

ARLIS/NA Conference, Denver, CO
May 4, 2008
Managing the Collective Collection
Notes from Milan Hughston's comments
Questions and Answers after Session GB\,

Milan Hughston:

Data is only useful when actionable. May soon begin projects using overlap studies and uniqueness studies. Perhaps move to resource sharing and document delivery. Perhaps move to a shared portal. May want to pursue branding, with museum data exchange link. Also, with pre-1923 imprints, the collective collection could explore digitization projects. JSTOR is considering auction catalogue digitization project. Other future considerations: shared offsite storage, shared collections processing.

Q&A:

Some suspicion of the high level of uniqueness between collections in Günter's presentation, and the high level of uniqueness between this collective collection and other New York libraries (Columbia and NYU in particular). Attendee wanted to know more about the margin of error. Günter commented that inquiries into last copies in WorldCat suggest that the margin off error, because of differences in cataloging practice, may be a little over 10%.

A comment about Günter's presentation regarding this same high uniqueness figure: probably more a matter of titles not having intellectual uniqueness but some other distinction, for example, US versus UK imprint, etc. Günter said that last copies work is also exploring the meaning of uniqueness, but not yet on this body of material. 60% of a 250 title sample were intellectually unique. (Günter offers good overview of this issue in his blog posting at: <http://hangingtogether.org/?p=417>)

A question about University of Michigan's OPAC records for Googlized books: how automatic or labor intensive was it to post both the Google URL and the University of Michigan URL in the bibliographic record? Response is that the URL is generated on the fly. The MDP id is located in the call number 2 field of the item record and if it's present, then it triggers a display of both the MDP URL and the Google Books URL. Also javascript is used to show the MDP and Google links on the detailed holdings page.

University of Michigan also makes available locally to visually impaired users access to items under copyright.