

Catapult

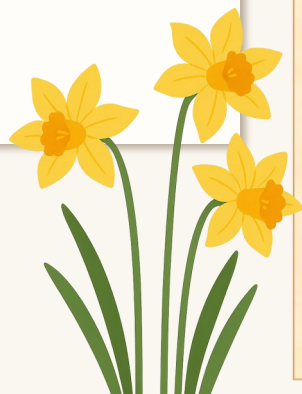
025. No.120, Ākuhata/August 2025
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From the Editor

Kia ora koutou,

Hope you all are keeping well. We've got a great article this month discussing the proposed removal of the \$v subfield and the implications. Enjoy a great read!

Kia pai tō koutou rā,
Hazel Loughrey, editor



Inside this issue

CatSIG news	2-5
ORDAC update	6-7
Items in brief	8
The great (but very orderly and slightly hushed - because we are librarians after all) subfield \$v debate / Tali Boardman	9-11
Articles of interest	12
Professional development	13-17
Related publications	18
Contribute to Catapult	19

LIANZA CatSIG Committee

Contact the Committee: catsigcommittee@gmail.com

Convenor: Joanne Rowan (University of Auckland Library)

ORDAC: Bridget Jennings (Wellington City Libraries)

Committee: Anoushka McGuire (National Library of New Zealand), Madelene Turnbull (Otago University), Arlyn Yala (Te Wānanga o Aotearoa), Samantha Finch (Wintec)

Info

Catapult is published three times a year in April, August and December.

Previous issues are available on [LIANZA's Recollect](#).

CatSIG news

Summary from CatSIG Education discussion forum 19 August 2025

General notes on education, training and professional development

- Emphasis on the right blend of theory and practical in study - theory for the foundational understanding, but courses need to have a strong practical component.
- Working through practical examples is a great way to learn, when complemented by learning the "why", and feedback and discussion.
- On the job training is relied on a lot. "How we do it here" can be problematic however - a broader understanding of cataloguing is important.
- Finding the time to work through online training sessions for sole cataloguers

New Zealand-based cataloguing paper

- Strong agreement that this is very necessary for both vendors and library based cataloguers.
- Needs to be accessible:
 - When is it run? (e.g. not necessarily needed yearly; regularly rather than frequently)
 - Prerequisite papers? (Prerequisites and the need for existing library experience could be a barrier)
 - Can someone do a single paper? (i.e. not commit to a full certificate/diploma/degree in order to do the paper)
 - Cost
 - Content needs to be considered carefully to ensure that there is not a large number of people who complete the paper expecting roles
 - Focus of content of course needs to be looked at carefully

CatSIG news

Cont.

Job security and the changing reality of cataloguing roles

- Fewer positions available, and positions increasingly have cataloguing being a component part rather than the main part of a job.
- Not have enough knowledge to understand how bibliographic information affect findability in the catalogue.
- Getting younger people into the profession is important.
- How to get vendor-library relationships working well is increasingly important - how do libraries retain the necessary cataloguing knowledge when outsourcing so that they can communicate their needs effectively with their vendors (and how do they retain this knowledge)? And also keep up with changing standards etc.?

Sessions that CatSIG could do

- Ad-hoc, short sessions on very specific subjects (e.g. how best to deal with reprints) - these wouldn't need to be very long.
- Session on data cleanup - when to do it, when to leave things alone, how best to go about it etc.

Places to ask questions and discuss cataloguing

- The CatSIG Listserv - although these can be a bit unreliable depending on your institution setup (firewalls etc.) and Microsoft Office quarantine function
- Basecamp, Teams?
- If a forum for conversation was hosted somewhere that "place" would need to be stable: who would host?
 - LIANZA is looking at platforms for all LIANZA communities/groups - get in touch if you have any ideas.

CatSIG news

CatSIG links

Cataloguing professional development page on LIANZA: <https://www.lianza.org.nz/cataloguing-professional-development/>

Previous CatSIG training sessions are available on the LIANZA YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCemR6_Af7dmybM65TssOhHA

National Library of New Zealand links

Cataloguing standards page: <https://natlib.govt.nz/librarians/cataloguing-standards-at-the-national-library>

NLNZ approach to Official RDA description: <https://access.rdatoolkit.org/Document/Document?documentId=efa32f78-2ecd-4f18-ba7e-6db9fa223ed9> (no Toolkit subscription needed to look at our supporting documentation)

NLNZ RDA training: <https://my.nicheacademy.com/natlib.govt.nz?category=27693>

NLNZ cataloguers are always happy to answer questions too: nznb@dia.govt.nz

Slides

The slides can be accessed via the link below:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1NJfHDv_-iaabZUzl4oQ71AWXjv2kt0ef/edit?usp=sharing&oid=113610543047928969437&rtpof=true&sd=true

CatSIG news

Action points

- Sign up to the CatSIG email list: <https://ecs.wgtn.ac.nz/lists/mailman3/lists/catsig.ecs.vuw.ac.nz/>
- If anyone isn't confident emailing the list they could email questions/ideas for short training sessions, feedback on education to the CatSIG committee: catsigcommittee@gmail.com
- Join the CatSIG committee!
- Join ORDAC as the second CatSIG representative! [Oceania | ALA RDA Toolkit](#)

Oceania RDA Committee (ORDAC) Aug '25 update

Briget Jennings

The Oceania RDA Committee (ORDAC) has had a busy 2025, with a lot of activity.

ORDAC Webinars



In May and June this year ORDAC hosted a series of three webinars focusing on the implementation of Official RDA at the National Library of New Zealand, and the Official RDA Project in Australia. These are available to watch on the [RDA YouTube channel](#).

ORDAC Website (www.rdatoolkit.org/oceania)

The [ORDAC website](#) has recently received a long overdue refresh and update (thanks to Brad!). There you will find information about past webinars, other events and resources, ORDAC membership and Terms of Reference, plus information about how to sign up to the [Oceania RDA discussion list](#). Do sign up for updates on RDA news in the Oceania region.

Links and Contact Information

All RSC documents, including meeting minutes, papers and responses to papers can be viewed on the [RDA Toolkit website](#). Past webinars, events, forums and training sessions are available to view on the [RDA Toolkit YouTube channel](#). Newly added YouTube videos include a presentation on how Official RDA is being implemented in Greece, and a session on Teaching RDA by Elisa Sze (Education and Orientation Officer on the RSC) from the IFLA Promoting Discovery Tools for Libraries webinar in June.

If you have any other comments or feedback, please send them on! All comments are welcome – please send directly to: bridget.jennings@wcc.govt.nz.

Oceania RDA Committee (ORDAC) update

RDA Steering Committee meetings

As the CatSIG representative on ORDAC, I have been supporting Charlotte Christiansen in her role as Oceania representative to the RDA Steering Committee (RSC) in preparing for meetings by reading and providing feedback on discussion papers and proposals.

There have been two RSC meetings since the last issue of Catapult. Two new Advisory Working Groups are being set up, with members being sought; the Music Working Group and the [Archives Working Group](#). If one (or both!) of these is your area of expertise and you're interested, then please let me know!

The RDA regional committee/group for Latin America and the Caribbean (RDA-ALyC) has been formed, and a representative from the

region attended the July RSC meeting for the first time, which is exciting news for internationalisation. You can read more about this on the [RDA Toolkit website](#).

Progress is being made on soft-deprecated elements (original RDA elements that are not recommended for use in official RDA and are slated for eventual full deprecation (removal)). Proposal and discussion papers regarding these elements will be presented at the November RSC meeting.

The November RSC meeting promises to be a full and busy one, potentially with two public sessions instead of the usual one. If you are interested in listening in on a public session, then let me know (daylight savings will mean the start time is not too punishing!).

PS: New LIANZA CatSIG representative needed

We also still need a second CatSIG representative on ORDAC. If you are interested in RDA and how it works, and how it can work best for your institution please do consider joining me and Charlotte as the third New Zealand member. We'd love to have you, and you don't need to be an expert, just someone who uses the standard and is interested in its development into the future.

If you would like to find out more about what is involved then feel free to get in touch with me directly: bridget.jennings@wcc.govt.nz, or contact the CatSIG committee (catsigcommittee@gmail.com) if you are interested in the role.

Items in brief: important updates

Dewey blog

- [Register for Aug-Sept 2025 eCourse: Effective Use of Dewey Decimal Classification](#)
- [Mutiny and piracy](#)
- [Where's my contributed number?](#)
- [Adding geographic notation](#)
- [Free conversion tool for the 200s optional arrangement](#)

Other

- [Reimagine Descriptive Workflows in the UK and Ireland: An OCLC RLP community-informed discussion](#)
- [Scaling de-duplication in WorldCat: Balancing AI innovation with cataloging care](#)
- [Artificial intelligence to support metadata workflows: an OCLC RLP working group](#)
- [PCC Guiding Principles for Use of AI and Machine Learning Technologies in Cataloging and Metadata Work](#)

The great (but very orderly and slightly hushed - because we are librarians after all) subfield \$v debate

By Tali Boardman

The Library of Congress [announced in January 2025](#) that as part of a Linked Data-friendly "Modern MARC" cataloguing practice, they will no longer include form/genre subdivisions (e.g., 600 \$v, 650 \$v, 651 \$v) in subject headings.

To convey form and genre, the Library of Congress will instead use only LCGFT genre/form terms in separate fields (MARC field 655).

Deborah Tomaras read the announcement, and rather than mentally shrugging and muttering about what a terrible idea this is (which was my initial response), pulled together a working group to advocate for retaining the subfield.

The American Library Association Subject Analysis Committee Working Group on \$v Retention (sorry about the long name) came together to share potential impacts of the changes on library collections, catalogues, staff, and patrons and to work to lobby to retain the subfield v subject headings. The working group sees several potential

problems with the subfield \$v removal - for the end-user, the library catalogue, and the staff. A smattering of these include:

- Patron searching may be impeded, since subjects with \$v have different usage than genre fields.
 - ⇒ For example, finding books across all fiction genres that feature characters with depression would be possible only using a subject with \$v, such as "Depressed persons \$v Fiction". With the change, the subject would just appear as "Depressed persons," intermingling fiction and nonfiction (and movies, comics, etc.) into a much larger search result set.
- Patrons may lose an easy visual differentiation between juvenile and adult materials when searching. This is particularly problematic since LCGFT doesn't allow audience-related terms (so there isn't a "Children's fiction" genre equivalent to use instead).

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- Patrons may lose an easy way to locate topics in different media or differentiate between fiction and nonfiction.
 - ⇒ For example, Patrons wouldn't be able to search on strings like "Zombies \$v Fiction" versus "Zombies \$v Drama" versus "Zombies \$v Comic books, strips, etc." to find their desired media (the subject would just appear as "Zombies").
- Form subdivisions provide one of the best ways to describe specific, complex facets of archival collections and other specialty materials. So \$v removal might specifically hinder archival and special collections searches (removing such qualifying \$v terms as \$v Early works to 1800, \$v Archives, \$v Records and correspondence, \$v Specimens, etc.)
- Many library catalogues lack direct genre/form search capability, even in the advanced search menu. This would mean that removing \$v from subjects, and relying only on genres, would make formerly visible information unfindable and unusable for patrons.
- Form subdivisions (\$v) in subjects do not always have one-to-one genre replacements that cataloguers can use.
- Current LCGFT is not robust enough to sufficiently replace all instances of \$v that cataloguers might want to use.
- Many libraries don't have the resources, expertise or time to add back missing necessary metadata on a large scale or configure their catalogues to search and display alternate fields.
- Missing \$v and less discoverability might affect circulation stats, particularly for collection materials that rely heavily on \$v for discoverability (fiction, comics, movies, TV shows, poetry, guidebooks, case studies, catalogues, etc.)
- Missing \$v might make it harder to do collection development (locating case studies, textbooks, reports, etc. for faculty purchases, assessing types of materials for weeding, creating LibGuides, etc.)

Cont.

- Not all libraries are planning to transition to linked data. For these libraries, robust MARC records are still a necessity (i.e., the transition to linked data shouldn't force insufficiently descriptive metadata on libraries who can't or won't shift).
- Catalog records created before the advent of genre/form term vocabularies (GSAFD, LCGFT, etc.) often use just \$v subdivisions. It is not always possible to locate and retroactively assign genre/form terms to these comprehensively. This would make older materials inaccessible (for example, older exhibition catalogues in art libraries).

The list is clearly far from exhaustive (and we are sure you can think of more possible issues that are specific to your library).

Now, if you managed to read all of this and stay awake, and you have some thoughts you want to share. Perhaps you are yearning to talk to other folk who are passionate about subfields, or you just want me to not be the lone New Zealander in the working group. Good news, anyone is welcome to join. It is currently mostly libraries in the U.S. (with a sprinkling of Canadians)

Email: Deborah.Tomaras@marist.edu) to join or to offer feedback.

The meetings are about an hour long (via Zoom) and are recorded- so you can watch later if the time doesn't suit (there have been a few 5 a.m. ones where I left my camera off as I am sure my fellow librarians didn't need to see me in my PJs).

If you would like me to send you out more information as we release things (for example, the longer statement of information that this article has been taken from) please email me:

Tali.Boardman@wcc.govt.nz

The ALA Core Subject Analysis Committee Working Group on \$v Retention invites you to [participate in a survey](#) investigating potential impacts on library collections, catalogues, staff, and patrons of the Library of Congress' omission of form subdivisions (\$v) in subject headings as part of their "Modern MARC" cataloguing practice. This survey is intended for library workers, archivists, and others utilizing Library of Congress subject headings in their institutions.

Articles of interest

Emerald Open access articles

- [Time, technique and text: scoping review of temporal information extraction and categorisation in documents](#)
- [Artificial intelligence integration in academic libraries in South Africa: a Web analysis](#)
- [Benchmarking large language models for handwritten text recognition](#)
- [Developing a data quality assurance ontology for research data repositories](#)
- [Now more than ever: the role of museum and archival objects in an age of generative artificial intelligence](#)

Courses & professional development opportunities

Te reo Māori

No cost

This certificate consists of four parts, all of which are offered at no cost.

[Te Pōkaitahi Reo \(Reo Rua\) \(Te Kaupae 1\) \[New Zealand Certificate in Te Reo \(Bilingual\)\]](#)

Other

[An Introduction to Cataloging Rare Maps](#)

[Recording series information in bibliographic records](#)

Tertiary options

Open Polytechnic:

- \$ Course Only (Certificate of Proficiency)
- \$ New Zealand Certificate in Library and Information Services for Children and Teens (Level 6)
- \$ New Zealand Diploma in Library and Information Studies
- \$ Bachelor of Library and Information Studies
- \$ Graduate Certificate in Library and Information Leadership
- \$ Graduate Diploma in Library and Information Leadership

Victoria University of Wellington:

- \$ Master of Information Studies
- \$ Postgraduate Diploma in Information Studies
- \$ Postgraduate Certificate in Information Studies

Courses & professional development opportunities

ALA

- | | |
|--|--|
| \$ On-Demand Webinar - Best of Core at ALA Annual Conference: Sustainable Reproductive Description and You | Date: October 11, 2023 – October 11, 2025 |
| \$ On-Demand Webinar: Dropping the Other I-Word: Local Library of Congress Subject Heading Replacements | Date: November 1, 2023 – November 1, 2025 |
| \$ On-Demand Webinar - Best of Core Forum: Creating an Inclusive Metadata Policy | Date: February 6, 2024 – February 6, 2026 |
| \$ On-Demand Webinar - Transforming LibGuides: A Case Study (December 2024) | Date: December 3, 2024 – December 3, 2026 |
| \$ On-Demand - 3 Part API Series (Part One): An API Primer; Building Blocks for Digital Library Innovation | Date: December 4, 2024 – December 4, 2026 |
| \$ On-Demand Webinar - Best of Core Forum: Judging a Book by Its Cover: Investigating Arsenic and Other Heavy Metals in 19th Century Book Bindings | Date: May 6, 2025 – May 6, 2027 |
| \$ On Demand: Marketing Your Library | Date: July 16, 2025 |
| \$ Fundamentals of Digital Library Projects 2025 - Session 4.0 | Date: July 21, 2025 – August 29, 2025 |
| \$ Best of Core Forum: Improving Preservation and Metadata Practices for Better Digital Projects | Date: July 22, 2025 |
| \$ Fundamentals of Collection Development and Management 2025 - Session 4.0 | Date: August 4, 2025 – August 29, 2025 |
| \$ Effective Use of Dewey Decimal Classification | Date: August 25, 2025 – September 21, 2025 |
| \$ Practical Classification and Subject Access Cataloging | Date: August 25, 2025 – De- |

Courses & professional development opportunities

ALA

\$ Using and Understanding Library of Congress Subject Headings	Date: September 22, 2025 – November 2, 2025
\$ Fundamentals of Metadata 2025 - Session 5.0	Date: September 22, 2025 – October 31, 2025
\$ Fundamentals of Acquisitions 2025 - Session 5.0	Date: September 29, 2025 – November 7, 2025
\$ Fundamentals of Collection Assessment 2025 - Session 5.0	Date: October 6, 2025 – November 14, 2025
\$ Fundamentals of Digital Library Projects 2025 - Session 5.0	Date: October 6, 2025 – November 14, 2025
\$ Fundamentals of Institutional Repositories 2025 Session 3.0	Date: October 6, 2025 – November 15, 2025
\$ Fundamentals of Preservation 2025 - Session 4.0	Date: October 6, 2025 – October 13, 2025
\$ Fundamentals of Collection Development and Management 2025 - Session 5.0	Date: October 13, 2025 – November 7, 2025
\$ Fundamentals of Electronic Resources Acquisitions 2025 - Session 5.0	Date: October 13, 2025 – November 7, 2025
\$ Fundamentals of Cataloging 2025 - Session 6.0	Date: October 20, 2025 – December 5, 2025
\$ Fundamentals of Cataloging 2025 - Session 6.1	Date: October 20, 2025 – December 5, 2025
\$ Using and Understanding Library of Congress Classification	Date: November 3, 2025 – December 21, 2025

Courses & professional development opportunities

ALA

\$ Cataloging & Metadata Competencies in Practice	Date: November 5, 2025
\$ Beyond Your Department: Uniting Catalogers	Date: January 13, 2026
\$ ALA Essentials for Library Workers: Cataloging	
\$ Changing Your Classification	
\$ Tackling Racism and Bias in the Library Catalog	

Library Juice

Authority Control	2026-07 (Jul)
Beyond the Basics: Cataloging DVDs, Blu-ray discs, and Streaming Videos	2026-08 (Aug)
Cataloging with BIBFRAME	2026-03 (Mar)
Controlled Vocabularies and Taxonomies	2026-02 (Feb)
Describing Photographs for the Online Catalogue	2026-04 (Apr)
Dewey Decimal Classification	2025-10 (Oct)
Electronic Resources Cataloging	2026-05 (May)
Introduction to AI and Metadata: Uses with Library Data	2025-09 (Sep),
Introduction to Cataloging	2025-09 (Sep)
Introduction to Metadata	2025-10 (Oct), 2026-06 (Jun)
Introduction to Technical Services in Special Collections	2026-10 (Oct)
Library of Congress Classification	2025-09 (Sep), 2026-03 (Mar)

Courses & professional development opportunities

Library Juice

<u>Library of Congress Subject Headings & Genres</u>	2026-01 (Jan), 2026-07 (Jul)
<u>Linked Data in Library Metadata and Cataloging Real World Objects & More</u>	2026-05 (May)
<u>LRM: A New Foundation for RDA & the RDA Toolkit</u>	2025-11 (Nov)
<u>LSSC Elective Competencies: Cataloging and Classification</u>	2026-02 (Feb)
<u>Metadata and Description for Digital Special Collections</u>	2025-09 (Sep)
<u>Names, Identities & Entity Management</u>	2026-06 (Jun)
<u>Serials Cataloging</u>	2026-04 (Apr)
<u>Using MarcEdit</u>	2025-12 (Dec), 2026-06 (Jun)
<u>Using OpenRefine for Library Metadata</u>	2025-12 (Dec)
<u>Wikidata for Catalogers</u>	2025-10 (Oct)
<u>Working with Subjects, Names and Controlled Vocabularies for Museums, Archives, Libraries & More</u>	2026-08 (Aug)

Related publications

Title	Latest issue
Cataloging & Classification Quarterly	Volume 63, Issue 5, 2025
Catalogue & Index	Vol. 211 (2025)
Cataloguing Lab—Critcattinate	June 2025
The Code4Lib Journal	Issue 60, 2025-04-14
IFLA Journal	Volume 51 Issue 2, June 2025
International Journal of Librarianship	Vol. 10 No. 2 (2025)
Journal of Electronic Resources Librarianship	Volume 37, issue 1, 2025
Journal of Library Metadata	Volume 25, issue 3, 2025
Library Resources & Technical Services	Vol 69, No 3 (2025)
OLAC Newsletter	Vol 45, Number 2 (June 2025)
The Serials Librarian	Volume 86, Issue 3-4, 2025
Technical Services Quarterly	Volume 42, issue 2, 2025

Contribute to Catapult

Contribute

Catalogue something interesting? Find a new way of doing things? Want to raise something of conceptual or ethical interest? Catapult is seeking content and would love to hear from you! Contributing to Catapult is a great way to engage with the cataloguing community and share ideas.

[Please email the editor](#) with your idea, article or suggestion.

Feedback

We welcome feedback. If you want to see a new kind of content, have ideas on how we can improve, [please email the editor](#).