Thinking outside the search box:
Redefining roles for catalogers in an academic library
Overview

- Cataloging department structure and changes
- Adapting to a changing landscape
- Current collaborative projects
- Future directions

Aerial view of campus, 1971: http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/u/?ui,52
Collections at UNCG

- 2.47 million printed books, govdocs, microforms, musical scores
- 37,000 e-journals
- 331,000 e-books
- 370 databases
- Music Library
- Special Collections & University Archives
- Digital Collections
- Institutional repository - NC DOCKS
Cataloging at UNCG - Then

- 6 professionals
- 11 paraprofessionals
- Temporary workers, practicum students, interns

Interior of Carnegie Library, 1941: http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/u/?ui,1350
Cataloging at UNCG - Now

- 4 professionals
- 8 paraprofessionals*
- Half-time temporary cataloger
- Student workers, practicum students, interns, volunteers
- Cataloging support from Acquisitions

*Note: Paraprofessionals are mentioned in context, but their specific roles are not detailed.
Historically:
- Music
- Serials
- Special Collections
- Everything else (monographs / microforms)

Currently:
- Music
- Serials
- Special Collections
- Digital collections / electronic resources

Women’s College basketball team, 1910: http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/u/?ui,30
Cataloging – what’s new?

- Increased support for electronic resources
- Dual-department positions
  - Electronic Resources and Information Technology
  - Special Collections and University Archives
  - Digital Projects

Aerial view of Tower Village 1 Residence Hall, 1995:
http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/u/?ui,989
How did we get here?

- Budget cuts
- Retirements, turnover
- Library staffing realignment
- Increased need for digital collection support and skills
- Need to raise awareness of what catalogers can contribute

Construction of the Library, 1949: http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/u?/ui,690
Crosswalking and cross-training

- EAD
- Continuing education and conferences (archival and IT)
- Imaging training
Repurposing metadata

- Dublin Core “Cleanup”
- WorldCat Sync and WMS
- Recycling MARC data for newly-digitized but already-cataloged materials
Cataloging skills in new areas

- LC subject access for EAD finding aids in Archon
- Working on EAD and MARC simultaneously
- Metadata consultation for digital projects
Building on strengths

The scrapbook project
- Archivists (selection, description)
- Catalogers (metadata creation and standardization)
- IT/Digital Projects (imaging standards, metadata and discovery planning)
- Who acts as translator?
Challenges

- Terminology and “translation”
- Reporting structures
- Physical proximity and new means of communication

Aerial view of Jackson Library, 2000:  http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/u/?/ui,1347
Learning opportunities for all!

Design workflows and best practices

Build relationships; set stage for future collaboration

Learn new skills

Postcard of pageant characters on May Day, 1912: http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/u/?ui,1784
New positions will likely work in all three worlds to some extent

Greenhouse Project graduate assistant position

- Reports to Electronic Resources/IT (Digital Projects)
- Works closely with Cataloging and Special Collections
- All three departments collaborated on proposal and job description
Moving forward

- Collaborate
- Educate
- Demonstrate value

Architectural Drawing of Tower Village 1 Residence Hall, 1990:
http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/u?/ui,839
Any questions?