Pity the Poor User

the role of CONTEXT in the catalog

Karen Coyle
ELAG 2016
Jones, Alfred Goldsborough, 1821-1868.

*Long ago and "Faraway."

1948

SELECT TITLE FOR HOLDINGS INFORMATION
Catalogs past
ADRICOMIUS (CHRISTIANUS).

Theatrum terræ sanctæ et biblicarum historiarum.

Colonæ Agrippinæ, 1593. fol.


Urbis Hierosolymæ quemadmodum ex Christi tempore floruit et suburbanorum ejus brevis descriptio.

Colonæ Agrippinæ, 1592. 8°

The same. Translated out of Latin into English by T. Tymme. London, 1595. 4°

Another copy.
Header cards & description cards

SHAKESPEARE, WILLIAM

Coriolanus, a tragedy, by William Shakespeare

As you like it, a comedy by William Shakespeare

SHAKESPEARE, WILLIAM
Coriolanus
see:
Shakespeare, William

As you like it
see:
Shakespeare, William

SHAKESPEARE, WILLIAM
Flammarion, Camille i. e. Nicolas Camille, 1842–

Thunder and lightning, by Camille Flammarion. Tr. by Walter Mostyn ... Boston, Little, Brown, and company, 1906.

3 p. l., 281 p., 1 l. front. 19 cm.

Contents.—The victims of lightning.—Atmospheric electricity and storm-clouds.—The flash and the sound.—Fireballs.—The effects of lightning: On mankind. On animals. On trees and plants. On metals, objects, houses, etc.—Lightning conductors.—Pictures made by lightning.

1. Lightning
1. Mostyn, Walter, tr.

Library of Congress QC966.F58
6-17880

Sample 1—Main (Author) Entry.
Printed cards, shared cataloging

**LIGHTNING.**

Flammarion, Camille i. e. Nicolas Camille, 1842–

Thunder and lightning, by Camille Flammarion. Tr. by Walter Mostyn ... Boston, Little, Brown, and company, 1906.

3 p. l., 281 p., 1 l.

CONTENTS.—The victims of lightning.—Atmospheric electricity and storm-clouds. — The flash and the sound. — Fireballs.—The effects of lightning: On mankind. On animals. On trees and plants. On metals, objects, houses, etc.—Lightning conductors.—Pictures made by lightning.

1. Lightning. i. Mostyn, Walter, tr.

Library of Congress QC966.F58

 SAMPLE 4—SUBJECT ENTRY (GENERAL).
MARC (for printing cards)

050 00 |a UA927 |b .M23 1961
100 1_ |a Mack, Raymond W.
245 14 |a The occasion instant : |b the structure of social responses to unanticipated air 
      raid warnings / |c by Raymond W. Mack, George W. Baker ; |f Foreword by Robin M. 
      Williams, Jr.
260 ___ |a Washington, |b National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council, |c 
      1961.
300 ___ |a xv, 69 p.; |c 25 cm.
490 1_ |a National Research Council (U.S.). Disaster Research Group. Disaster study, |v 
      no. 15
500 ___ |a National Research Council. Publication 945.
504 ___ |a Includes bibliographical references (p. 65-69).
650 _0 |a Civil defense |z United States.
650 _0 |a Air warfare |x Psychological aspects.
700 1_ |a Baker, George W. |q (George Walter), |j 1915- |e joint author.
810 2_ |a National Research Council (U.S.). |b Disaster Research Group. |t Disaster 
      study ; |v no. 15.
830 _0 |a Publication (National Research Council (U.S.)) ; |v 945.
- Author
- Title
- Subject
Catalog present
Author

Title

Subject
All entries are in context

Bibliographic record is the focus
Context is not visible
Keyword searching

“words out of context”
Boats and boating--Erie, Lake--Maps.
Books and reading--Lake Erie region.
Lake Erie, Battle of, 1813.
Erie, Lake--Navigation

Cooking, French
France--Antiquities
Alps, French (France)
French--America--History
French American literature

De la Cruz, Melissa
Cervantes Saavedra, Miguel de
Result for “cat breeds” keyword search in the Library of Congress Catalog

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fifty Years of Pedigree Cats [by]</td>
<td>Eustace, May</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>SF445.E8</td>
<td>Request in Jefferson or Adams Building Reading Rooms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Result for “cat breeds” keyword search in the Library of Congress Catalog

1. Cat breeds
2. Cat breeds
3. Cat breeds – History
4. Cat breeds – Handbooks, manuals, etc.
5. Cat breeds
6. Cat breeds - Thailand
The intention of the cataloging rules is to facilitate a display which takes advantage of the context provided by the headings.

Cat breeds
   Arco book of cats / by Grace Pond
   Champion cats of the world / by Catherine Ing
   ... 
Cat breeds – Handbooks, manuals, etc.
   The complete cat owner's manual / Susie Page
   ... 
Cat breeds – History
   Fifty years of pedigree cats [by] May Eustace & Elizabeth Towe
   ... 
Cat breeds – Thailand
   Mæo Thai / Sutthilak ‘Amphanwong
Some titles (search kw=Darwin)

• Darwin
• Darwin; A Graphic Biography : the Really Exciting and Dramatic Story of A Man Who Mostly Stayed at Home and Wrote Some Books
• Darwin; Business Evolving in the Information Age
• Emma Darwin, A Century of Family Letters, 1792-1896
• Java Cookbook
• Canals and Rivers of Britain
• The Crimson Hair Murders
• Darwin's Radio
Subjects

• Darwin, Charles, 1809-1882 – Influence
• Darwin, Charles, 1809-1882 — Juvenile Literature
• Darwin, Charles, 1809-1882 — Comic Books, Strips, Etc
• Darwin Family
• Java (Computer program language)
• Rivers--Great Britain
• Mystery Fiction
• DNA Viruses — Fiction
• Women Molecular Biologists — Fiction
Authors

Darwin, Charles, 1809-1882
Darwin, Emma Wedgwood, 1808-1896
Darwin, Ian F.
Darwin, Andrew
Teilhet, Darwin L.
Bear, Greg
Byrne, Eugene
Facets

Author
Darwin, Charles  (75)
Porter, Darwin  (60)
Northcutt, Wendy  (13)
Darwin, Bernard  (9)
Deez, Darwin  (8)
Ruse, Michael  (8)
Alegría, Claribel  (7)
Browne, E. J.  (6)
Dawkins, Richard  (6)
Ockerman, Darwin J.  (6)

Show more  >
Darwin
Discovering the Tree of Life
By Eldredge, Niles
⭐⭐⭐⭐
Book - 2005
576.8209 EL24d
Available

Darwin
Portrait of A Genius
By Johnson, Paul
⭐⭐⭐⭐
Book - 2012
B D259jo
Available
Showing
Publishing history for the subject “Human Evolution”
Publishing history for the subject “Human Evolution”
Where am I?

- Biology - Evolution
- Poetry
- Fiction
Comparison, relationships

(WorldCat Identities)

Publication Timeline

Key
- Publications about Emily Dickinson
- Publications by Emily Dickinson
- Publications by Emily Dickinson, published posthumously.
Comparison, relationships

Publication Timeline

Key
- Publications about Emily Dickinson
- Publications by Emily Dickinson
- Publications by Emily Dickinson, published

Publication Timeline

Key
- Publications about Rod McKuen
- Publications by Rod McKuen
This does not tell you what you need to know
Headings and classification aren’t perfect

"Not perfect" ≠ "has no use"
Catalog future

Questions, not answers
What should happen between a keyword search and bibliographic display?
Can we make a retrieved set of thousands of bibliographic records useful?
When is an individual bibliographic record useful?
When will automated analysis of topics be a reality?

PLOS ”knowledge map” for classification
Can LoD help us provide context?
Google can do it, why can’t we?
Where am I?

You are here

(Earth from Mars)
We need a model of the catalog

Not just the bibliographic entry
Thank you

kcoyle@kcoyle.net