V-Cat Bibliographic and Interface Committee Report - September 2023

Last meeting Tuesday, August 8, 2023

Aspen update

ILS Administrator K. Zimmermann demonstrated the **Audience facet** in Aspen. Aspen determines a title's Audience (Adult, Juvenile, Young Adult) by looking at the fields listed below:

- Bib Record Data – Default in the absence of other data.
  - MARC Leader. Aspen first determines Record type by examining positions 6 & 7 of the MARC leader.
    - Record type "Books", "Computer Files", or "Music" it then moves to 006 field position 5 and 008 field position 22 to determine Audience.
    - Record type none of the above is classified "Unknown".
- Collection mapping – we are not using.
- Subfield mapping – we are not using. It would involve mapping a specific field in the Sierra item record to designate "Audience".
- Shelving location mapping – this is what we are currently using to inform the Audience translation map. Aspen determines Audience from the "a", "j", or "y" in an item's location code. It applies to ANY search results, meaning "Harry Potter and the deathly hallows" (which is included in Adult, Juvenile and Young Adult location codes in V-Cat) will appear in every facet.

ILS Support Specialist R. Metzler reported on **Aspen grouping** errors. V-Cat library staff who do grouping are taught to compare bibs carefully and check for similarities (common language, author, title, subtitle, etc.) when grouping. They also consider the general appropriateness of including something within a group. For example: a graphic novel version of "Moby Dick" would not be grouped with text versions. Rachel is working to create a common form/spreadsheet to report and track errors/corrections.

"**More like this**". Sometimes "More like this" titles are not-at-all like this. Reason: we leave lots of subject headings in our MARC records, (LC, BISAC, Sears, FAST, etc.), giving many opportunities for Aspen to match on only 1 subject heading and push a title into "More like this". One option: remove subject headings: 1. Manually or 2. BackStage ($). Another option is in Aspen's development queue: Aspen would match on 3 common subject headings, and only display "More like this" results when there are enough titles to fill the screen. Other options: collapse "More like this" and expand "Similar Titles From NoveList".

SkyRiver

- Cost of OCLC is driving us to investigate SkyRiver.
- 2 ways to access:
  - SkyRiver app/SkyRiver client is a cataloging utility similar to OCLC Connexion. It has many functions we seldom use. Bibs are exported from SkyRiver, then imported into Sierra.
  - Z39.50 connection identical to our Z39.50 connection to OCLC. Bibs are viewed and saved directly into Sierra.
- During our 3 week trial, catalogers will assess:
  - Quantity of search results available in SkyRiver and OCLC.
  - Quality of records (i.e., the number of records which meet our quality standards).
- Spreadsheet in Google Docs to collect information.
- Viewed demo with Innovative staff. Key claims:
  - Libraries report that they find 98% of the records they need in SkyRiver.
  - Flat rate annual subscription. Full service, easy to learn, use, efficient.
  - Works with any ILS.

Update since meeting: SkyRiver trial is live, running August 21-September 11.
Remaining 2023 Meeting dates: October 3, December 5. Report prepared by Christine Luebbe 8/29/2023.