

# Introducing Open Rules for Cataloging

The freely available cataloging code alternative to RDA

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# Learning Outcomes

Learn why a project like Open Rules for Cataloging (ORC) is important and necessary

Learn about the vision, scope, principles, and element set

Learn about the future plans for ORC development and opportunities to participate

# HOW STANDARDS PROLIFERATE:

(SEE: A/C CHARGERS, CHARACTER ENCODINGS, INSTANT MESSAGING, ETC)

SITUATION:  
THERE ARE  
14 COMPETING  
STANDARDS.

14?! RIDICULOUS!  
WE NEED TO DEVELOP  
ONE UNIVERSAL STANDARD  
THAT COVERS EVERYONE'S  
USE CASES.



SOON:

SITUATION:  
THERE ARE  
15 COMPETING  
STANDARDS.

Another cataloging  
content standard?!

# Why is ORC necessary and important?

- Reduces needless expense
- Promotes inclusion
- Facilitates data interoperability

# Reduces unnecessary expense

- Open Access movement in libraries
  - ISBD is freely available online (though still copyrighted)
  - LC Cataloging Manual is open access
  - PCC recommendations are open access
  - Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) is open access
  - Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials RDA Edition (DCRMR) is open access
- Library community wanting to move away from closed standards to open and interoperable standards
  - MARC → BIBFRAME
- More expensive than ever to access our cataloging instructions
  - AACR cost \$9.30 in 1967 (that's \$77.56 in 2022), meanwhile the average annual subscription price of the RDA Toolkit is \$179.00

# Promotes Inclusion

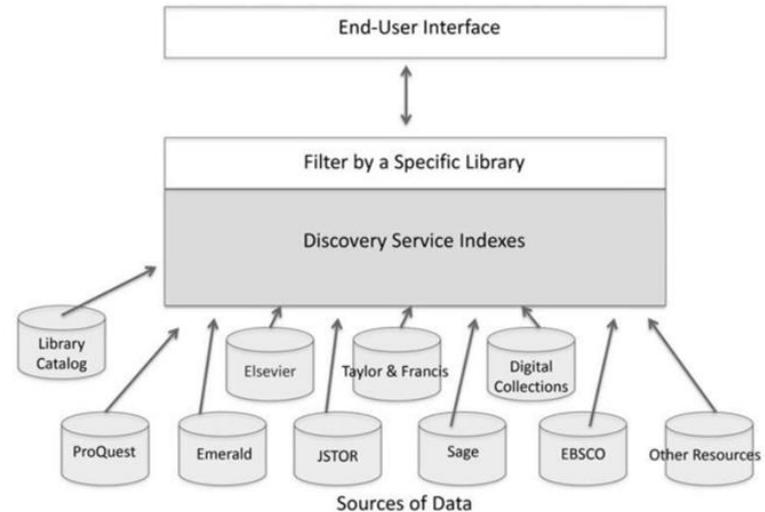
## **Open rules encourage participation**

- Eliminates “pay-to-play” barriers
- Facilitates transparency
- Promotes adoption
- Enables professional cooperation outside of legacy institutional power-structures

# Facilitates data interoperability

- Library catalogs are only one of many sources for library data
- It's important that our data can play well with others
- Bibliographic data doesn't need to be so complicated
- It needs to be more streamlined and focused so that it works well in different data services

## Discovery System Architecture



**OPEN  
RULES for  
CATALOGING**

# History

- Project formed and initiated by Amber Billey, Bard College, in 2019 as Open Cataloging Rules (OCR)
- August 2019-March 2020: vision, scope, principles, and element set
- Project revived in December 2020
- Co-leaders are Denise and Faye
- 2021: Sources for cataloging rules, publication platform
- 2022: Name changed to Open Rules for Cataloging (ORC)

# Vision

Free and open cataloging guidelines for the library community with practical examples and easily understood models created by catalogers to empower catalogers.

# Scope

- Free and accessible (Open Access)
- Ethics and best practices
- Comprehensible and sensible guidelines and models
- Inclusive to all communities
- Compatible other metadata environments
- MARC based
- Data exchange and reuse
- Adaptable

# Principles

The ORC generally adheres to the IFLA Statement of International Cataloging Principles, with additional emphases (starred) and modifications (in bold).

# Convenience of the user

Convenience means that all efforts should be made to keep all data comprehensible and suitable for the users. The word “user” embraces anyone who searches the catalogue and uses the bibliographic and/or authority data. Decisions taken in the making of descriptions and controlled forms of names for access should be made with the user in mind.

**\*Common usage\***

Vocabulary used in descriptions and access should be in accord with that of the majority of users.

# Representation

A description should represent a resource as it appears. Controlled forms of names of persons, corporate bodies and families should be used, **with reference to established controlled vocabularies and their rules for creating new headings.**

# \*Accuracy\*

Bibliographic and authority data should be an accurate portrayal of the entity described.

# Sufficiency and necessity

Those data elements that are required to: facilitate access for all types of users, including those with specific needs; fulfill the objectives and functions of the catalogue; and describe or identify entities, should be included.

# Significance

Data elements should be relevant to the description, noteworthy, and allow for distinctions among entities.

# Economy

When alternative ways exist to achieve a goal, preference should be given to the way that best furthers overall expediency and practicality (i.e., the least cost or the simplest approach).

# Consistency and standardization

Descriptions and construction of access points should be standardized as far as possible to enable consistency.

# Integration

The descriptions for all types of resources and controlled forms of names of all types of entities should be based on a common set of rules to the extent possible. **In the ORC, the focus is on bibliographic resources as commonly encountered in public and academic libraries; extant free cataloging guides such as the DCRM suite are available for use in more complex cataloging.**

# Interoperability

All efforts should be made to ensure the sharing and reuse of bibliographic and authority data within and outside the library community. For the exchange of data and discovery tools, the use of vocabularies facilitating automatic translation and disambiguation is highly recommended.

# Openness

Restrictions on data should be minimal in order to foster transparency and conform to Open Access principles, as declared also in the IFLA Statement on Open Access. Any restriction on data access should be fully stated.

# Accessibility

The access to bibliographic and authority data, as well as searching device functionalities, should comply with international standards for accessibility as recommended in the IFLA Code of Ethics for Librarians and other Information Workers, **as well as the [Cataloguing Code of Ethics](#)** (issued by the Cataloging Ethics Steering Committee of ALA).

# Rationality

The rules in a cataloguing code should be defensible and not arbitrary. If, in specific situations, it is not possible to respect all the principles, then defensible, practical solutions should be found and the rationale should be explained.

# Elements

# Element List

The outline of elements applies to non-rare monographic resources only.

IFLA's Statement on International Cataloging Principles says that descriptive standards should be based on an internationally agreed upon standard and, for libraries, this standard is the International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD).

The ORC Element Set is based on:

PCC core/BIBCO standard record (BSR)  
ISBD 2011

# Draft Outline of Elements

1. Title and Statement of responsibility
  - Title proper
  - Parallel title proper
  - Other title information
  - Variant title
  - Later title proper
  - Statement of responsibility relating to title proper
  - Notes on title
  - Source of title Proper
2. Edition
  - Edition statement
  - Statement of responsibility relating to edition
  - Notes on the edition area
  - Source of edition statement
3. Imprint
  - Place of publication, production
  - Name of publisher, producer
  - Date of publication, production
  - Notes on the imprint
  - Changes to the imprint information
4. Material Description
  - Extent
  - Other physical details
  - Illustrative content
  - Dimensions
  - Supplementary material
5. Content, Media and Carrier Types
  - Content type
  - Media type
  - Carrier type
6. Series
  - Title proper of series
  - Parallel title of a series
  - Other title information of series
  - Statement of responsibility relating to series
  - ISSN of series
  - Numbering within series
  - Notes on the series
7. Additional Notes
  - Relationships with other resources
  - Translations
  - Reproductions
  - Resources with different editions
  - Resources with supplements

# ORC Current Work

We are comparing rules and definitions across codes:

- Rules for Dictionary Catalog (Cutter, 1904)
- ALA Cataloging Rules (1908)
- Rules for Descriptive Cataloging in the Library of Congress (1949)
- AACR2 (under copyright)
- ISBD (2011) (under copyright)
- RDA (under copyright)
- Mac Elrod and Michael Gorman's MRIs
- LCRIs
- BIBFRAME (definitions)
- Dublin Core (definitions)

## The Content Platform

- GitHub with Minimal Mistakes (Jekyll theme)
- Site will be similar to [DCRM\(R\)](#)



# Future Directions and Getting Involved

# Future Directions 1

- Adding instructions for other types of materials which do not have freely available cataloging guidelines already.
- Include MARC coding examples, so that catalogers do not have to look in separate places. Examples using other types of standards (Dublin Core, MODS, etc.) may also be added.

# Future Directions 2

- Catalogers should be able to submit examples and ask for clarification.
- Catalogers should have the ability to order the rules by MARC field or by elements. Catalogers should be able to zero in on the rules applicable to the type of resource they are cataloging.

# Get involved!

Follow the rules: [opencatalogingrules.org](https://opencatalogingrules.org)

[ORC Google Group email discussion list](https://groups.google.com/g/openrulesforcataloging)

(<https://groups.google.com/g/openrulesforcataloging>)

Currently working on instructions, examples, &  
website

# Thanks!

Any questions?

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