



Serials and Those Pesky Related Web Sites

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Online Northwest 1998

Goals of the Presentation

- Provide a working definition of the concept 'Related Web Sites'
- Present an overview of the issues involved with providing access to these resources
- Describe the effects of these decisions on workflows and service to patrons
- Provide examples of what some institutions are currently doing

Definition: Related web site

A web site which contains information that is related, but not equivalent, to that found in a print title

Types of related web sites

- Supplementary material
- Updated information posted between eds. of paper title
- Selected articles
- Abstracts
- Indexes
- Tables of contents

Types of related web sites (cont.)

- Subject-related sites
- Issuing body sites
- Advertisements
- Subscription information
- Other

The basic question

Does your library want to provide catalog access to at least some of these categories of related web sites?

Some reasons to answer 'Yes'

- Much of the information is unique & available only over the web
- Collection development decisions should be based on the same criteria regardless of format
- It will help many patrons to answer questions concerning the usefulness of a publication for their needs, without leaving the workstation

Some reasons to answer 'No'

- The dynamic nature of these sites guarantees at least a partial lack of control over the accuracy of the catalog record
- Searching, verification, and maintenance of links is time-consuming, both at the time of initial cataloging and on an ongoing basis

Cataloging environment

- These links are showing up in more and more cataloging copy
- Decisions about how to handle the links in copy vary widely from library to library
- Some CONSER libraries are actively adding links for related web sites to records for print publications

Who should be involved in the decision?

- Collection development/subject specialists
- Reference
- Technical services areas that would be responsible for the work, including link maintenance

Following up on a decision to provide links to related sites in catalog records

- Selection of sites for inclusion
- Workflow and maintenance

Selecting sites to include

- Which types of sites should be included?
- Are there some types of sites which will never be included?
- Do subject specialists need to review and make a decision on each site? Is there some other system that could be put into place?

Effort expended

- How much effort will be expended during initial cataloging and on an ongoing basis?
- Will catalogers add information found on pieces when it is not already included in cataloging copy?

Effort expended

- Will catalogers verify information found either on pieces or in cataloging copy?
- Will subject specialists or catalogers actively seek out related sites that are not noted on pieces or in cataloging copy?

Workflow and cataloging routine

- What specific cataloging routines will be put into place?
- What fields, notes, etc. will be added to the record?
- How will linking notes be formulated?
- Will added entries be made?

Link maintenance

- Will URLs be checked regularly?
 - Will an automatic URL-checker be used or will links be checked manually?
- What will happen to non-working links?
 - Attempt to find the new URL?
 - Automatic deletion of the link?
- Which dept. will be responsible for the maintenance?