

Last meeting Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Subject headings in bib records

- The committee discussed ways to improve the accuracy and appropriateness of “More like this” suggestions in Aspen.
- Issue: Aspen’s algorithm creates suggestions based on subject headings in bib records. The more often a subject heading is repeated in a bib, the greater weight it is given.
- OCLC FAST subject headings are often duplicates of Library of Congress subject headings.
- Multi-faceted approach:
 1. Change BackStage profile to remove FAST subject headings (quarterly).
 2. Change Sierra load profile to exclude FAST headings (future). Will wait for anticipated Sierra update (2025 Q1?) which should simplify process.
 3. Investigate adjustments to Aspen display, being careful to minimize changes in the patron experience during testing.

Big Books Title Treatment

- Issue: Aspen treats a “big book” as just another edition of a “book,” groups them together and at times may use a “big book” to fill a hold.
- Rather than wait for Bywater to develop a label for “big books” or pay them to do so, the committee decided:
- To add the words “big book” to the titles. **Jamberry big book** / Bruce Degen.
- This will force Aspen to ungroup the “big book” edition from the others, reducing the chances of a patron receiving an unwanted “big book.”

Training/updating 300 fields – discussed training documents.

Aspen update – discussed noted issues, i.e., “bugs,” and V-Cat’s top 3 Aspen priorities.

Report of ILS Support Specialist – OCLC Connexion demo for next meeting.

NICE Project Updates – nicelibraries.org

Future meeting dates (tentative): May 7, August 6, October 8.

Report prepared by Christine Luebbe March 27, 2024