

Report of the Web Resources for the Rare Materials Cataloger Editorial Group - May 2019 Virtual Meeting

Submitted April 2019 to the ALA/ACRL/RBMS Bibliographic Standards Committee

Update

The Editorial Group is pleased to announce the completion of a beta version of the redesigned Web Resources for the Rare Materials Cataloger site. This draft is available for review at: <http://rbms.info/cat-resources/>

The Editorial Group welcomes any and all feedback from BSC members on this new version (design, usability, organization, etc.). Once the feedback is incorporated and BSC approval is granted, the new site can “go live” and the former site (<http://lib.nmsu.edu/rarecat/>) can be retired.

Ongoing work

The Editorial Group views this beta version as just an initial step and has identified a number of immediate tasks to further develop the resource. As some of these will require a fair deal of time to complete, it was considered advantageous to approach them after the initial migration rather than to prolonging the process further.

- Editorial guidelines. The Editorial Group recognizes the need to establish basic editorial guidelines for the site. Naming conventions for the text of the links will be established, applied to existing content, and will serve as a way to encourage consistency going forward. Similarly, the editorial comments that appear in the resource will be revisited and guidelines will be created for when, or if, to add these.
- Scope statement. A scope statement will be created to establish criteria for when and what kinds of additional web resources are added. The creation of this statement will then allow the Editorial Group to create a submission process for users to recommend new content.
- Link order. Consideration will be given to the order in which the links appear in each sub-category. This section-by-section review will hopefully improve usability and result in higher visibility of the more useful links.
- Search functionality. The site is currently utilizing the default Wordpress search functionality. However, a keyword query in the search box simply returns the top-level name of the page in which the term(s) appear. While this may not be a significant issue

when searching for a specific resource (e.g. *Inkunablzensus Oesterreich*), it is somewhat less useful when querying words that appear on multiple pages (e.g. *bindings*). At our request, the Web Team is investigating whether there are any options available to customize this feature. Specifically, if it would be possible to include a snippet view of where the keyword(s) appear on the page in order to provide more context.

Web Resources for the Rare Materials Cataloger Editorial Group:

- Katelyn Borbely
- Laurence Creider (Advisory Member)
- Matthew Ducmanas (Editor)
- Brittney Washington (Advisory Member)