Library Resource Management in the Digital Age

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Abstract

The Schools Catalogue Information Service (SCIS) is a business division of the government-owned not-for-profit company Education Services Australia (ESA). SCIS provides schools with access to a database of high quality, consistent catalogue records created according to national and international standards. SCIS reduces the cost and duplication of effort of cataloguing resources and supplies MARC records to schools in the Asia-Pacific region, including over 93% of Australian schools.

This workshop looks at use of a centralised bibliographic database that has been created specifically to support school libraries. This will include of how SCIS's tightly-controlled subject headings and authority files improve discovery for students and teachers. We provide an overview to the SCIS approach to subject-cataloguing, including how the Schools Online Thesaurus (ScOT) links resources and information needs in the school context.

The workshop will explore the SCIS catalogue, and examine its use as a tool for identifying and selecting quality educational resources in use in Australian and New Zealand schools. The question of digital resource management will be raised as we explore the role that a school library can play beyond management of physical items. We examine the benefits of including catalogue records for websites and apps within school library management systems, suggesting that records for digital content provide a meaningful and cost-effective way to enhance school library collections and promote the school library as the central print and digital resource management solution. Curation of digital content in the SCIS bibliographic database is described, and we demonstrate SCIS's digital content collections.

Biographical note

Author 1: Dr Ben Chadwick has worked as SCIS Manager at Education Services Australia (ESA) in Melbourne, Australia since July 2014; his main professional topic is educational metadata and school libraries. Ben began at ESA in 2012 as a metadata analyst working on the linked-data Australian Education Vocabularies.

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