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Cataloger's Desktop

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bepress™

ONLINE FILM DICTIONARY–
http://home.snafu.de/ohei/ofd/moviedict_e.html

This useful resource, developed by Oliver Heidelbach, is essential for those cataloging foreign films. Select the language of the film (Francais), your native language (English), enter the search term (réalisation) and select "Search." The results page will provide the term and its translation into your native language. Alternately, you can search by category (acting, direction, production design, etc.) after selecting the language of the film and your native language. This site is particularly helpful when you are unfamiliar with the language of the film and can find little information online to help translate the credits.

The site itself is easy to use, with clear and consistent navigation across the site. The code and style could be freshened up, but the content more than makes up for clunky code.

Rating: 4 out of 5.

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CATALOGER'S DESKTOP–
http://desktop.loc.gov/

Cataloger's Desktop has been issued quarterly by the Library of Congress (LC) since 1994. Initially it was distributed on CD-ROM. In early 2004 the product also became available as an online Web resource. The CD-ROM version was discontinued with the fourth issue of 2005. This allowed for a significant revamping of the Web version, which took place in the spring of 2006. This review is intended to be an overview of the current Web version of *Cataloger's Desktop* and not a definitive documentation and critique of all of its features.

Cataloger's Desktop offers access to roughly 150 electronic resources. At the core are the recently added *Anglo-American Cataloging Rules*, the *Library of Congress Rule Interpretations*, and online versions of other LC resources. There are also links to resources that are not issued by LC, such as *Authority Tools for Audiovisual and Music Catalogers* (a resource from Online Audiovisual Catalogers, Inc.) and the *Geographic Names Information System*. Most of the internal resources can be accessed through a hierarchical table of contents that employs frames. When any of the external resources are selected, one of two

things happens: (a) a new Web page is opened, and the selected resource is launched, or (b) the resource is opened within the frames of *Cataloger's Desktop*. Fortunately, the frames are movable in standard Windows fashion. The conventional full-screen command (F11) is also available.

There are two primary ways of searching *Cataloger's Desktop*. A browsable menu of all available resources is given at the left of the home page. The list is, by necessity, very long. Fortunately, there are several ways to shorten the list. A user can select from among several pre-coordinated clusters of resources, for example, the type of activity or type of material. The user can also limit the list by choosing only LC resources or only keyword searchable resources. There is also an option to completely customize ones list of resources, title by title. Though a little time consuming to set up, tailoring the list is well worth the effort, based on this reviewer's experiences. Once a title is selected, a table of contents appears for many resources. In some cases, the table goes down to the rule level if the user continues to click on titles of sub-units.

As referred to above, Cataloger's Desktop supports keyword searching of many of the listed resources. Approximately sixty-five of the titles are included in the indexing that supports keyword searching. In addition to monographic resources that LC produces, sites such as the AUTOCAT archives and the *Library of Congress Subject Headings Weekly Lists* of new and revised subject headings are also indexed for keyword searching. Advanced search options include Boolean and Folio-syntax searching as well as a variety of options for limiting results. (Folio is the program on which *Cataloger's Desktop* is built.)

For those who know the separate publications fairly well, using the title menu is likely to be the quickest way to find desired information. For those new to cataloging, the keyword search is perhaps the better choice. Offering both options is, of course, the best choice.

One of the very helpful features of the *Cataloger's Desktop* is that it regularly incorporates new and revised information. This occurs for all resources whose print counterparts are updated. One no longer needs to process stacks of loose-leaf update packages to keep documentation current. Be forewarned, however, that document updating and indexing for *Cataloger's Desktop* is compiled quarterly. Indexing of many effected resources is delayed by several months. At present, the indexing for the *Weekly Lists* is roughly six months behind. This is an unfortunate byproduct of the quarterly indexing of *Cataloger's Desktop*.

The quarterly issuance affects much more than keyword searching. Updates to LC documents are also often delayed by the quarterly publi-

cation cycle of *Cataloger's Desktop*. I had assumed that the quarterly pattern was tied to the CD-ROM version of the product and expected that, once the CD-ROM version ceased, the online version would be updated continuously, as are many Web resources, but the online version will continue to be updated quarterly. While there are some reasons to continue updating quarterly, I believe that the need for current information is far more compelling. For the latest information, one must go somewhere besides the *Cataloger's Desktop*.

One reason for the quarterly updating is that certain documents are heavily hyperlinked, both internally and to other resources. Adding this very helpful infrastructure would be quite challenging if *Cataloger's Desktop* was to be continuously updated. Of particular note is the thorough linking done between the latest versions of the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*, the *Library of Congress Rule Interpretations*, *AACR–Rule Interpretations from Library and Archives Canada, Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Books*, the *Map Cataloging Manual*, *MARC21 Format for Bibliographic Data, Archival Moving Image Materials*, and the handbook for cataloging *Graphic Materials*. These and other documents also include internal links to definitions and related sections, as well as links from index entries. User activated pop-ups are also used sparingly.

In *Cataloger's Desktop*, users can add bookmarks at specific places in many of the offered resources. Notes can also be added. Any user can add, change and delete bookmarks and notes. Be aware that these are stored on the server so that anyone logging in with the same authorization code will see all bookmarks and notes associated with a particular licensing group. Ideally, there would be an option to have personal notes and shared notes.

The default access to *Cataloger's Desktop* requires use of user name and password. It is also possible to identify users by IP ranges, which saves users time in connecting to the service. This is the only administrator-controlled parameter that directly impacts users.

Cataloger's Desktop is available by subscription, and the fee is based on the selected maximum number of simultaneous users. As of May 2006, an annual subscription for a single user costs $575.00, while access for 25-29 concurrent users costs $1,800.00. Curiously, in fall 2005, when I contacted the Cataloging Distribution Service (CDS, a division of LC) to find what was our maximum number of simultaneous users, I was told that the only information they could give me was the maximum number of logins per day, not the highest number of simultaneous users.

For any shop that contributes much original cataloging to a utility, access to *Cataloger's Desktop* would clearly be beneficial. Despite the expressed concerns about currency, the fact that the interface allows for much deeper searching than can reasonably be done with print resources is certainly more important. *Cataloger's Desktop* provides access to many documents that smaller libraries may not buy in print. It can also be used as an alternative for certain print publications that are not frequently updated, such as the *Anglo-American Cataloging Rules* and the *ALA-LC Romanization Tables*. Any cataloging service that can afford the *Cataloger's Desktop* would certainly benefit from its use.

Rating: 4.5 out of 5.

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NOTES

1. Bruce Chr. Johnson, Library of Congress, electronic message to author, sent March 8, 2006.
2. Linda A. Jarmy, Library of Congress, electronic message ot author, sent Nov. 11, 2005.