CALL FOR PAPERS

The Language, Classification, and Practice of Cataloguing and Collection Management Systems

A Focus Issue of the journal *Collections*
exploring change as well as issues in methods and practices

Guest Edited by Dr. Barbara Wood *MAHI AMA*
Cultural Heritage Curator, National Trust, (England, Wales and Norther Ireland)

Abstract Deadline: January 15, 2023

The classification, cataloguing, and access to information about collections is a requisite step for preserving, understanding, and sharing artifacts and supporting materials retained by repositories, such as museums and archives. During the past century, acquisition and cataloguing has become a broadly standardized and directed process with refined, curated systems of knowledge that disclose embedded sociocultural hierarchies and protocols while simultaneously creating and revealing silences.

The processes of collecting information associated with objects has extended to reflect current interests with far more contextual detail acquired. While it is possible to see changing interests, and therefore different terminology, in the records created for individual objects, it is rare that an object and its information are re-assessed and re-catalogued. As a result, many items remain as they were first described, and their records use language, classification, and terminology which may be outdated, exclusionary, partial or offensive to contemporary audiences.

For this focus issue of the journal, we seek contributions from practitioners, scholars, and researchers working with collections and cataloguing processes that illuminate issues which are ripe for dismantling and that center scrutinizing, critiquing, and re-assessing existing finding aids, inventories, catalogue records, naming conventions, and nomenclature. Our intentions are to share critical cataloguing practices, understand challenges, discuss solutions, and inspire new ways of working that include diverse approaches and viewpoints aspiring toward inclusion and belonging.

We are interested in, but not restricted to, projects or discussions which are underway and concerned with:
- Language and terminology
- Categorization and description
- Strategies that adopt *More Product, Less Process* with attention to inclusive practices
- Archival silences and gaps resulting from legacy minimal processing
- Reevaluation of collections for digitization and online access
- Issues surrounding semantic web discovery and the natural language processing of Web 3.0
- Differences between management of digital collections and catalogues and traditional authoritative, hierarchical standards

- Ownership and management of information
- Collections records which seek to include multiple voices
- Ways to address the attitudes and viewpoints of the past in the historical cataloguing records by, for instance, preserving transcribed titles, captions, full-text documents, and inscriptions
- Multiples lives and meanings of objects and where this information sits in collections management systems
- Affective stewardship and acquisition of materials within an inclusive-practice framework
- Political, personal and community responses to re-assessing collections
- New ways to address information capture and manage collections databases
- Sharing information and involving others beyond core staff, community participation, and shared authority
- Creating records which adapt and develop the potential or risk of losing past and historic viewpoints
- The concept of neutrality and whether it is possible or even a valid or useful position to aspire to
- The complexities and opportunities of shared cataloguing projects which extend across national and cultural boundaries
- Practicalities of establishing projects fitting the parameters of this call for papers, as well as scoping, funding, management and the challenges of projects already underway
- Other projects that address the language, classification, and practice of cataloguing and collection management systems

For this issue, we are seeking articles and case studies of 15-25 pages that address any of the topics above or related areas of work.

Authors should express their interest by submitting a 150-word abstract to the journal editor, Juilee Decker, jdgsh@rit.edu, and guest editor, Barbara Wood, Barbara.Wood@nationaltrust.org.uk, by January 15, 2023.

The deadline for the submission of final papers is May 1, 2023. Final papers must be submitted through SAGE's online platform. Publication is anticipated for volume 19/20 with an issue date of 2023/2024.

Established in 2004 and published by SAGE, *Collections* is an international, peer-reviewed, multi-disciplinary journal addressing all aspects of handling, preserving, researching, interpreting, and organizing collections. Scholars, archivists, curators, librarians, collection managers, preparators, registrars, educators, emerging professionals, and others encouraged to submit their work for this focused issue. See https://journals.sagepub.com/home/cjxa for more information about the journal.

Any questions may be directed to the journal editor, Juilee Decker, jdgsh@rit.edu.