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Core Competencies of Electronic Resources Librarians Adopted as NASIG Policy

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Curating Collective Collections from page 75

clear enough to be called by a text processing command. The most difficult problems faced were: absence of data needed, multiple ways of expressing the same thing and dealing with multiple data elements in a single free-text field. The challenge became how to solve these problems and not let them be game stoppers.

A calendar program was developed that would generate the precise days. Beginning and end dates of summary holdings, frequency and day of the week and the calendar were used to extrapolate individual dates for the holdings. All results were reviewed by staff in a separate program that is interactive, which allowed them to correct errors or to enter the data when data normalization needs prevented the programming from working with the summary statements.

Using ICON

ICON has a public interface that enables users to search for titles by years of publication and particular cities or states in addition to ISSN, OCLC number, Library of Congress Control Number and title. Once a title of interest is retrieved, there are a number

of tools that enable the user to drill down to each separate issue to see which repositories hold it, in which format it is held, what the archiving commitment is and any condition issues disclosed.

Perhaps more useful than searching for individual titles, ICON offers a variety of statistics and graphical representations of the data to make the data within the database work for a wide variety of collection assessment and reporting activities.

- Holding repository statistics lists: contributing repository, its location, number of publications, number of issues and the date range of issues contributed.
- Newspaper [by] country statistics lists: total number of publications, number of issues and date range of issues contributed for each country and U.S. state.
- Issue year statistics lists: number of publications and number of issues per year contributed.
- Issue format lists: number of publications and issues by format. Thirteen different formats are currently listed including some like

photomechanical and microopaque, which may not be the first to come to mind but may help prioritize preservation or reformatting action for the content.

Custom reports can be run on the data by request. Comparison of holdings can be done and reports provided.

Conclusion

This is a rallying call. It is essential that we, as a community committed to responsible preservation and long-term access to scholarly resources, work together to solve the challenges of our existing data rather than develop programs that work around the lack of acceptable data. Data that is issue specific, shared and in tools that are easy to use must be there for us to prevail. 🌱

Rumors from page 43

Did you notice **Rip Van Winkle** (AKA **Anthony Watkinson**) on page one of this issue of *ATG*? It's **Rip's** latest grandchild, **Samuel**, one-day old! Gosh, **Anthony**, how will you keep up with your brood of grandchildren?

Have you renewed your subscription to *Against the Grain* for 2014 yet? We will be sending invoices shortly but, hey, you don't need a reminder, do you?

We already told you that **Charles Lyons** will be guest editing an issue, and we are expecting issues guest edited by **Tom Gilson** (February) **Ramune Kubilius** (April), **Rob Virkar-Yates** (June), **Lindsay Johnston** and her team (September) and November is being guest edited by **Charles Lyons**. **Kristin Eschenfelder** (who gave a great keynote in Charleston a few years ago on licensing) is one of our guest editors for 2015. And why don't YOU YOU YOU get involved with *Against the Grain* — online or print!? Send us your ideas!

Have a good ALA and talk to y'all next issue! 🌱

Core Competencies of Electronic Resources Librarians Adopted as NASIG Policy

The NASIG Board approved and adopted "Core Competencies of Electronic Resources Librarians" as NASIG policy at their June 2013 meeting in Buffalo, New York.

Sarah Sutton, former chair of the **Core Competencies Task Force (CCTF)**, notes that she and the CCTF have high hopes that both library and information professionals and LIS educators will find the document a valuable resource upon which to base their work. **Sarah** writes, "I am so gratified that many practitioners have already used the draft document, which circulated in the professional community over the past few months. It has sparked much interest and use, as evidenced by the wonderful sessions at the recent **NASIG Annual Conference**. I think the document supports **NASIG's** Vision to promote dialogue and professional growth, to provide learning opportunities, to advocate for its constituents, to challenge assumptions and traditions, and to take a leadership role in the information environment."

"Core Competencies of Electronic Resources Librarians" is available in the Continuing Education section of the **NASIG** Website, <http://www.nasig.org>.

Sanjeet Mann and **Sarah Sutton** for the **Core Competencies Task Force**. 🌱

Endnotes

1. "The United States Newspaper Program is a cooperative national effort among the states and the federal government to locate, catalog, and preserve on microfilm newspapers published in the United States from the eighteenth century to the present. Funding is provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Technical assistance is furnished by the Library of Congress" — Website <http://www.neh.gov/us-news-paper-program>.
2. "The National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Library of Congress (LC), is a long-term effort to develop an Internet-based, searchable database of U.S. newspapers with descriptive information and select digitization of historic pages." — Website <http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/>.
3. "The Florida Digital Newspaper Library exists to provide access to the news and history of Florida. All of the over 1.5 million pages of historic through current Florida newspapers in the Florida Digital Newspaper Library are openly and freely available with zoomable page images and full text. The Florida Digital Newspaper Library builds on the work done in microfilm within the Florida Newspaper Project." — Website <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/fdn11>.
4. American Antiquarian Society's Clarence database of newspaper holdings url: <http://clarence.mwa.org/Clarence/>.
5. "The World Newspaper Archive is an online database of digitized historical newspapers, created by CRL in partnership with Readex, a division of NewsBank. The initiative has drawn upon the holdings, expertise and resources of CRL and its member libraries to preserve and provide access to historical newspapers from around the globe." — Website <http://www.crl.edu/collaborative-digitization/world-newspaper-archive>.
6. **Chronicling America** is a Website providing access to information about historic newspapers and select digitized newspaper pages and is produced by the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). Description and more information about **Chronicling America**: <http://chronicling-america.loc.gov/about/>.