

A Hidden Collection of LPs

Cataloging with Connexion and MarcEdit

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Music OCLC Users Group

The Problem

600,000 gift LPs in storage

About 600,000 LPs in storage

A “hidden collection”

- Not currently in catalog
- Though many are shelved by record label and issue number, so it is possible to find them using discographies
- This was the original plan (not to catalog but to rely on discographies)

Administration now wants them in the catalog

This presentation is about how we have approached this at one institution.

I hope this will give other some ideas of how to handle such seemingly unmanageable projects, but this is by no means a presentation of the only or even the best way to do this.

My Assignment

- Get these into the catalog

My assignment: Figure out a way to get these into the catalog reasonably quickly

Fortunately, complete detailed cataloging is not expected.

My dilemma

- Current rate: 75 years
- Need RDA cataloging

At 8,000 per year (current rate for full cataloging), it would take us 75 years to get through the 600,000 LPs, doing nothing but LPs

Obviously that won't work

But I don't want these to be remarkably less findable than the materials getting full records

Everything else is getting full RDA records, and we are looking toward a faceted catalog that will exploit RDA data

So these need to get RDA records

Solution, so far

“LP Project”

Starting with “LP Pilot”

Solution so far:

LP Project is the name for the whole 600,000-LP undertaking

Initial portion is being called the LP Pilot

- cataloging a small recent gift (about 2,000 LPs)
- used for establishing and troubleshooting the process
- This small gift is mostly musicals but has some boxes of miscellaneous material (no art music, though)

LP Pilot

**RAY CHARLES
LPs PROJECT
(18 BOXES TOTAL)**

(NOT THIS ONE)



The LP Pilot

Ray Charles Collection

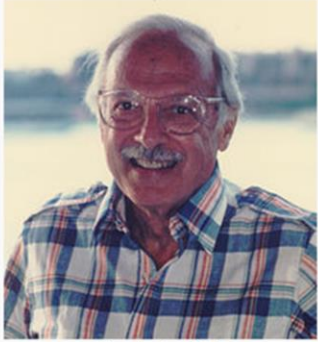
But not this Ray Charles

This One!

(snip from
Wikipedia)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ray_Charles_\(musician,_born_1918\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ray_Charles_(musician,_born_1918))

Ray Charles



Charles in 1975

Background information

Birth name	Charles Raymond Offenberg
Also known as	Ray Charles
Born	September 13, 1918 Chicago, Illinois, U.S.
Died	April 6, 2015 (aged 96) Beverly Hills, California, U.S.

This one: organizer and leader of the Ray Charles Singers

[Ray Charles](#)
[Singers](#)

Cover art
from
[https://www
.youtube.co
m/watch?v=
SB0HICPWlrk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SB0HICPWlrk)



Here's the group and a link to a YouTube clip from one of their albums. (click link)

Outline of Method

- Student uses Connexion Client
- I use MarcEdit
- Another librarian catalogs LPs with no copy found

Outline of Method:

Student workers do the bulk of the work, using Connexion Client

- Starting with just one student, to establish methods and rates that are possible

I do some RDA-izing and other tweaking using MarcEdit

Student sets holdings and imports into our catalog

Another librarian catalogs the few LPs without copy in OCLC

Immediate Steps and Goal

- Develop and fine-tune the procedure
- Get a significant number of LPs cataloged
- Estimate how long (in student hours) the 600,000 LPs will take

Immediate steps and this year's goal:

1) Develop and fine-tune the procedure

I wrote instructions this summer

Another librarian (not a cataloger) tried to follow them

Revised instructions

Fixing wording, and

Thinking of additional conditions that might arise

Example: What to do if an LP or its jacket has or is suspected to have mold or mildew

In working through these steps, we cataloged 90 LPs (in several groups)

Worked out a rough idea of percentages expected at each stage

About 80% found with batch search

About half of the remainder (so 10% of the total) found by individual searching

About 10% needing original input

2) Get a significant number of LPs cataloged this year

- 3) Estimate how long (in student hours) the 600,000 LPs will take
Rate so far has turned out to be a little better than estimated
Specifics will be given later in this talk

Initial steps

- Hired a single student worker specifically for this job
- Taught basics (about 1 hour)

Initial steps:

Hired a single student worker specifically for this job (graduate student, library school student with music degree also)

Taught him the basics (about 1 hour)

Then let him develop refinements as they occur to him

I work in the same room he does

- If questions or ideas come up, we can discuss them right then
- I encourage him to try out whatever occurs to him
- This has not created a problem; rather, I have seen improvements over the time he has worked on the project

Procedures

- Student searches for copy
 1. Batch searching
 - mn:<record number> and ti:<most distinctive word from the title on the LP's label> and pb:<label> and yr:<year of copyright or issue>
 - Some default qualifiers (ll:eng and mt:lps)
 - Sample successful search
 - mn:lsod2004 and ti:oliver and pb:rca and yr:1963 and ll:eng and mt:lps

Procedures:

Student searches a box of LPs (about 100) using batch searching in Connexion Client

A pattern is prescribed for the batch search statement

Pattern is shown on the slide

Note that we use some default qualifiers (ll:eng and mt:lps)

Sample successful search is on the slide (a recording of the musical "Oliver")

With some "what if"s for odd situations

Boxes
waiting
their
turn



Boxes of LPs in the Music Technical Services workroom, waiting their turn
On Friday, that pile was down to 3 boxes

Procedures continued

- For items not found by batch
 - Student searches for copy using keyword searching
 - Much like WorldCat searching
 - If still not found, I search
 - If still not found, to another librarian to catalog

Procedures continued:

For the LPs not found by batch searching, student does keyword searching

This is so similar to WorldCat searching that it turns out not to need much instruction at all.

For those still not found, I search

Those remaining go to another librarian for full cataloging

Procedures continued:

- For items found,
 - Student eliminates duplicate records
 - Applies a Constant Data record that sets some basics



- Barcodes the physical items
- Adds the barcode number to the records

Procedures continued:

For items found,

Student eliminates duplicate records

Applies a Constant Data record that sets some basics

Gift note

The OCLC field that creates an item record in our ILS

<image on slide>

Barcodes the physical items

Adds the barcode number to the records

Procedures continued

MarcEdit processing

- Delete all call number fields
- Fix the 049 so it will import correctly (affects bib location in our system)
- Change “sound disc” to “audio disc”
- Use RDA Helper to RDA-ize the records
- Add 099 LPZ (the entire call number for this project)
- Add 901 LP Project (allows me to run searches to find records created in this project)

Procedures continued:

Once the file of records is complete

I process through MarcEdit

- Delete all call number fields
- Fix the 049 so it will import correctly (affects bib location in our system)
- Change “sound disc” to “audio disc”
- Use RDA Helper to RDA-ize the records
- Add 099 LPZ (the entire call number for this project)
- Add 901 LP Project (allows me to run searches to find records created in this project)

What MarcEdit Does

Before

After

049		INTT	049		INTR
245	0 0	1932--smoke rings #h [sound recording].	099		LPZ
260		Stockholm, Sweden : #b Nostalgia, #c p1982.	245	0 0	1932--smoke rings.
300		1 sound disc : #b analog, 33 1/3 rpm ; #c 12 in.	264	1	Stockholm, Sweden : #b Nostalgia, #c [1982]
500		Reissues; originally issued in 1932.	264	4	#c @1982
			300		1 audio disc : #b analog, 33 1/3 rpm ; #c 12 inches.
			336		performed music #b #r #m #2 #r #d #a #c #o #n #t
			337		audio #b #s #2 #r #d #a #m #e #d #i #a
			338		audio disc #b #s #d #2 #r #d #a #c #a #r #r #i #e #r
			344		analog #c 33 1/3 rpm #g #m #o #n #o #2 #r #d #a
			500		Reissues; originally issued in 1932.

This bit of a record shows most of what I have MarcEdit set to do.

Removes GMD from 245

Divides 260 into several 264s, as appropriate

Changes sound to audio in 300 (specific change I programmed)

Working off Type and various codes in the 007 (not 300 \$b)

Adds 336, 337, 338, 344

If these codes are wrong, the resulting values will be wrong

I found one instance where 300 \$b said 33 1/3

But coding for speed was incorrect

So 344 said 78 rpm

If 007 is lacking, 344 will not be generated

Box in progress



Box in progress

Procedures continued:

- Student sets holdings and updates
- Result: 80-100 records added to the catalog

Procedures continued:

Finally:

After MarcEdit work, I reimport the records into Connexion

Student sets holdings and imports

This generally adds 80-100 records to the catalog in just a few minutes

What takes the time

Entering batch search statements is the slowest part of the procedure

Nothing else takes long

Entering batch search statements is the slowest part of the procedure

Nothing else takes long

Occasionally I run into problems with MarcEdit, since it was not designed with music in mind, but Terry Reese has always been quick with solutions

Percentages

- 83-93% copy found overall
 - 65-77% found by batch
 - 14-15% found by individual search
- If you exclude special mixed boxes, found rate is 89-93%)
- 4-5% added copies
- 1-4% excess copies (third copy or more)
- 0-3% sent for original cataloging (musicals), but 10-11% original cataloging (special mixed boxes)

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- 0-3% sent for original cataloging (musicals)
 - but 10-11% original cataloging (special mixed boxes)
- Overall, batch searching “find” rate is lower than forecast
- But overall “find” rate is higher than expected
- We didn’t realize at the time, but the box we used for developing the procedure was a “special” box, and our results for special boxes are indeed very close to projections

Next



After we finish the LP Pilot, which will probably be sometime in March, we will move to other LP gifts.

Rates

- 1st 2 weeks: 2.9 per hour
- 2nd 2 weeks: 8.9 per hour
- 3rd 2 weeks: 14.5 per hour
- 4th 2 weeks: 12.1 per hour
- 5th 2 weeks: 12.4 per hour

So far, only 5 pay periods (2 weeks, last one incomplete)

1st one was very much a learning time

Rate rose quickly

At the moment, it looks like somewhere between 12 and 15 LPs per hour will be the rate

This worker is very good but not outside expectations

His rate is a pretty good indicator for what his successors may do

Ideas for the future

- Improve batch search statement
- Adapt the procedure for other large gifts

Ideas for the future

Near future:

Improve the batch search statement, to get a higher “find” rate

- May or may not be possible
- Because both the items and their cataloging can be peculiar and unpredictable

More distant:

An adaptation of this procedure might help with other large gifts

- We have a couple of gifts of many thousands of CDs each
- Perhaps it would work to use a lot of this procedure, but
 - Have the cataloging assistants add performer and works tracings
 - Maybe some other information, such as details about recording dates and places
 - This may be a way to get these done within the foreseeable future
- Details are very much in the “I wonder” stage

Questions?

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