Story of Pneumatology in the American Global South, Oscar Garcia-Johnson (Fuller Theological Seminary, USA)31. Black Theologians of the Spirit, Frederick L. Ware (Howard University School of Divinity, USA)32. Latinx Perspectives, Daniel Castelo (Seattle Pacific University and Seminary, USA)33. Where the Wind Blows: Pneumatology in Feminist Perspective, Lisa P. Stephenson (Lee University, USA)34. Pneumatology and the Canonical Heritage, Mark E. Powell (Harding School of Theology, USA)35. Discernment, Douglas M. Koskela (Seattle Pacific University and Seminary, USA)36. Mysticism and Renewal, Daniel Castelo (Seattle Pacific University and Seminary, USA)37. Anointing and Power, Chris E. W. Green (Southeastern University, USA).

Figure 3: Record with contents displaying in paragraph form

or this:

Jesus according to the New Testament / James D.G. Dunn.
By: Dunn, James D. G, 1939- [author.]
Contributor(s): Williams, Rowan, 1950- [writer of foreword.]
 Publisher: Grand Rapids, Michigan : William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2019
 Copyright date: ©2019
 Description: xv, 211 pages : 22 cm
 Content type: text Media type: unmediated Carrier type: volume
 ISBN: 9780802876690; 0802876692
 Subject(s): Jesus Christ -- Person and offices -- Biblical teaching | Bible. New Testament -- Criticism, interpretation, etc
 DDC classification: 232
 LOC classification: BT203 | .D859 2019
Contents:
 Jesus according to Jesus -- Jesus according to Mark, Matthew, and Luke -- Jesus according to John -- Jesus according to Acts -- Jesus according to Paul: part 1 -- Jesus according to Paul: part 2 -- Jesus according to Hebrews -- Jesus according to James, Peter, John, and Jude -- Jesus according to Revelation.

Figure 4: Record with contents displaying in non-preferred form

⁷ Stevens, K. (2022). Retrospective enhancement of bibliographic records with tables of contents and summary data and the effect on collection usage. *Journal of the Australian Library and Information Association*, 71(4), 379-387.

records would display like this:

T&T Clark handbook of pneumatology / edited by Daniel Castelo, Kenneth M. Loyer.
Contributor(s): Castelo, Daniel, 1978- [editor.] | Loyer, Kenneth [editor.]
Series: T&T Clark Handbooks
Publisher: London : Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2020
Description: x, 387 pages
Content type: text Media type: computer Carrier type: online resource
ISBN: 9780567667403 (ePub ebook) ; 9780567667427 (PDF ebook) ;
Other title: Handbook of pneumatology | Pneumatology
Subject(s): Holy Spirit
DDC classification: 231.3
Contents:
→ 1. The Holy Spirit in the Synoptic Gospels Laura C. S. Holmes (Seattle Pacific University and Seminary, USA)
→ 2. The Lord the Spirit: Paul's Pneumatology Nijay K. Gupta (George Fox University, USA)
→ 3. The Role of the Acts of the Spirit within Scripture Robert W. Wall (Seattle Pacific University and Seminary, USA)
→ 4. The Spirit in the Catholic Epistles David R. Nienhuis (Seattle Pacific University and Seminary, USA)
→ 5. Pneumatology in the Johannine Corpus Robert W. Wall (Seattle Pacific University and Seminary, USA)
→ 6. The Holy Spirit in the Work of Christ D. Stephen Long (Southern Methodist University, USA)
→ 7. The Spirit-Infused Hope of Christ Margaret B. Adam (University of Oxford, UK)
→ 8. The Spirit and the Old Testament Lee Roy Martin (Pentecostal Theological Seminary, USA)
→ 9. The Spirit and Learning in the Hebrew Scriptures John R. (Jack) Levison (Southern Methodist University, USA)
→ 10. The Spirit, Mediation, and Sacramentality Kenneth M. Loyer (Independent Scholar, USA)
→ 11. The Spirit and Science Wolfgang Vondry (University of Birmingham, UK)
→ 12. The Spirit and Visions of Life: Seeing the World and Humanity Otherwise in the Light of God's Face Daniela C. Augustine (University of Birmingham, UK)
→ 13. Spirit and Ecology J. J. Johnson Leese (Seattle Pacific University and Seminary, USA)
→ 14. 'The Giver of Life': The Spirit and Creation Marc Cortez (Wheaton College, USA)
→ 15. Pneumatological Development in Trinitarian Perspective Jackson Lashier (Southwestern College, USA)
→ 16. The Filioque: Theology and Controversy Thomas G. Weinandy, O.F.M., Cap. (Capuchin College, USA)
→ 17. 'Who Together with the Father and Son is Worshipped and Glorified': Roman Catholic Perspectives Matthew Levering (University of Saint Mary of the Lake, USA)
→ 18. Eastern Orthodox Perspectives Marcus Plessted (Marquette University, USA)
→ 19. The Holy Spirit: Lutheran Perspectives Cheryl M. Peterson (Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University, USA)
→ 20. Reformed Perspectives on the Holy Spirit Shannon Nichole Smythe (Independent Scholar, USA)
→ 21. The Theology of the Holy Spirit in Anglicanism Ephraim Radner (University of Toronto, Canada)
→ 22. The Holy Spirit in Wesleyan Perspectives Jason E. Vickers (Asbury Theological Seminary, USA)
→ 23. Quaker Pneumatology Cherice Bock (George Fox University, USA)
→ 24. The Holy Spirit and Anticlericalism J. Alexander Sider (Bluffton University, USA)
→ 25. Pentecostal Perspectives in Pneumatology Peter Althouse (Independent Scholar, Canada)
→ 26. Charismatic Perspectives on the Holy Spirit Andrew K. Gabriel (Horizon College and Seminary, Canada)
→ 27. Perspectives on the 'Spirit' in Africa Daniel K. Darko (Gordon College, USA)
→ 28. Towards an Asian Pneumatology: A Reflective Reading David Sang-Ehil Han (Pentecostal Theological Seminary, USA)
→ 29. Spirit of Integration and Solidarity: Asian American Pneumatologies Daniel D. Lee (Fuller Theological Seminary, USA)
→ 30. The Spirit in the Colonial Difference: A Story of Pneumatology in the American Global South Oscar Garcia-Johnson (Fuller Theological Seminary, USA)
→ 31. Black Theologians of the Spirit Frederick L. Ware (Howard University School of Divinity, USA)
→ 32. Latinx Perspectives Daniel Castelo (Seattle Pacific University and Seminary, USA)
→ 33. Where the Wind Blows: Pneumatology in Feminist Perspective Lisa P. Stephenson (Lee University, USA)
→ 34. Pneumatology and the Canonical Heritage Mark E. Powell (Harding School of Theology, USA)
→ 35. Discernment Douglas M. Koskela (Seattle Pacific University and Seminary, USA)
→ 36. Mysticism and Renewal Daniel Castelo (Seattle Pacific University and Seminary, USA)
→ 37. Anointing and Power Chris E. W. Green (Southeastern University, USA)

Figure 5: Records with contents displaying in numbered list format

and this in our OPAC:

Jesus according to the New Testament / James D.G. Dunn.
By: Dunn, James D. G, 1939- [author.]
Contributor(s): Williams, Rowan, 1950- [writer of foreword.]
Publisher: Grand Rapids, Michigan : William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2019
Copyright date: ©2019
Description: xv, 211 pages ; 22 cm
Content type: text Media type: unmediated Carrier type: volume
ISBN: 9780802876690; 0802876692
Subject(s): Jesus Christ -- Person and offices -- Biblical teaching | Bible. New Testament -- Criticism, interpretation, etc
DDC classification: 232
LOC classification: BT203 | .D859 2019
Contents:
→ 1. Jesus according to Jesus
→ 2. Jesus according to Mark, Matthew, and Luke
→ 3. Jesus according to John
→ 4. Jesus according to Acts
→ 5. Jesus according to Paul: part 1
→ 6. Jesus according to Paul: part 2
→ 7. Jesus according to Hebrews
→ 8. Jesus according to James, Peter, John, and Jude
→ 9. Jesus according to Revelation

Figure 6: Records with contents displaying in numbered list format



Contents Exclusions

If records downloaded from Libraries Australia did not include table of contents information, it was added from scratch to our catalogue's bibliographic records directly from the books themselves. Some exceptions to adding contents were made:

- Commentaries did not have contents listed as more often than not, the contents simply consisted of a list of the particular Bible book's chapters;
- Old and New Testament survey books did have the books of the Bible listed;
- Bibles did not have books of the Old and New Testaments listed;
- Main section/chapter headings were included, but not sub-headings.

Other information from the tables of contents that were not included in catalogue records are less helpful terms such as: foreword, preface, bibliography, and index. Only the actual section/part and chapter headings are included in the catalogue records. This duplicates a project undertaken as far back as 1978 by Atherton⁸.

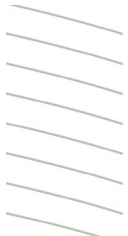
Benefits

Despite the expanded opportunity of increased accuracy and better search results using keyword searching that the addition of tables of contents provided, there were a number of other benefits to the whole process of individually checking titles one-by-one...

Improved Accuracy

As embarrassing as it is to admit, the quality of my library catalogue was far from perfect. Some days, I wondered how anyone was able to find anything, given the number of typographical errors I discovered from record to record. Below are two examples of typical typographical errors discovered:

⁸ Poulsen, C. (1996). Tables of contents in library catalogs: a quantitative examination of analytic catalogs. *Library Resources & Technical Services*, 40(2), 137.



THE Insanity of God : a true story of faith resurrected / Nik Ripken ; with Gregg Lewis ; [foreword by David Platt].
By: Ripken, Nik.
Contributor(s): Lewis, Gregg, 1951-.
Publisher: Nashville, TN : Broadman & Holman, 2013
Description: xxx, 322 pages ; 23 cm.
ISBN: 9781433673085 (pbk.); 1433673088 (pbk.)
Subject(s): Ripken, Nik | Perseverance (Theology) | Persecution | Christian life

Teh law and the prophets : a study of the meaning of the Old Testamenr
By: Zimmerli, Walther, 1907-1983.
Publisher: Oxford : Basil Blackwell, 1965
Description: 101 pages.
Subject(s): Bible. Old Testament -- Criticism, interpretation, etc

Figure 7: Bibliographic records with typographical errors

These errors highlight the importance of checking over the bibliographic record before clicking ‘save’ when cataloguing. Typographical errors can cause retrieval problems in online catalogues and should be corrected when discovered⁹. Not to mention appearing very unprofessional to library patrons when searching.

There were also a few instances of the same title being classified in different locations within the same library. When this was identified, the best call number for the particular collection was selected and the call number of the additional copy was adjusted.

For example:

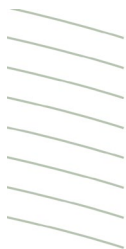
Commentary on Pastoral Epistles – one copy was located at 227.06 and the other at 227.807 - in the same library.

At AC there are multiple instances of various campus libraries having the same title at different Dewey classifications – but this is acceptable given each library has its reasons for selecting the chosen location. Copies within the same library should be located at the same call number, even if they are located in different areas such as Reference and General.

RDA Compliance

Although the AC Melbourne campus library catalogue is far from 100% RDA compliant, minor RDA changes were undertaken as part of this project. The main one being changing ‘p.’ to ‘pages’ and ‘ill.’ to

⁹ Beall, J. & Kafadar, K. (2004). The effectiveness of copy cataloging at eliminating typographical errors in shared bibliographic records. *Library Resources & Technical Services* 48(2), 92-101.



‘illustrations’ in the MARC 300 Description field. Relator terms for editors and translators were also added to name entries where necessary so patrons could easily identify a person’s role for a particular title.

ISBN Correction

An unexpected side effect of the merging of the ex-Harvest West Bible College catalogue (Bookmark) into the Harvest Bible College library catalogue (Koha) in 2015 was that ISBN numbers in Koha were automatically converted to 13-digit ISBNs. Whilst the 13-digit ISBNs were technically correct¹⁰ even though the books only showed a 10-digit ISBN, I wanted the catalogue to show the ISBNs as they appeared on the physical items. ISBNs were added to the list of things needing to be checked and corrected, if necessary, as part of this project.

Barcode & Call Number Label Confusion

Another side-project of this ever-expanding library project was the removal of additional and non-required barcodes from the physical books. Many of these cases were from titles acquired by the Harvest library collection in 2005, so they had been present for many years. When Harvest purchased a smaller library collection, the books were added to the Harvest catalogue and barcoded accordingly. What should have happened, is that the barcodes from the previous library’s system would have been removed in order to avoid confusion to patrons, but they weren’t. This project provided the opportunity to finally do so since every title was being handled individually. This involved simply removing the additional barcode labels and cleaning any remaining sticky areas.

¹⁰ Smith, O. (2022, January 17). What’s the difference: ISBN-10 vs ISBN-13. *BookScouter*, <https://bookscouter.com/tips/isbn-10-vs-isbn-13-whats-the-difference/>

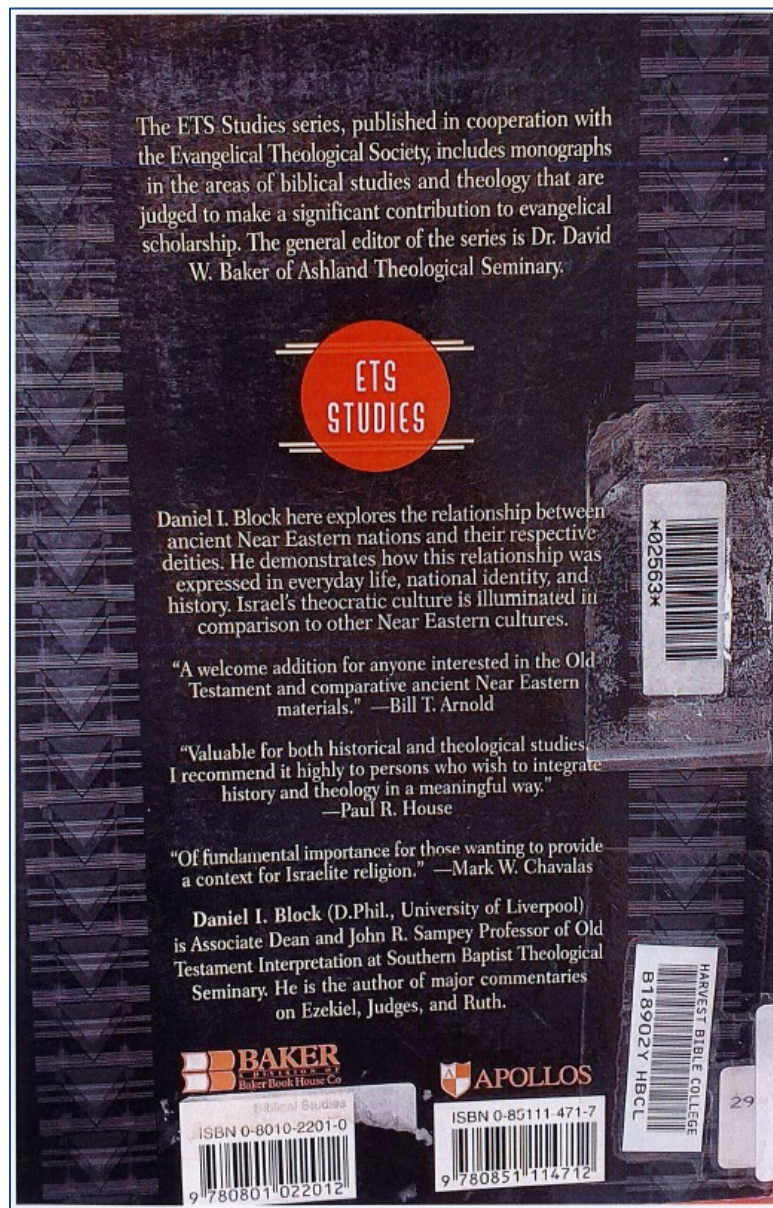
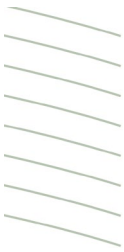


Figure 8: Multiple barcodes – how does the patron know which one to use?

The location of barcode labels also varies greatly among the AC libraries. Some older items have barcodes inside the book cover, and sometimes even several pages in. Whilst all the items have their own individual barcodes, locating them can be difficult for users when they are not in a consistent location. Barcodes inside books are being relocated to the front or back covers as they are discovered, depending on the library the item belongs to. As long as the barcodes are easily locatable on the front or back cover, the position itself is not so important. In the Melbourne library, we have barcodes positioned on the lower-right back cover (for most of the collection) but also some items with the barcode on the front cover. Having the barcodes located in a consistent location not only makes locating them easier for users,

but also assists with speeding up the stock-taking process as you don't have to take out every item individually to locate the barcode and orientate the scanner appropriately.

Our libraries also have multiple locations for call number labels. Ideally, all call number labels (at AC libraries) would appear on the bottom of the book spine¹¹, allowing for easy identification when browsing the shelves and instant recognition of whereabouts you may be within the collection. Many older items from the other campus libraries, have call number labels located on the back cover – making finding a specific call number difficult as you have to extract multiple items from the shelf to find the one you are after. Older labels may also be hand-written and faded so badly as to be unreadable - these are being replaced as part of this mega-project as well.

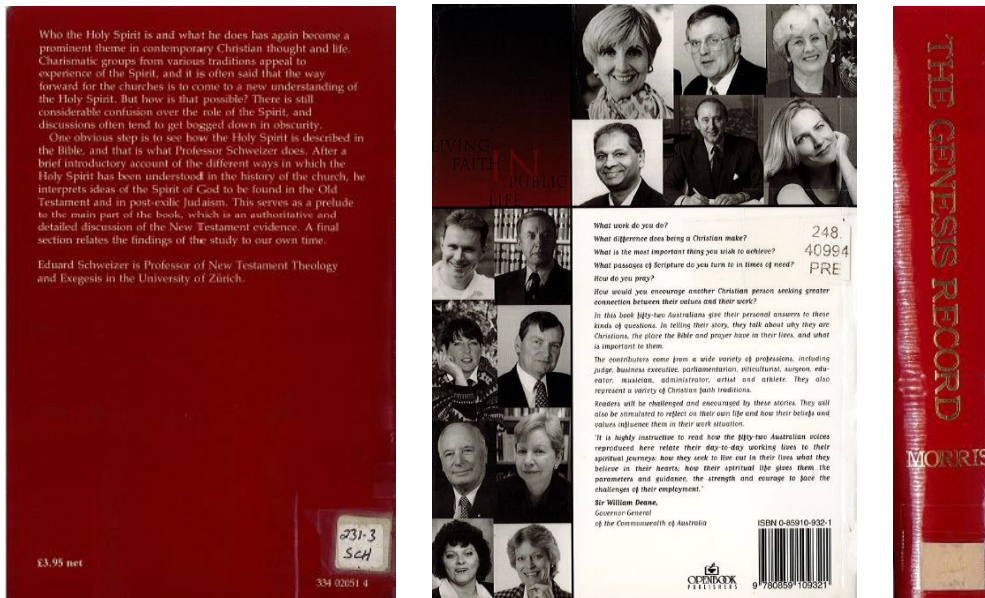
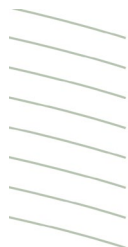


Figure 9: Hand-written, different location and faded call number labels requiring relocation & replacement

For edited works, the Liberty catalogue included some call number suffixes from the titles. These are being adjusted to relate to the editor's surname.

¹¹ Truelson, S.D. (1966). Topics in library technology: labeling techniques. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, 54(1), 26-32



Melbourne Library Available, Reference ; 241.0321 CHI
Sydney Library Available, General ; 241.03 MAC.1
Hobart Library Available, Library Office ; REF 241.03 DIC.1

Figure 10: Different call number suffixes for the same title

The title above has 3 copies across AC libraries, but it also has 3 different suffixes. Over time, these will all be updated to use the suffix of CHI to connect to the first named editor.

Repair and Weeding Opportunities

During the physical handling of each individual title, damaged items that were desirable to retain for the Melbourne collection were repaired where possible. Duplicates from the Harvest Queensland collection already in the Melbourne collection were put aside for transfer. Initially they were intended for another Harvest campus, but after merging with AC, they were set aside for transfer to the newly set-up AC Adelaide campus library (titles were eventually transferred in early 2019).

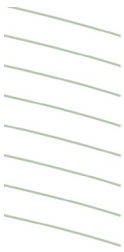
As work now continues on the Melbourne collection currently in storage, titles are being weeded if they are already held in other AC library collections, and/or in more than 3 other Australian libraries according to Trove. The reasoning behind this is that if the titles haven't been requested since being placed in storage (2019), they are less likely to be needed in the future, and if they are, we will obtain them by document delivery or interlibrary loan from another library who has a copy at the time of need. Items that are identified as being held in less than 3 other Australian libraries are retained as part of the national collection.

Authority Linking

Another benefit of this library project was the chance to link authority records within titles. These enable users to find the works of an author and to collocate all works of a person or corporate body¹². “Authority control enhances the accessibility of library resources by controlling the choice and form of access points, improving users’ ability to efficiently find the works most relevant to their information search.¹³” In previous iterations of the Harvest library catalogue, authority headings had not been linked, meaning

¹² Tillett, B.B. (2004). Authority control: state of the art and new perspectives. *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*, 38(3/4), 23-41.

¹³ Wiederhold, R.A. & Reeve, G.F. (2021). Authority control today: principles, practices, and trends. *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*, 59(2/3), 129.



many variations of the same heading were included in the catalogue. Libraries Australia subject headings were added to the authority file in our new catalogue and linked to appropriate titles where necessary.

Often, Libraries Australia records include foreign language subject headings but these are removed from the catalogue records. Duplicate and subject headings from other bibliographic sources are also removed, often reducing the number of subject headings for a particular title quite significantly.

For example:

650	0	\$\$a Phenomenology.
650	0	\$\$a Belief and doubt.
650	0	\$\$a Cognitive psychology.
650	6	\$\$a Phénoménologie.
650	6	\$\$a Croyance et doute.
650	6	\$\$a Psychologie cognitive.
650	7	\$\$a phenomenology. \$\$2 aat
650	7	\$\$a Psychology: Cognitive Psychology & Cognition. \$\$2 bisacsh
650	7	\$\$a Belief and doubt. \$\$2 fast
650	7	\$\$a Cognitive psychology. \$\$2 fast
650	7	\$\$a Phenomenology. \$\$2 fast

Figure 11: Subject headings included in Libraries Australia bibliographic record

would be condensed to:

650	0	\$\$a Phenomenology.
650	0	\$\$a Belief and doubt.
650	0	\$\$a Cognitive psychology.

Figure 12: Condensed subject headings retained in our catalogue record

A problem carried over from the catalogue we had before moving to Koha (Alice) was that all subject headings transferred across into the personal name authority (MARC 600) field, regardless of the type of authority they actually were. This project again allowed for such authority errors to be identified and corrected.

600	__ a	CATHOLIC CHURCH - BIOGRAPHY
600	__ a	MISSIONS - INDIA
600	__ a	WOMEN MISSIONARIES

Figure 13: Corporate name & subject headings incorrectly displaying as personal name headings



Record Presentation

Since before I started at Harvest in 2003, records had been entered in all capitals. From the mid-2000s, we began to import records from Libraries Australia in regular sentence case. This makes identification of older titles yet to be handled as part of this project much easier to identify. Using large amounts of text in all capitals has been shown to slow reading speed, inhibiting the ability of the user to take in the information being displayed in order to make the decision whether to obtain the item or move onto the next in the search results list¹⁴. All capitals are acceptable for small amounts of important information, such as section/part headings. See Figures 1 and 2 for an example of a bibliographic record updated to use sentence-case.

A format for entering the table of contents information was implemented in the following manner:

- Section/part headings in ALL CAPS if required
- Chapter title – sentence case with chapters separated by a double dash --
- Chapter author preceded by ‘/’ if required

An example of a table of contents using this format appears below.

Contents data is entered into the MARC bibliographic record in this format:

```
0_ |a 1. Society in miniature: the social roles of pupil and teacher and their relevance to the acquisition of knowledge -- 2. The teacher in the educational hierarchy; and the teacher and the curriculum -- 3. The social
505 conditions for successful learning -- 4. The classroom as a social group -- 5. Sociometry -- 6. Problems and effects of changing the social structure of the classroom -- 7. Psychological tests and testing -- 8. The
problem child -- 9. The purpose and conduct of examinations -- 10. Educational and vocational guidance -- Appendix.
```

Figure 14: Format for entering contents data in MARC bibliographic records

and is automatically configured to display in the OPAC like this:

Contents	1. Society in miniature: the social roles of pupil and teacher and their relevance to the acquisition of knowledge 2. The teacher in the educational hierarchy; and the teacher and the curriculum 3. The social conditions for successful learning 4. The classroom as a social group 5. Sociometry 6. Problems and effects of changing the social structure of the classroom 7. Psychological tests and testing 8. The problem child 9. The purpose and conduct of examinations 10. Educational and vocational guidance Appendix.
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Figure 15: OPAC display format for contents

¹⁴ Gladkoff, M. (n.d.). Title case, sentence case or all capitals – which should you use? *Word Nerds* <https://www.word-nerds.com.au/title-case-sentence-case-or-all-capitals-which-should-you-use/>

Uniformity of table of contents information makes recognition of particular elements by patrons easier. Consistency in display format¹⁵ of contents information enables users to expect certain types of information to appear in a certain format, speeding up searching and evaluation of resource usefulness.

Given many theological book or chapter titles use Greek, Hebrew, or other language terminology, the correct foreign language script is being inserted into catalogue records where appropriate with the help of an academic who provides the foreign text which is then copied and pasted into the record (because I can't read/write Greek or Hebrew). This had not been possible in earlier versions of the Harvest catalogues as they wouldn't recognize the non-English scripts.

For example:

Details	
Title	The descent of Christ : Ephesians 4:7-11 and traditional Hebrew imagery
Creator	Harris, W. Hall. >
Subject	Bible Ephesians -- Criticism, interpretation, etc > Bible Psalms -- Criticism, interpretation, etc > Bible Psalms -- Relation to Ephesians >
Description	The following verses from Ephesians 4 have challenged biblical interpreters for years: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men'. What does 'he ascended' mean except that he also descended to the lower earthly regions? He who ascended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe." In The Descent of Christ , Hall Harris presents a meticulous and thorough analysis of this difficult passage. While most interpreters have understood the verses to refer to (1) a descent by Christ from earth to the underworld following his death or (2) a descent from heaven to earth as the incarnation, Harris marshals convincing evidence for an alterative view. [back cover]
Contents	I. The descensus ad inferos and Eph 4:7-11 II. The where did he descend? The meaning of ΤΑ ΚΑΤΩΤΕΡΑ ΜΕΡΗ ΤΗΣ ΓΗΣ III. The association of Moses with Ps 68:19 as background to Ephesians 4 IV. Moses' ascent to heaven in other early sources not related to Psalms 68 V. Eph 4:7-11 and the giving of the spirit VI. The descent of Christ as spirit in Eph 4:7-11.

Figure 16: Inclusion of Greek terms in contents listing

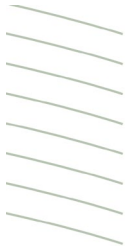
and:

Title	Toward a theology of weakness: the use of ἀσθένεια in 2 Corinthians
Creator	Estridge, Charles A. >
Publisher	Society for Pentecostal Studies

Figure 17: Inclusion of Greek term in title

This also opens up the catalogue to students searching for a specific Greek or Hebrew term – if they can type it (using the correct font), they can find it if it appears in the bibliographic record.

¹⁵ Williams, T.R. (2000). Guidelines for designing and evaluating the display of information on the web. *Technical Communication*, 47(3), 383-396.



Since the merger of all AC library catalogues into Alma/Primo took place in February 2021, issues with the records previously in Liberty have also been identified and added to the list of things needing to be checked.

Notes

One such issue is the inclusion of all types of notes being placed in the MARC 500 General Notes field. Bibliography and index notes are now separated and included in the correct MARC 504 Bibliography Etc, Note field.

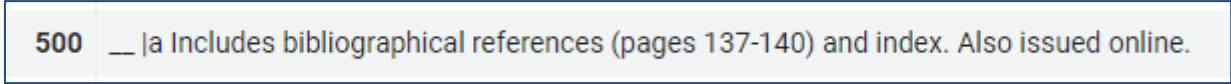


Figure 18: MARC 500 Note with information that should appear in a 504 Note Field

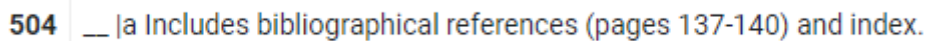


Figure 19: Bibliographic note data relocated to MARC 504 field

Dewey Numbers

Another issue related to the data from Liberty once we upgraded to Alma/Primo was that Dewey numbers (MARC 082) appear in the Library of Congress numbers field (MARC 050). Whilst this won't affect library users much, it is another item on the 'to be checked list' when editing bibliographic records. Correcting this error also means the call number is carried over to holdings records if additional copies are added in the future. Ensuring the correct data appears in the correct MARC field means the records imported into the Libraries Australia National Bibliographic Database (ANBD) are accurate and that the errors won't be perpetuated into other library catalogues if they import the records we have provided.

Editions

The Melbourne library has never recorded the edition number on call number labels, but the other AC campus libraries have, with a twist. The edition number minus 1 was added after the letters in the call number (see Figure 10 for an example).

- 2nd edition would appear as: 253.3 SCH.1
- 4th edition would appear as: 232.1 FRE.3

This seemed to be counterintuitive and confusing, and once we merged and upgraded to Alma/Primo, it was decided to add the actual edition number to the call number suffix, so:

- 2nd edition would appear as: 253.3 SCH.2
- 4th edition would appear as: 232.1 FRE.4

This requires the bibliographic and item records to be updated as well as new call number labels to be printed and attached.

Copies or Volumes?

Historically, Liberty records had all volumes attached to a single bibliographic record – meaning it appeared to users as if we had multiple copies of commentaries and encyclopedia sets when, really, we only had one copy of each volume.

Sydney Library
 Available, Korean Reference ; 221.7 KAN
 (20 copies, 20 available, 0 requests)

Available	Available	▼
Available	Available	▼
Available	Available	▼
Available	Available	▼
Available	Available	▼

[SHOW MORE ITEMS](#)

Details

Title	The Chokmah Commentary by Synthetic System Method: Old Testament
Creator	Do, Kang Byoung (editor) >
Subject	Bible - Commentaries >
Series	The Chokmah Commentary Series >
Publisher	Seoul, Korea The Christian Wisdom Publishing Company
Creation Date	1989
Identifier	ISBN : 8971880864
Format	various lengths; 23 cms
Source	Library Catalog

Figure 20: Sample catalogue record showing '20 copies' when we actually have volumes 1-20

These titles will be split up to show individual bibliographic records for each volume we hold.



Library benefits

As a librarian, this project has resulted in hands-on familiarity with (or it will eventually) every physical title in the library collection – an opportunity that rarely presents itself once an item has been processed and placed on the shelf. It has meant I have become more familiar with the contents of the resources we have in our collection than I ever could in any other way. Often, when a patron mentions something, it triggers a memory of seeing something similar and I can search for it and locate a relevant title that I would never had known about if I hadn't undertaken this process. My awareness of the collection has improved significantly, and I can't recommend highly enough becoming more familiar with your physical collections in order to help your patrons when they need it.

Morris concludes that the inclusion of tables of contents “is likely to be most effective in increasing the use of existing collections.”¹⁶ Her research indicated that the most current materials benefitted most from adding tables of contents and she warns against retrospectively adding tables of contents to older materials¹⁷. Despite this, it was decided to add tables of contents for all physical item records in our collections to give as much access to the entire physical collection as possible. Since the Melbourne collection had been split and 60% of it was now stored in off-site storage (since July 2019 when the Melbourne campus relocated to central Melbourne from Scoresby), it was reaffirmed to include the table of contents for all on-campus titles (since they had been deemed worthy of retaining on-campus). It was thought to be unhelpful to have physical books on the shelf if no-one knows what is actually in them and what they're really about.

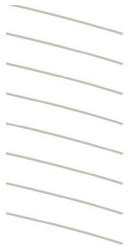
Patron Benefits

Most patrons will not notice that bibliographic records are in sentence case; that ‘pages’ and ‘illustrations’ are written out in full; they won't notice the subject headings are linked because everyone expects underlined blue text to be linked when using anything on the web nowadays; and they won't notice the addition of author/editor relator terms next to names in the bibliographic records... But they will notice if the record has table of contents and summary information included!

The addition of tables of contents, especially for composite works (“books with two or more distinct works by the same or different authors” such as “edited works, anthologies and conference

¹⁶ Morris, R.C. (2001). Online tables of contents for books: effect on usage. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, 89(1), 35.

¹⁷ Morris, 35



proceedings”¹⁸), means that these works can now be explored in a whole new way. Previously, only the name of the conference and a few subject headings were included in the catalogue record. Now, with the addition of the table of contents, each paper title and author is added to the catalogue record meaning that these can also now be discovered. Now, patrons can “identify before going to the library, which library materials are worth examining”¹⁹ for their research.

Casual feedback from known users of the table of contents in the library catalogue was sought in late 2019 to ascertain their thoughts as to the usefulness of the addition of tables of contents. These users indicated that the table of contents inclusion in the library catalogue was particularly helpful for:

- Physical books;
- Items that are not available in the patron’s local campus library;
- Enabling the user to request a chapter from the book that seems most relevant (subject to copyright laws and limits);
- Requesting to borrow a book, as the table of contents can assist patrons to more accurately determine that the volume is relevant.

New Services

Related to the addition of tables of contents to bibliographic records, it was decided that it was a bit pointless informing people about what chapters were in books if they were unable to access those chapters due to being located away from the Melbourne campus (we only post loans to HDR students). One way to overcome this was to offer a Collection Copy Request Service where patrons could request an identified chapter and have it scanned and emailed to them (within Copyright limitations). Since this service was introduced, the number of requests for scans of chapters from our physical collection keeps growing each year (it was especially useful during the COVID-19 lockdown periods). Over 540 requests for chapters from the Melbourne collection were satisfied in 2022. This service is expected to continue to grow as more tables of contents are added to the catalogue, and as the service is publicised more throughout the College student and staff populations. It’s very rewarding to see the physical collection still being useful when so many people think everything they want should be online.

¹⁸ Poulsen, 134.

¹⁹ Lam, V-T. (2000). Enhancing subject access to monographs in online public access catalogs: tables of contents added to bibliographic records.” In Wheeler, W.J. (ed.), *Saving the time of the library user through subject access innovation: papers in honor of Pauline Atherton Cochrane*, 171. Illinois: University of Illinois.



Challenges

Length of Records

Lam affirms that “one of the disadvantages of the addition of TOC information to the bibliographic records is that it makes the latter too lengthy and too hard to read”²⁰. Whilst this is true in some cases, the benefits far outweigh these challenges. From memory, the longest table of contents I have added was over 100 chapters – but think of the keywords that will now be picked up in this title in future searches.

Time for cataloguing

Hurlbert has shown that the completeness of cataloguing has an impact on the time it takes to complete that cataloguing²¹. We are all expected to do more with less, and that includes providing more complete catalogue records more quickly. Some non-library people may struggle to understand why it may take 15-20 minutes or longer to catalogue one book into the library collection (after all, it’s only data entry, isn’t it? – this is a joke, librarians know there is so much more to cataloguing than just data entry!). We (library staff) can be content knowing that we are providing our patrons with a complete bibliographic record with a variety of details they may require in order to find that resource no matter how they search for it.

But How...?

Now I know you will say you don’t have time to do this sort of massive library project – but you can do it! It doesn’t have to be done in one fell swoop and there is no project expiration date. It can be done as each returned loan is processed – check the bibliographic record and update/correct as required. During quieter times (which I know can be few and far between), select a shelf and work your way through those items – just remember to mark the shelf in some way so you know where you’re up to for the next quiet moment. The checking of items from Harvest’s Queensland collection was a high-priority and time-sensitive project, so I had to get it done, but the remainder of the Melbourne collection is being processed on a box-by-box basis as and when I get time to collect them.

I have found that what works for me is working on titles shelf by shelf or box by box, in and around the many other demands on my time as librarian. This means these projects won’t be completed in the near future, but even a little progress is progress. Title-by-title, the quality of my catalogue is improving which means I’m getting just that little bit closer to achieving that elusive perfect library catalogue!

²⁰ Lam, 167.

²¹ Hurlbert, T. & Dujmic, L.L. (2004). Factors affecting cataloguing time: an in-house survey. *Technical Services Quarterly*, 22(2), 1-14.



Future Plans

Currently, the correction and enhancement of the physical resource bibliographic records is more than enough to keep me busy – but I’m already thinking about how similar projects could be done for other collections, in particular ebooks. Ebook bibliographic records are often provided by vendors, can vary greatly in quality²² and they don’t always include table of contents information. Searching could be refined and speedier if time wasn’t wasted on needing to open ebooks simply to discover what they include during the search results evaluation phase of the catalogue searching process.

Conclusion

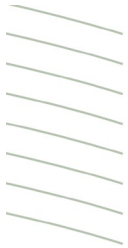
Whilst I have accepted that my library catalogue will never be 100% perfectly correct according to whatever the current cataloguing standard may be, I nevertheless continue to work towards perfection through the correction, enhancement, and general improvement of the bibliographic records in my library catalogue, title-by-title. Now that I am part of a larger library team at AC who share this vision, we can make some real inroads into these multiple library jobs that started from one seemingly simple and straightforward library project many years ago.

²² Martin, K.E. & Mundle, K. (2010). Cataloging e-books and vendor records. *Library Resources & Technical Services*, 54(4), 227-237.



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