

# Proposal for a Web Clearinghouse for Cataloging and Metadata Education and Training Resources

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The LC Action Plan<sup>1</sup> calls on the cataloging community to “Provide appropriate training/continuing education to improve bibliographic control of selected Web resources.”

Elements of both Action Items 5.1 (preparing metadata and cataloging educators and trainers) and 5.3 (continuing education) call for identifying and sharing resources that support cataloging/metadata education, training, continuing education, and self-study. It has been assumed from the start that the world wide web would provide the best medium for building and sharing this information, since this body of information would need to be dynamically evolving and most likely collaboratively developed.

At the ALCTS/ALISE Symposium on Cataloger Education at 2004<sup>2</sup> there was a call for efforts that bring together various stakeholders (e.g. LC, PCC, ALCTS, ALISE) to collaboratively develop resources. These resources include a cataloging educator/trainer/practitioner discussion list (“eduCAT” hosted by CDS<sup>3</sup>), targeted training (e.g. CCT<sup>4</sup>), and a web-based learning center<sup>5</sup> / clearinghouse<sup>6</sup>. It is this last resource that this proposal is intended to address.

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<sup>1</sup> *Bibliographic Control of Web Resources: A Library of Congress Action Plan*, <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/bibcontrol/actionplan.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ala.org/ala/alcts/alctspubs/alctsnewsletter/v15n4/annualreports.htm#CCS>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.loc.gov/educat/ugroup.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.loc.gov/cct/>

<sup>5</sup> *Cataloging for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: a Proposal for Continuing Education for Cataloging Professionals*, p. 30.

<sup>6</sup> *Cataloging and Metadata Education: a Proposal for Preparing Cataloging Professionals for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, p. 39-40.

In her development plan for a web clearinghouse, Anita Coleman<sup>7</sup> recommends that cataloging/metadata education materials be searchable based on type of resource, author, title, location/identifier, description, date, educational level, and subject. Dr. Coleman envisions that the clearinghouse would be a database of metadata about cataloging instructional resources, and that this database would be targeted at library and information science (LIS) cataloging educators.

This plan represents an important first step towards meeting the need for developing future bibliographic access (BA) practitioners. As noted above, for a BA instructional clearinghouse to address the broader needs of cataloging educators, trainers, mentors, practitioners, and technical staff, the clearinghouse must include resources beyond those narrowly focused on LIS cataloging education. Additionally, where appropriate and available, the clearinghouse should include full-text retrieval of the resource itself.

There are several technological implementations that support the following requirements:

- XML mark-up of resource metadata and full-text display (this also facilitates information portability);
- targeted searching of resource type, author, title, location/identifier, description, date, educational level, and subject;
- sub-menus focused on specific user communities or specific types of training activity
- collaborative vetting of resource submission.

Any such implementation will have a cost associated with it and, given the limited funding potentially available, should to the extent possible be developed with technological resources and expertise already available.

## Proposal

1. It is recommended that a web clearinghouse of education and training resources for cataloging metadata be developed and hosted by the Cataloging Distribution Service (CDS). Through the LC/ALCTS Memorandum of Understanding signed in June 2004, CDS is already slated to develop and host the 5.3 web learning center. The website could be designed to provide appropriate access, retrieval, and display of 5.1 clearinghouse resources as well.

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<sup>7</sup>*Cataloging and Metadata Education Web Clearinghouse: a Development Plan*, Anita Coleman, <http://www.sir.arizona.edu/faculty/coleman/lc/wplanascv2.html> and <http://www.sir.arizona.edu/faculty/coleman/lc/camenotes.html>

2. Because CDS currently possesses both the technical expertise and underlying technological platform to support this clearinghouse, CDS proposes to build the web clearinghouse using NextPage's NXT 4.X software, the underlying technology on which *Cataloger's Desktop* is based.
3. The clearinghouse will include materials appropriate for LIS cataloging instruction, continuing education, mentoring, self-study, and orientation to cataloging for library technical staff and non-catalogers. Top-level menuing (similar to that found in the web version of *Cataloger's Desktop* <<http://desktop.loc.gov/>><sup>8</sup> will be used to enable access to materials appropriate for specific user communities (e.g. LIS cataloging educators). Another example of the type of access that is facilitated by using a search engine such as NXT may be found at URL <<http://www.thegateway.org/browse/>>.
4. The clearinghouse will assemble XML-encoded metadata about cataloging training materials, as well as providing full-text access to in-scope materials for which such access is permitted.
5. Clearinghouse content will be recommended by user groups that represent the various stakeholders (e.g. cataloging educators, trainers, managers, practitioners, technicians).
6. Access to the clearinghouse will be provided free of charge by CDS.
7. The major benefit is that a single point-of-access is provided to all materials supporting cataloging and metadata education and training.

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<sup>8</sup>Free one-month, trial subscriptions are available at  
<<http://desktop.loc.gov/orderform.asp>>.