Chapter 2

Essential Resources

I no longer have any encyclopedias, any dictionaries, or any reference materials, I don't need them. I've stopped using all reference materials because you don't need it. All you need is a search engine.

–Colin Powell[1]

In this new information universe where the library no longer holds a monopoly, it is essential that those who wish to understand the economics of the challenge before us open their minds to the new technologies, not only because they are useful to our users and to us as communication and collaboration tools, but also because they ARE the new technologies. Keeping up with the new technologies is essential. These include blogs, wikis, tools, and even listservs that have as their focus how to address the challenges and concerns surrounding information description and organization in libraries. Some of these resources are listed below. The resources in this chapter are more general than the ones listed in subsequent chapters; they should be included in any blog service that you choose to join, and should be read daily. Why? Because the big names and players either post on or maintain these blogs and listservs, and their opinions and thoughts help to drive momentum and change within our field.

Listserv

Next Generation Catalogs for Libraries (NGC4LIB)

This fairly recent listserv is devoted to discussions centered around how to make our OPACs more user-friendly and used by the public, as well as being a forum to discuss new technologies, products, softwares, and tools geared towards next-generation library catalogs. It is a very active listserv, and many of the major players and innovators in this area subscribe and contribute regularly to the discussions. To subscribe, send the message "subscribe ngc4lib Your Name" (no quotes) to listserv@listserv.nd.edu. There are several separate archives for this listserv, which are listed in the gray box.

Blogs and Wikis

This section includes actual blogs and wikis of importance, as well as links to information that discusses blogs and blogging. While not all blogs and wikis are included in this report, I am listing those that I think are the most relevant and the most active. The resources listed in Table 1 are focused on issues related to the future of cataloging and of OPACs in libraries

NGC4LIB Archive
http://dir.gmane.org/gmane.culture.libraries.ngc4lib

NGC4LIB Archive: Blog-Like Interface
http://blog.gmane.org/gmane.culture.libraries.ngc4lib

NGC4LIB Archive: Threaded Version
http://news.gmane.org/gmane.culture.libraries.ngc4lib

"Blog as a Teaching Tool"

Mohamed Taher, Information Visualization blog, last updated March 2, 2007

http://akbani.blogspot.com/2006/05/blog-as-teaching-tool.html

This is a well-presented, overall introduction to blogs and their use in education. It points to various related topics in other blogs, such as blogging for scholars, how NOT to use blogs in education, and arguments for using blogs as a tool. It has an excellent webliography at the end that links to various resources.

ALA TechSource Blog	www.techsource.ala.org/blog
Catalogablog	http://catalogablog.blogspot.com
Cataloging Futures	www.catalogingfutures.com/catalogingfutures
Digiblog, ALCTS and the Future of Tech Services	http://blogs.ala.org/digiblog.php
Futurelib	http://futurelib.pbwiki.com
Hangingtogether.org	http://hangingtogether.org
Lorcan Dempsey's Weblog	http://orweblog.oclc.org
Metadata Blog	http://blogs.ala.org/nrmig.php
Outgoing (Thom Hickey's Weblog)	http://outgoing.typepad.com/outgoing
Planet Cataloging (This blog aggregates and collates blogs related to cataloging and metadata.)	http://planetcataloging.org
TechEssence.Info	http://techessence.info
Texadata	www.texadata.com
Z666.7.L364	http://jenniferlang.net

Table 1
Important blogs and wikis dealing with the future of cataloging and of OPACs in libraries.

"The Blogosphere, the Library, and You (or To Blog or Not to Blog)"

Michael D. Brooks, *Associates* 14, no. 1 (July 2007)

http://associates.ucr.edu/707wbro.htm

This is a concise guide to the hows and whats of blogging.

"Community Building through Your Web Site: Library Blogs and RSS Feeds"

Jenny Levine and Michael Stephens, March 2006

www.tametheweb.com/presentations/BlogsPLA06.pdf

This extensive and image-packed presentation looks at library blogs and RSS feeds.

LISZEN: Library and Information Science Search Engine

http://liszen.com

This engine searches over 700 library blogs.

Disruptive Library Technology Jester

http://dltj.org

This site contains the blog musings of a library technologist trying to deal with the new challenges facing libraries in the Internet environment. It includes extensive postings on the application of service-oriented architectures in academic libraries.

"Library Blogging"

Lorcan Dempsey's Weblog, Jan. 15, 2007

http://orweblog.oclc.org/archives/001245.html

The musings of Lorcan Dempsey, vice president and chief strategist for OCLC, on the future of the OPAC are of especial interest. This post lists his favorite blogs.

"What's Next for Semantic Blogging?"

Steve Cayzer, presentation, Semantics 2006, Nov. 28–30, 2006, Vienna, Austria

www.hpl.hp.com/techreports/2006/HPL-2006-149.pdf

This presentation gives a brief history of semantic blogging, which is defined as "the use of rich metadata to transform blogs from simple online diaries to full participants in an information sharing ecosystem." It discusses two experiments/tools: BlogAccord and Snippet Manager. It was written by a Hewlett Packard programmer.

Coyle's InFormation

Karen Coyle's blog

http://kcoyle.blogspot.com

See especially her September 1, 2006, posting "Murdering MARC," as well as other thoughts regarding the future on the OPAC.

Tools

This section lists open-source tools that have been developed to help libraries manipulate the data in their catalogs in new ways, such as user-friendly interfaces, 3D information visualization maps, automated cataloging, FRBR implementations, etc. Many of these tools can be used to develop next-generation catalogs. For those who have the systems staff, these tools are an excellent way to experiment with and launch new interfaces for their catalog and other metadata. There are also a number of links to interesting articles related to tools.

VuFind

www.vufind.org

This open-source software in beta version currently works only with the Voyager catalog, but the programmers at Villanova are working to add additional drivers that will work not only with proprietary OPACs but also with open-source ones like Koha and Evergreen. Originally written in XML, it is now powered by Apache Solr. A mailing list is available for subscription.

LibX

www.libx.org

This is described as "a Firefox extension that provides direct access to your library's resources." It is sponsored by the Virginia Tech University Libraries, Virginia Tech computer science department, and an IMLS grant. At least 61 academic and public libraries currently offer LibX editions to their users, with 86 libraries using test editions.

Social OPAC, or SOPAC

www.blyberg.net/2007/01/21/aadlorg-goes-social

John Blyberg's open-source tool works on III catalog data, allowing social networking tools to be integrated into the OPAC. It gives users the ability to tag, rate, comment on, and review items. The Ann Arbor District Library currently features an implementation of SOPAC.

Ann Arbor District Library
www.aadl.org

"Machine-Assisted Metadata Generation and New Resource Discovery: Software and Services"

Steve Mitchell. *First Monday* 11, no. 8 (Aug. 2006)

This article provides extensive information on two University of California–Riverside projects: iVia and Data Fountains. These open-source software tools help to create new digital library/library finding tool services. iVia is the code base for a number of digital projects, including Data Fountains, National Science Digital Library Data Fountains, Library of Congress Exploratory Data Fountains, and INFOMINE. Data Fountains, an evolved variant of the iVia system, is a self-service resource-discovery, metadata-generation, and rich-text-extraction utility for collection building. Both are based on LGPL and GPL open-source code.

iVia
http://ivia.ucr.edu

Data Fountains
http://datafountains.ucr.edu

"Automated Cataloguing of Journal Articles"

press release, Feb. 21, 2007

www.talis.com/applications/news_and_events/pdfs/TOCROSS_press%20release.pdf

Sponsored by a number of United Kingdom library-related groups, the development of the Table of Contents by Really Simple Syndication (TOCRoSS) project uses open-source software and the ONIX metadata standard to help libraries automatically download journal article data into their OPACs.

Monte Sano Associates FRBR Floater

www.montesanoassociates.com/apps-msafrbr.htm

This subscription service adds Functional Requirements of Bibliographic Records (FRBR) views to an OPAC. It does not require recataloging or manipulation of data, since it uses an algorithm to harvest data from the MARC record.

Notes on First Meeting of LCWGFC Group

Comments by Karen Coyle on the NGC4LIB list, April 30, 2007

> As part of the first Library of Congress Working Group on the Future of Cataloging meeting at the Google offices in Mountain View, California, one speaker noted that users were looking for "tools" to help them in their research. Some of these include:
>
> - tools that recognize existing clusters of knowledge; if you find a book using LCSH, you probably already know it existed. A tool that recognizes the conversation the book was in. A tool that identifies books that were written after the book came out and have continued the conversation.

- tools that know lines of descent; chronology of publications; later readers determine connection between texts.
- tools that find unknown connections (full text search; topic maps?)
- tools that produce serendipity–hidden connections.
- tools that inform about the authority of the information.
- tools that know about real world usage (those who bought x bought y; how many people checked this out?)
- tools that know about the sociology of knowledge; the pedigrees of authors: who were they trained by, how long ago; how trustworthy is this institution?

LibraryFind

http://libraryfind.org

Developed as an open-source metasearch application built with Ruby on Rails at the Oregon State University Libraries, LibraryFind allows for a two-click user workflow (one click to find, one click to get), an integrated OpenURL resolver, a three-tier caching system to improve search response time, and customizable user interfaces. It was launched to the public in February 2007 as version 0.7.

Amapedia

http://amapedia.amazon.com

Although this Web site has had limited use because Amazon.com is behind it, there may be some reason to watch its growth. Using collaborative structured tagging, it allows users to share in a community environment. Still in beta version.

Crosswalking: Processing MARC in XML Environments with MARC4J

Bas Peters, Lulu Enterprises, 2007

www.lulu.com/content/508067

This workbook can be purchased to assist programmers who are interested in converting MARC data into XML by using the open-source software MARC4J.

MARC and/or MODS to RDF Tool

http://simile.mit.edu/repository/RDFizers/marcmods2rdf

This tool, developed by the Simile folks at the MIT Library, converts MARC and MODS data into RDF. The MIT Library catalog can be downloaded in either MODS or RDF format using this utility.

IWF Metadata Harvester

http://ftp.gwdg.de/pub/gnu2/iwfmdh

This open-source software product reads data from servers, moves it into databases where various kinds of searches can be implemented, and then writes HTML files to display the results. It currently handles Z39.50 data using the PICA format and OAI/XML data. Although the software was developed using Microsoft products, the developer hopes to move the programming to GNU/Linux soon.

Image Rights Metadata Tool

http://wiki.creativecommons.org/Source_Repository_Information

This Java tool embeds XMP rights metadata into JPEG image files. It is useful for integration with photo-heavy Web sites.

"A Tool for Converting from MARC to FRBR"

Trond Aalberg, Frank Berg Haugen, and Ole Husby, *Research and Advanced Technology for Digital Libraries* (Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag, 2006), 453–56

www.ercim.org/publication/Ercim_News/enw66/aalberg.html

This is a short online abstract of a book chapter that describes a FRBR-based tool for converting MARC records. The abstract also includes an image model of the process.

Metadata Migrator

www.metascholar.org/sw/mm

An IMLS initiative developed by the Emory University Libraries, this tool allows small information organizations such as research centers, archives, and museums to convert their local records into OAI-PMH–compliant search data using the Dublin Core metadata scheme.

"Metasearch XML Gateway Implementers Guide, Version 1.0"

NISO Metasearch Initiative, 2006

www.niso.org/standards/resources/MI-MXG_v1_0.pdf

Developed by NISO, the MXG protocol is a low-barrier-to-entry resource tha t allows content providers to expose their content to numerous metasearch gateways without requiring substantial technological or economic resources.

E41ST

www.amitgupta.info/E41ST

This integrated interface software allows users to construct "a corner of the Web" any way they wish. Named after New York's East 41st Street (Library Way), this in-

terface appears to be used by a number of libraries (mentioned on the Web site) and features Amazon-like browsing with library-like get-it functions.

MozCC 2.2

http://wiki.creativecommons.org/MozCC

An extension for Mozilla-based browsers such as Firefox, this tool allows users to examine Creative Commons licenses embedded in Web pages. It adds support for metadata in RDFa.

RDFa Primer 1.0: Embedding RDF in XHTML
www.w3.org/TR/xhtml-rdfa-primer

"Bibliography and Summary: Electronic Peer Review Management"

http://spo.umdl.umich.edu/monthly/peerreview.html

This report, by Kam Shapiro from the Scholarly Publishing Office at the University of Michigan Library, details software tools now available for controlling and supervising peer review electronically. It is very detailed and of interest to libraries that are attempting to participate in and manage electronic journals for their faculty.

"JHOVE and MIX"

Solvitur Ambulando blog, Aug. 24, 2006

www.ibiblio.org/bess/?p=39

If you need to create metadata for images in XML (MIX) records, then these instructions for using the JSTOR/Harvard Object Validation Environment (JHOVE) will be invaluable to you. See also the JHOVE Web site and the MIX Web site.

JHOVE Web site
http://hul.harvard.edu/jhove/index.html

MIX Web site
www.loc.gov/standards/mix

Oai2rdf

http://simile.mit.edu/repository/RDFizers/oai2rdf

This is a tool for changing an entire OAI repository into RDF records.

MarcEdit

http://oregonstate.edu/~reeset/marcedit/html/index.php

Developed by Terry Reese at Oregon State University, this tool helps to convert delimited text into MARC by exporting the records into Excel and then into a local OPAC utility. It has a number of fascinating features, such as an RSS reader, a MARC validator, and a URL checker, among others.

Connotea Tools

www.connotea.org

This bibliographic bookmarking tool from *Nature* can export records in a variety of formats, including MODS, RIS, BibTeX, and EndNote.

Amazon to MARC Converter

http://chopac.org/cgi-bin/tools/az2marc.pl

Charles Ledvina of the Outagamie Waupaca Library System has developed a tool that transforms Amazon XML data to create MARC records. One enters an ASIN number, and the program returns a fairly basic MARC record (with fairly bad subject headings).

PEAR MARC

http://coffeecode.net/archives/78-Super-alpha-MARC-package-for-PHP-comments-requested.html

This is a pre-alpha tool for working with MARC records using PHP. It is licensed under LGPL.

Note

1. Colin Powell, quoted in Barbara Quint, "The Chain of Demand," *Searcher,* January 2003. No longer available online; appears in John Hubbard, "Going Virtual: Technology & the Future of Academic Libraries," presentation, Library Council of Southeastern Wisconsin Annual Conference, Milwaukee, WI, May 16, 2007, available online at www.mcfls.org/librarycouncil/lcacademic.pdf.