CADENSA

The catalogue of the British Library
National Sound Archive
Catalogue History

- Pink cards
- Card catalogue
- Automated catalogue – microfiche
  - Both of these to NSA rules + AACR2 access points
  - All names are equal!
  - Separate fields for recording date and recording place
- Curatorial indexes
- WERM
NSA IT Project

- Touche Ross consultancy
- Unicorn (Sirsi Corp.) + IBM RS6000
- Stock and conservation management as well as a catalogue
Data Conversion

- Problems foreseen – but not all
- Keyboarding of very variable quality
- Even problems with automated catalogue
  - Mixed added entries very difficult to allocate to tags
  - Notes fields “lost”
Additional Data Imports

• National Discography (MCPS)
• BBC Gramophone Library
Catalogue Structure

- ISAM / BRS
- MARC tags – mostly non-standard
- Three “libraries”:
  - Work
  - Recording
  - Product (Carrier)
- Link fields:
  - 299 (short title) in Work and Recording
  - 087 (accession number) in Recording and Product
Using CADENSA

- Relatively easy to use
- Linking gives great flexibility
- Ability to browse
- Serendipity factor is high
The Future

- Hardware and software upgrades
- Web access
- Uniform British Library interface
- Unicode
Contact

- antony.gordon@bl.uk
- www.bl.uk