

6-9-06

Dear Madeline,

My "philosophy" can be distilled (I hope!) from "Where Have All The Moonies Gone?," "Why Catalog," "Cataloging Shtik," and "Proposed: a subject cataloging Code for public, school, and Community College Libraries" (all enclosed).

At HCL, we operated within the frameworks of LCSH and AACR, but freely amending, expanding, and correcting those codes or systems. (DDC, too.)

Some measure of HCL headings ultimately adopted by LC may be gleaned from the two "Who did it when?" supplements published in the HCL CATALOGING BULLETIN. Subsequently, I reported LC adoptions in my internal bimonthly and quarterly reports (samples enclosed).

It can't be automatically assumed that because "we" did it first, LC followed suit. The "proof" would be a reference to HCL in LC's own authority record.

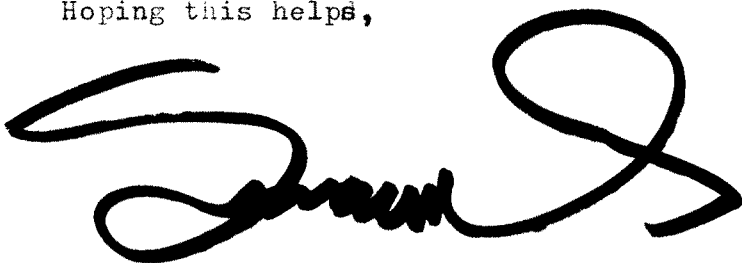
JEWISH QUESTION, for instance, got trashed not because I suggested doing so in PREJUDICES or due to HCL's substitution of JEWS--RELATIONS WITH GENTILES and JEWS--GOVERNMENT POLICY. It seems to have happened because a Philadelphia colleague, furious with LC inaction, contacted the Anti-Defamation League, which in turn queried LC. Similarly, HCL instituted a form for NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE years ago, yet LC only created the same heading after Senator Wellstone directly asked them about it (I admit, at my urging).

Within the last year I've successfully recommended WEST VIRGINIA MINE WARS (with assistance from the West Virginia Labor History Association), SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH CARE, COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE, SEX TOYS, ZINES, QUEER THEORY, KRUMPING, PLUTOCRACY, and AMERICAN DREAM.

Still uncreated, however, are CULTURE WARS, EROTOPHOBIA, SECOND-WAVE FEMINISM, THIRD-WAVE FEMINISM, ANTI-ARABISM, POLYAMORY, BUTCH AND FEMME, TRANSGENDERED PERSONS, STUDENT ANTISWEATSHOP MOVEMENT, SWEATSHOP-FREE PRODUCTS, RECOVERED FACTORY MOVEMENT, GI MOVEMENT, INFOSHOPS, and SLOW MOVEMENT. And LC has failed to replace ARMENIAN MASSACRES with ARMENIAN GENOCIDE and HERMAPHRODITISM with INTERSEXUALITY. Moreover, something like a third or more of the recommendations and problems mentioned in PREJUDICES have still to be addressed (more than 30 years later), including the bevy of "Christocentric" forms.

I would offhandedly estimate that literally a thousand (maybe twice or 3 times that) of HCL's original headings have not been established by LC. And the number of unique cross-references they neglected to input would be staggering.

Hoping this helps,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samuel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the end.

The **JOY** of Cataloging:

Essays, Letters, Reviews,
and Other Explosions

by Sanford Berman



ORYX PRESS
1981

The Cataloging Shtik

- That making materials quickly and painlessly accessible through the catalog is much *less* important than picking, buying, stamping, labeling, pocketing, and preserving those same materials.
 - That our illustrious “experts,” “leaders,” and “authorities” (mostly from academia and the research conglomerate) really know better than we do what’s good for public, school, and college libraries.
 - That universal “standards” like *ISBD* are sacred and inevitable, to be implemented everywhere regardless of whether they make any sense or contribute to better service.
 - That PLA, RTSD, CSD, YASD, etc. can be trusted to behave like consumer advocates (rather than stockholders or sweethearts) with respect to LC, Baker & Taylor, Josten’s, Brodart, and other cataloging products.
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- Abbreviations; e.g., not the original “illus.” nor lately reduced “ill.” (Users and staff alike are already bombarded—in fact, overloaded—with acronyms, symbols, and contractions.)
 - Secret punctuation—like slashes, dashes, and equal signs—that only the “elect” can comprehend.
 - Mandatory author statements following titles when the name is identical to the main entry and thus redundant; e.g.,

Herndon, Brodie. Time clocks; by Brodie Herndon.

- Brackets (understood—if at all—exclusively by library types and utterly insignificant to everyone else).
- Pointless, space-wasting “1st ed.” statements.
- Mysterious Latin ciphers—e.g., [s.l.], [s.n.]—that could well make the uninducted feel like stupid jerks.

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Friends, we’ve been conned into believing

What we *don’t* need

- Roman pagination (seldom extensive nor of any tangible value).
- Centimeter spine sizes. (Call numbers for tall works ordinarily indicate the odd size by means of something like a “folio” prefix, anyway, so who needs “34 cm.”?)
- ISBN numbers and prices, the former because no one (outside of acquisitions) gives a damn, the latter because the figure’s likely to be much higher even *before* the card gets filed.
- Bibliography and index notes, so common that they’ve become meaningless.
- Archaic, foolish, clumsy, inauthentic, and biased subject terms that hamper searching, damage the library’s credibility, and peddle misinformation. (Examples: MAMMIES; ILLEGITIMACY; MOTOR-TRUCKS; RIME; GIPSIES; CRUELTY TO CHILDREN; WATER-CLOSETS; EUROPEAN WAR, 1914–1918; YELLOW PERIL; AGED; DEGLUTITION DISORDERS; MOVING-PICTURES; DWELLINGS; FOREMEN; STATESMEN; REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES.)
- The concealment of material on current and often vital topics by subject-cataloging it under remote or improbable rubrics. (Examples: “Reggae music” under JAZZ ENSEMBLES; “Cohabitation” under SEX AND LAW or COLLEGE STUDENTS—SEXUAL BEHAVIOR; “Food co-ops” under COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES or FOOD INDUSTRY AND TRADE; “Sexism in education” under SEX DIFFERENCES IN EDUCATION; “Political repression in America” under COMMUNISM—UNITED STATES—1917-; “Homesteading” under AGRICULTURE—HANDBOOKS, MANUALS, ETC.; “Job hunting” under APPLICATIONS FOR POSITIONS; “Third World literature” under LITERATURE, MODERN—20TH CENTURY; “Smoking and health” under TOBACCO—PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECT; “Laetrile” under CANCER—PERSONAL NARRATIVES.)
- DDC Phoenixes—completely “remodeled” schedules “prepared with little or no reference to earlier editions”—that wreck call-number integrity and frustrate browsing at all but the few libraries that can afford to reclassify their existing stock.
- CIP entries frequently so incomplete and based on such scanty data that they’re virtually unusable.
- Hierarchical filing that wrongly assumes users know (or can guess) what mischievous librarians have decided to file first, last, and in the middle.

What we do need

- Determination of authors’ names from the title page or container, recognizing that some authors write or compose under various names, all of them being equally “legitimate.” (As a practical result, mysteries by Gordon Ashe, Michael Halliday, Kyle Hunt, J.J. Marric, Anthony Morton, and Jeremy York would have been entered—and shelved—under “Ashe,” “Halliday,” “Hunt,” “Marric,” “Morton,” and “York” instead of being totally lumped together under the late author’s semi-sanctified *real name*, John Creasey. “Creasey” and the six pseudonyms, of course, could be easily connected by notes; e.g., “For works written by this author under other names, see: . . .”)

- Shortened imprint statements; e.g.,

Da Capo Press, 1973.	<i>instead of</i>	Amsterdam, Theatrum Orbis Terrarum; New York, Da Capo Press, 1973.
Doubleday, 1974.	<i>instead of</i>	Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1974.
MIT Press, 1973.	<i>instead of</i>	Cambridge, Mass., MIT Press [1973]
Springer-Verlag, 1973-	<i>instead of</i>	Berlin, New York, Springer-Verlag, 1973-

- Appropriate notes to highlight special features; e.g., the manifold, government-ordered deletions in Marks and Marchetti's *CIA and the Cult of Intelligence*.
- Code-breaking cross-references; e.g.,

Amin Dada, Idi, 1925-
 x Dada, Idi Amin, 1925-
 General Amin, 1925-
 President Amin, 1925-

Cocaine
 x "Blow" (Drug)
 "C-dust" (Drug)
 "Coke" (Drug)
 "Flake" (Drug)
 "Snow" (Drug)
 "Stardust" (Drug)

Rodgers, Mary
 x Rogers, Mary

United Automobile, Aerospace
 and Agricultural Implement
 Workers of America
 x Auto Workers Union
 Automobile Workers Union
 U.A.W.
 United Automobile Workers of
 America

United States.
 Occupational Safety
 and Health Administration
 x O.S.H.A.
 OSHA
 Occupational Health and
 Safety Administration

Urban Coalition of Minneapolis
 x Minneapolis Urban Coalition

- Development of a contemporary, relevant, and accurate subject thesaurus, replete with generous cross-references and including entries for key fictional characters (e.g., Christopher Robin, Sam Spade, Harry Paget Flashman, Inspector Maigret, Perry Mason).

- The regular assignment of enough specific subject tracings to fairly and adequately reflect a work's content, irrespective of whether the material is juvenile or adult, print or A/V, fiction or nonfiction.
- Added entries for all significant, likely-to-be-remembered, or quasi-topical subtitles and catch-titles; e.g.,

CIA and the cult of intelligence.

Added entry: The cult of intelligence.

The rise and fall of the city of Mahagonny.

Added entry: Mahagonny.

The persecution and assassination of Marat as performed by the inmates of the Asylum of Charenton under the direction of the Marquis de Sade.

Added entry: Marat/Sade.

The Anarchist collectives; workers' self-management in the Spanish Revolution, 1936-1939.

Added entries: Workers' self-management in the Spanish Revolution, 1936-1939. The Spanish Revolution, 1936-1939.

Black anti-Semitism and Jewish racism.

Added entry: Jewish racism.

Man's most dangerous myth: the fallacy of race.

Added entry: The fallacy of race.

The case of the fabulous fake.

Added entry: The fabulous fake case.

- Age- and media-integrated catalogs that freely intermix children's and adult materials, as well as print and A/V items, favoring no one genre nor medium over another. (Among other things, this means no "special" subheads for—JUVENILE LITERATURE,—PHONODISCS,—VIDEO CASSETTES,—KITS, etc.)
- The timely creation of new DDC numbers to handle contemporary subjects like "Alternative energy sources," "Feminism," and "Workers' control."
- A comprehensive index to the *Dewey Decimal Classification* that swiftly and directly links topics and numbers. (Try finding "Prison reform," "Wife beating," "Intellectual freedom," or "Vasectomy" in the 18th edition index.)
- A national cataloging center for nonresearch libraries *if* LC and the major vendors refuse to shape up.

Proposed: A Subject Cataloging Code for Public, School, and Community College Libraries

Vocabulary

1. Use English-language terms whenever possible; e.g.,

FREE ENTERPRISE	<i>not</i>	LAISSEZ-FAIRE
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2. Prefer American words and phrases to Anglicisms; e.g.,

LABOR UNIONS	<i>not</i>	TRADE UNIONS
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3. Use direct, contemporary language; e.g.,

AIR FREIGHT	<i>not</i>	AERONAUTICS, COMMERCIAL—FREIGHT
BAY OF PIGS INVASION, 1961	<i>not</i>	CUBA—HISTORY—INVASION, 1961
BUSES	<i>not</i>	MOTOR-BUSES
BUSINESS ENGLISH	<i>not</i>	ENGLISH LANGUAGE—BUSINESS ENGLISH
CIA	<i>not</i>	UNITED STATES, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.
DOWSING	<i>not</i>	DIVINING-ROD
DRIVER EDUCATION	<i>not</i>	AUTOMOBILE DRIVER EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE	<i>not</i>	PERSONNEL SERVICE IN EDUCATION
ENERGY TECHNOLOGY	<i>not</i>	POWER (MECHANICS)
EXCISE TAX	<i>not</i>	TAXATION OF ARTICLES OF CONSUMPTION
FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY	<i>not</i>	PHOTOGRAPHY, FLASHLIGHT
FORENSIC MEDICINE	<i>not</i>	MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE
FOUNDATIONS	<i>not</i>	ENDOWMENTS
GRAVESTONES	<i>not</i>	SEPULCHRAL MONUMENTS
KGB	<i>not</i>	RUSSIA, COMMITTEE FOR STATE SECURITY.
MODEL RAILROADS	<i>not</i>	RAILROADS—MODELS
MOONSHINING	<i>not</i>	DISTILLING, ILLICIT
NUCLEAR WEAPONS	<i>not</i>	ATOMIC WEAPONS
OFFSHORE OIL	<i>not</i>	PETROLEUM IN SUBMERGED LANDS
PSYCHIC HEALING	<i>not</i>	MENTAL HEALING
ROBOTS	<i>not</i>	AUTOMATA
TRUCKING	<i>not</i>	TRANSPORTATION, AUTOMOTIVE—FREIGHT
UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY	<i>not</i>	PHOTOGRAPHY, SUBMARINE

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4. Follow natural word order, avoiding inversions; e.g.,

ADOPTED CHILDREN	<i>not</i>	CHILDREN, ADOPTED
AMERICAN MUSIC	<i>not</i>	MUSIC, AMERICAN
BLACK HOLE OF CALCUTTA	<i>not</i>	CALCUTTA, BLACK HOLE OF
MILITARY PRISONS	<i>not</i>	PRISONS, MILITARY
NATURAL GAS	<i>not</i>	GAS, NATURAL
SPONTANEOUS HUMAN COMBUSTION	<i>not</i>	COMBUSTION, SPON- TANEOUS HUMAN

5. Create headings for popular literary and media genres; e.g.,

CAPTIONED FILMS	OCCULT FICTION
CAUTIONARY TALES AND VERSE	"REGENCY" NOVELS
FANTASTIC ART	SUSPENSE FILMS
FEMINIST ART [ESSAYS, FIC- TION, etc.]	TALL TALES
"GOTHIC" FICTION	TEENAGERS' FILMS [LITERA- TURE, etc.]
	TRIVIA

6. Create headings for popular fictional or folkloric characters, groups, and places; e.g.,

BABE THE BLUE OX	MARPLE, MISS JANE
BACH, P. D. Q.	MIGHTY MOUSE
BROWN, FATHER	THE NORTHS
CHEWBACCA	PADDINGTON-THE-BEAR
CLAUDINE	PELLUCIDAR
COYOTE THE TRICKSTER	ROGERS, BUCK
GRAND FENWICK	SPOCK, MR.
GREEN KNOWE	THRUSH GREEN, ENGLAND
HOLMES, SHERLOCK	WHITEOAK FAMILY
THE HULK	WOOSTER, BERTRAM
MAGOO, MR.	

7. Create headings for major literary and media awards, to be applied to the laureate works themselves; e.g.,

ACADEMY AWARD FILMS	GOLDEN KITE AWARD BOOKS
CALDECOTT MEDAL BOOKS	GOLDEN SPUR AWARD BOOKS
CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD BOOKS	HUGO AWARD WINNERS
EDGAR AWARD BOOKS	NEWBERY MEDAL BOOKS
GAY BOOK AWARDS	SCHWARTZ JUVENILE BOOK AWARDS

8. Whenever possible, use familiar rather than scientific or taxonomic terms for plants, animals, diseases, drugs, etc.; e.g.,

ASIATIC WILD HORSE	<i>not</i>	EQUUS PRZEWALSKII
DIOXIN	<i>not</i>	TETRACHLORODIBENZO- DIOXIN
DNA	<i>not</i>	DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID
GRAY REEF SHARK	<i>not</i>	CARCHARINUS MENISORRAH
MINNOWS	<i>not</i>	FUNDULUS HETEROCLITUS

8. (cont'd), Plants, animals, diseases, drugs, etc.

PBB'S	<i>not</i>	POLYBROMINATED BIPHENYLS
SLOTHS	<i>not</i>	BRADYPUS TRIDACTYLUS
TAY-SACHS' DISEASE	<i>not</i>	AMAUROTIC FAMILY IDIOCY
WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE	<i>not</i>	PEROMYSCUS LEUCOPUS

9. Establish new terms as soon as materials are received dealing with topics that no existing descriptors adequately represent. (For example, most libraries now have materials on ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, ADOPTEES' RIGHTS, KIRIGAMI, JOB SHARING, MATH ANXIETY, SLEEPING PILLS, POOL PLAYERS, THE FIFTIES, THE SIXTIES, the BATES METHODS, SPACE PROGRAMS, SORORITIES, VANITY PRESSES, NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE, the CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT, TWO-CAREER COUPLES, PICK-UP TRUCKS, RADIO COLLECTIBLES, DISCO SKATING, PROPOSITION 13 and NEWS MEDIA, but such materials can't be found under those subject headings in most catalogs.)

10. Avoid sex, ethnic, age, and other bias in people-related terms; prefer self-declared group names; e.g.,

CHILD REARING	<i>not</i>	CHILDREN—MANAGEMENT
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS	<i>not</i>	CITY COUNCILMEN
DISABLED PERSONS	<i>not</i>	HANDICAPPED
ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE—TEXT- BOOKS—SPANISH	<i>not</i>	ENGLISH LANGUAGE—TEXT- BOOKS FOR FOREIGNERS —SPANISH
HUMANS	<i>not</i>	MAN
IGBO (AFRICAN PEOPLE)	<i>not</i>	IBO TRIBE
INUIT	<i>not</i>	ESKIMOS
SENIORS	<i>not</i>	AGED

1. Assign sufficient subject tracings to every work—whether adult or juvenile, fiction or nonfiction, print or audiovisual—to fully and fairly reflect its content; e.g.,

Aiken, Joan, 1924- The smile of the stranger. Doubleday, 1978. 1. "Regency" novels. 2. Seventeen-year-olds—Fic- tion. I. Title.	<i>not</i>	Aiken, Joan, 1924- The smile of the stranger. Doubleday, 1978. I. Title.
MacLeod, Charlotte. Rest you merry. Published for the Crime Club by Doubleday, 1978. 1. American detective and mystery stories. 2. Academic libraries—Fiction. 3. Li- brarians—Fiction. 4. Christmas stories. I. Title.	<i>not</i>	MacLeod, Charlotte. Rest you merry. Published for the Crime Club by Double- day, 1978. I. Title.

Assignment

1. Subject tracings, (cont'd)

King, Billie Jean. Tennis love; a parents' guide to the sport. By Billie Jean King and Greg Hoffman; illustrations by Charles M. Schulz. Macmillan, copyright 1978.	<i>not</i>	King, Billie Jean. Tennis love; a parents' guide to the sport. By Billie Jean King and Greg Hoffman; illustrations by Charles M. Schulz. Macmillan, c 1978.
1. Tennis for children. 2. Tennis—Psychological aspects. 3. Peanuts characters. I. Hoffman, Greg, 1946- joint author. II. Schulz, Charles Monroe, illus. III. Title. IV. Title: A parents' guide to tennis.		1. Tennis. 2. Tennis—Psychological aspects. I. Hoffman, Greg, 1946- joint author. II. Title.

2. Subdivide directly by place; e.g.,

AGRICULTURE—SICILY	<i>not</i>	AGRICULTURE—ITALY—SICILY
EDUCATION—ALSACE	<i>not</i>	EDUCATION—FRANCE—ALSACE
EDUCATION—MINNEAPOLIS	<i>not</i>	EDUCATION—MINNESOTA—MINNEAPOLIS
PREDATORY ANIMALS—SERENGETI PLAIN, TANZANIA	<i>not</i>	PREDATORY ANIMALS—TANZANIA—SERENGETI PLAIN

3. Do not employ such subheadings as:

—ADDRESSES, ESSAYS, LECTURES	—DOCTRINAL AND CONTROVERSIAL WORKS
—AMATEURS' MANUALS	—JUVENILE LITERATURE
—CONGRESSES	—POPULAR WORKS

4. Use subheadings like —HANDBOOKS, MANUALS, ETC. and —UNITED STATES on a selective basis, depending on the library's collection; e.g.,

BRICKLAYING	<i>not</i>	BRICKLAYING—HANDBOOKS, MANUALS, ETC.
CARPENTRY	<i>not</i>	CARPENTRY—HANDBOOKS, MANUALS, ETC.
FEDERAL AID TO LIBRARIES	<i>not</i>	FEDERAL AID TO LIBRARIES—UNITED STATES
INCOME TAX	<i>not</i>	INCOME TAX—UNITED STATES
PUBLIC HEALTH LAWS	<i>not</i>	PUBLIC HEALTH LAWS—UNITED STATES