



In this Information Age, the main issue is not so much the existence of information itself as much as the access and evaluation of information.

Academic librarians can play a significant role in both tasks. This issue focuses on an aspect of the latter's issue: cataloging practice, particularly training in this aspect of information science. On the other hand, in order to understand how to access resources physically requires some intellectual comprehension, which is also a prevue for academic librarians.

Interestingly, cataloging and classification underwent a low-profile era a few years ago. The thinking of the day proposed that federated cataloging and outsourcing would suffice for describing information resources. A few libraries pursued cataloging of digital resources such as websites, but until some kind of technical process could insure permanent link to those resources, most librarians were reluctant to dedicate the time to such apparent ephemeral activities. Furthermore, library/information schools felt less compelled to require their students to study this aspect of librarianship

However, it has become apparent, as documented by Daniel Fuller, many librarians are doing original cataloging. Moreover, those same librarians often feel unprepared to do such detailed professional tasks. The obvious implication is that academic preparation is still necessary.

Jacqueline Snider focuses on in-service cataloging training. Increasingly, digitally-enhanced staff development strategies are used. However, content is not enough; the environmental factors such as incentives and support need to be integrated. Snider looks at content, instructional design, and environmental considerations.

Of course, many other issues of cataloging need to be addressed: database development, metatagging, information surrogates, to name a few. FRBR is an international initiative to look at relationships among manifestations and derivatives of information. Visual cataloging has become another arena for capturing information. The field is ever broadening. Technical services has never been so glitzy or important.

Nevertheless, other topics of concern still impact academic librarians. The next theme issues for *Education Libraries* is diversity/outreach (March 15 deadline). Plan ahead.