
Acknowledgments

The OCLC and University of Michigan project team consisted of Karen Markey Drabenstott, Tony Ershadi, Martha O'Hara Conway, and Diane Vizine-Goetz.

In this book, we promulgate a new design for subject access to online catalogs. The new design was generated from the results of two major research efforts: an analysis of data files that libraries use to build their bibliographic and authority databases, and an extensive, empirical study of the subject terms entered into online systems by end users. The Council on Library Resources (CLR) supported these research efforts through grants to OCLC and the University of Michigan. We are especially grateful to Deanna Marcum, formerly vice president of CLR, who gave useful suggestions on drafts of research proposals that helped us secure the grants. Serving as project monitor, Deanna Marcum was always available to answer our inquiries, review project plans and progress, and participate in formal project reviews.

The past dozen years have been marked by considerable research in catalog use, online catalogs, and subject access conducted by OCLC's Office of Research thanks to the leadership, encouragement, and support of several administrations. Martin Dillon, formerly Director of the Office of Research, carried on this tradition by providing us with useful criticism, direction, and resources throughout the CLR-sponsored research project. Upon the termination of the CLR grant, he gave Karen Drabenstott an appointment at OCLC as Visiting Scholar which made it possible for her to devote several quiet months to the writing of this book in collaboration with coauthor Diane Vizine-Goetz.

There were many staff members at participating libraries who contributed to the success of the CLR-sponsored research project. University librarians David M. Stam at Syracuse University, Paul Willis at the University of Kentucky, and Gloria Werner at the University of California, Los Angeles, consented to our analysis of transaction logs of their respective libraries' online catalogs. John Wyman and Lee Radigan at Syracuse University, Jim Fayollat and Diane Bisom at UCLA, and Jimmy Thomas and Pat Stevens in OCLC's Local Systems Division for the University of Kentucky programmed their libraries' online catalogs to generate machine-readable tapes of user subject-searching activity, provided us with documentation on their respective catalogs' transaction log format, and answered our occasional inquiries about logs, system capabilities, and system use.

At the University of Michigan, Martha O'Hara Conway took the lead in categorizing assigned subject headings from a bibliographic file and user queries from the online catalogs of the three participating libraries. Martha spent many long, odd, and late hours finding just the right subject heading to describe a particularly puzzling user query; we acknowledge her dedication and diligence and thank her for a job well done. Bonnie A. Dede, Head, Special Formats at the University of Michigan libraries, gave freely of her time and advice answering our questions about erroneous and unauthorized headings. Also at Michigan, Barbara A. Griffis was always cheerful in answering questions about the project budget. Dawn Nugent tackled various clerical tasks so that Karen could keep focused on writing. Robert M. Warner, formerly Dean of the School of Information and Library Studies, was especially generous in giving advice, providing insight, or making resources available.

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