

# Find, Identify, Select...Socialize?

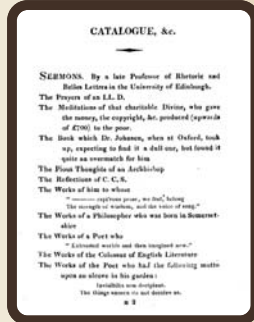
## Alternative Objectives of Library Catalogs

Rachel Ivy Clarke α University of Washington Information School

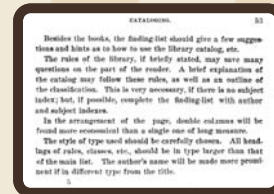
Throughout history, library catalogs have served many purposes. Yet contemporary formal statements of catalog objectives focus on inventory and holdings. As libraries question the continued relevance of library catalogs, these purposes call for reexamination. This historical review of existing objectives of library catalogs and proposed alternatives can inform future designs that may demonstrate continued relevance.



Clay tablet fragment from the Library of Ashurbanipal  
7th century BCE



A Catalogue of Standard Books  
made on an entirely New Plan  
John Cole, 1817



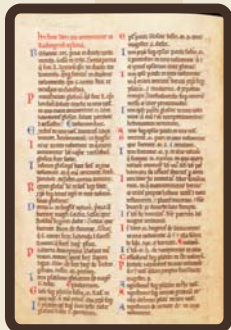
Biennial Report of the  
Free Library Commission of Wisconsin  
1896



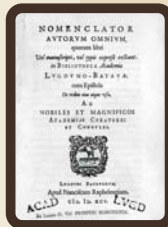
Anthony Panizzi  
Vanity Fair, 1874



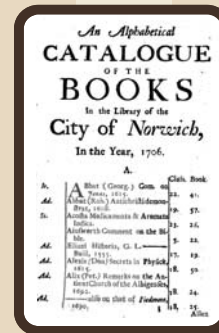
navigation  
education  
expression  
inventory  
finding aid  
marketing  
social connection



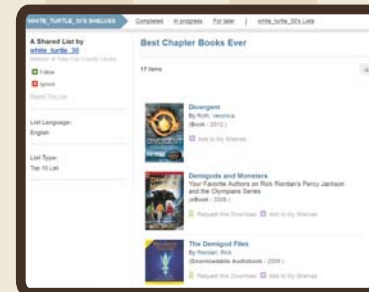
Catalogue of Reading Abbey  
England, 12th century



Nomenclator  
Leiden University  
The Netherlands, 1595



Catalogue of Norwich City library  
England, 1706



Social features in BiblioCommons  
2014