WLA Annual Conference
November 7, 2024
Green Bay, WI

Panelists:

- Leah Gentry as moderator (UW-Madison)
- Pam Cipkowski (pcipkowski@uwlax.edu, UW-La Crosse)
- Elisabeth Kaune (elisabeth.kaune@marquette.edu, Marquette)
- Carrie Doyle (carrie.doyle@wisc.edu, UW-Madison Law Library)
- Beth Henika (BHenik@milwaukee.gov, Milwaukee Public Library)

Discussion:

- Bootleg media
  - Milwaukee County Federated Library System
    - Current policy: if a member library has a bootleg item, it's suppressed in the catalog so it's no longer findable. They don't force a library to stop circulating the item.
    - No current policy to remove the item, but might be going to Director's Council soon.
  - University of Wisconsin - LaCrosse: If ordering from Amazon, do not order from third party sellers
  - Signs of bootleg item:
    - Blurry images
    - Might not work correctly
  - From the audience:
    - Policy that the catalog can't have unauthorized materials, so if they find one, they contact the owning library and have them remove it
    - Be aware of ordering from third party sellers on other websites like Walmart, etc.
    - OCLC might have records for bootleg materials - doesn't mean it's okay to have them
    - Some libraries/systems will contact other libraries or OCLC about issues. Or leave a 1-star review on Amazon with a comment that the item is fake.
    - Can make a system spreadsheet of known problem titles for system libraries to check
    - Some libraries have changed their policies due to the issue.
      - Ex: no longer accepting donated DVDs

- News on OCLC or other bib service
  - There was a write-in request to discuss OCLC pricing discrepancies and if Wisconsin will join others in banding together to ask for fair pricing.
  - There is an additional World Cat fee that many institutions aren't paying
    - Seems more important for institutions that use it for ILL

- ○ OCLC adding linked data URIs
  - ■ Not all discovery layers are compatible with this (yet)
    - ● Need to remove URIs in the local records
- ○ AskQC: OCLC regularly scheduled webinars covering various topics including their progress with linked data.

- ● AI - how has it (or will it) affect technical services?
  - ○ Some ILS's now including AI fields in MARC data
    - ■ At Alma Eluna conference: discussed how AI will be integrated into their ILS. They couldn't answer several questions the audience asked.
  - ○ Materials created by AI might be chosen by selectors
    - ■ Requires a bigger discussion/policy outside of just tech services, but we serve as the first check for these items
    - ■ How do we recognize these, and what's the policy for them?
      - ● If a selector wants it, should it be in the catalog?
        - ○ Should there be an indicator to patrons that the item is AI created?
      - ● Issue with potentially dangerous/wrong materials being added
        - ○ Ex: an AI book on wild mushroom foraging that had wrong information
      - ● What is our ethical responsibility as librarians?
        - ○ Not only the potential for dangerous information (i.e. eating deadly mushrooms), but where is the AI harvesting the data? Is it using someone else's intellectual property to produce the book?
        - ○ We need to maintain the integrity of the catalog
  - ○ How to identify AI items?
    - ■ Similar to bootleg items. Be careful of third party sellers on Amazon or other websites. Examine what else the seller is selling.
    - ■ Are the page numbers correct? Are the illustrations in the same style?
  - ○ EBSCO rep in the audience: they do not publish anything written by AI (as of now)
  - ○ Discussions with administrators about AI generated MARC, and advocating for human catalogers. As catalogers retire/leave, they aren't being replaced. What is this going to look like in the future?
  - ○ Internet Scout at UW-Madison using AI to catalog: subject headings and anything involving analysis are awful, some success with extracting dates, writing summaries.

- ● Budgets
  - ○ As staff leave/retire, they're often not replaced
  - ○ Many institutions haven't had budget increases in years
  - ○ Several tech services departments also handle the collection budgets. Sometimes it's a struggle to allocate correctly with budget restraints.

- ○ E-resources take a huge amount of the budgets, especially as databases increase annually (sometimes as much as 15%).
  - ■ What gets cut to pay for these increases?
- ○ Streaming video gaining more popularity, but is expensive. Some looking for creative ways to pay for it - like through endowment funds, grants, using operating budget, etc.

- ● Final thoughts
  - ○ What do libraries do to stay current with cataloging or technical services standards and news? What other groups are available outside of WLA?
    - ■ NASIG: North American Serials Interest Group
      - ● Offer a lot of sessions on cataloging, acquisitions, etc. They have a lot of online offerings, and opportunities to be involved and be on committees.
    - ■ Urban Library Council
      - ● Resource for Milwaukee Public Library
    - ■ Listservs for your institution's ILS