

# MIGRATION FALLOUT:

Moving from Innovative Interfaces to Primo

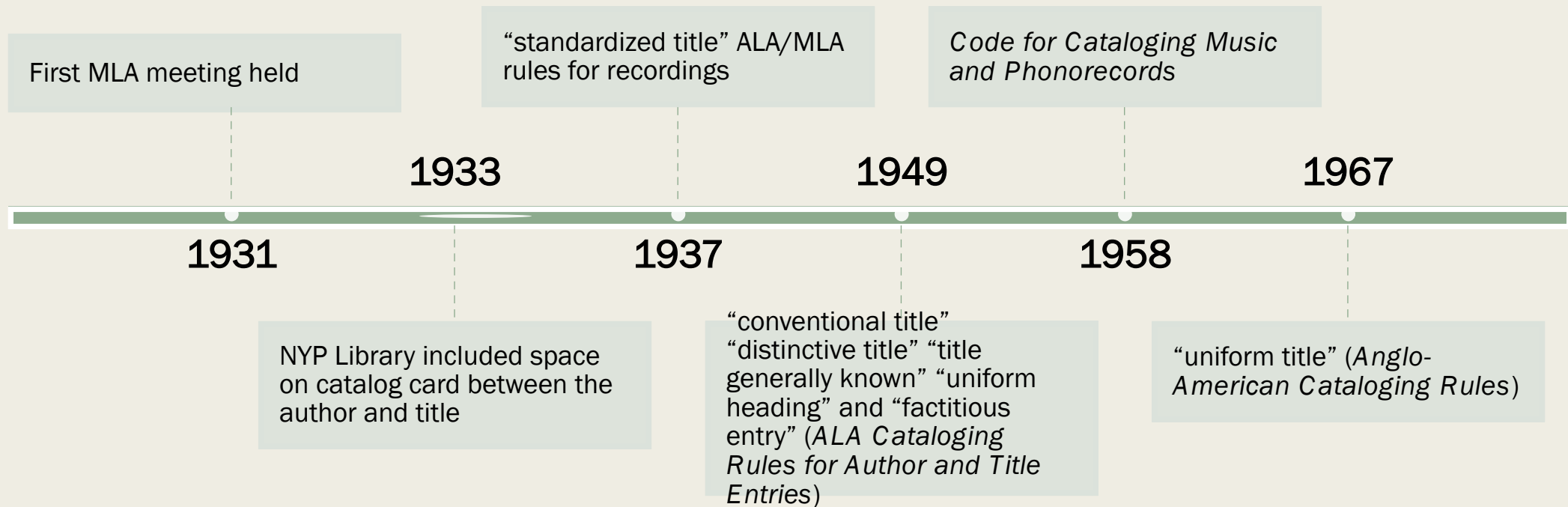
By Anita Breckbill  
IAML, July 2021



... to create an alphabetical catalog for a large collection of a multitude of books from all over the world brings up “intricate and difficult problems that torture the mind.” (Tillett, 2004, quoting Sir Thomas Hyde, 1674)



# History of the Uniform Title



# Quotations—uniform titles

Uniform titles are a **vexation** to music catalogers, who must spend considerable time on authority work to establish them.

They are a **menace** to unwary patrons not thoroughly schooled in their arcane structure and application. However, they are **absolutely necessary** to bring together in logical order in the catalog all of the different editions of the same composition. (Fling, 1990)

# Quotations from library literature

# Quotations--Keyword searching

All attempts to provide coherent, accurate access to large numbers of Net and Web resources have been dismal failures, failing to provide either recall or relevance. There is a simple reason why this is and will remain so--**keyword searching has proven to be inadequate for decades**, especially when compared to standardization of access points and the creation of internally consistent authority files.”

(Gorman, 1997)



# Quotations—Keyword searching

“If I had to blame the stunted development of online catalogs on one thing,” writes Andrew K. Pace in *American Libraries*, “it would be the introduction of keyword searching....Our profession’s utter fascination with **the ability to keyword search a catalog** has kept both librarians and vendors myopic for nearly 25 years.”

(Boyd, 2005, quoting Pace, 2005)





# Quotations—Keyword searching

Patrons can be **overwhelmed** by large retrieval sets when the catalogs provide **inadequate means of interpreting the nature of the relationships.**

(Vellucci 1998)





# Quotations--Display

...at this point many of the systems we are given cannot be used well. **They are inherently deficient.**”

(Coral, 1993)



1



BOOK

## **Beethoven Werke. Kritischer Bericht**

Beethoven, Ludwig van, 1770-1827.

1984-; München : G. Henle Verlag

 [Available at Music Library](#) [Music score \(M3 B442\)](#) >



2



SCORE

## **Die Sinfonien von Ludwig van Beethoven : historische, analytische und praktische Studien**

Markevitch, Igor, 1912-1983; Beethoven, Ludwig van, 1770-1827.

c1981-1983; Leipzig : Edition Peters ; Frankfurt ; New York : C.F. Peters

 [Available at Music Library](#) [Music score \(ML410.B42 M37 1981\)](#) >



3



AUDIO CD

## **String quartet op. 131 ; String quartet op. 18, no. 4**

Beethoven, Ludwig van, 1770-1827, composer.; Beethoven, Ludwig van, 1770-1827.; Paizo Kvartetten, instrumentalist.

2006?; Denmark : Classico / Qualiton Imports, Ltd.

 [Available Online](#) >



4



SCORE

## **Connecting the dots : "Beethoven Ninth bagatelle" : for piano ; Connecting the dots**

Ran, Shulamit, 1949- composer; Beethoven, Ludwig van, 1770-1827



5



SCORE

## 10 sonates pour piano et violon

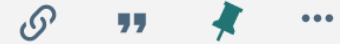
[Beethoven, Ludwig van](#), 1770-1827

1889; Germany: B. Schott, [188-?]

 OPEN ACCESS

 [Available Online](#) >

 [Full Text available at HathiTrust](#) 



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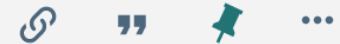
AUDIO CD

## The 10 violin sonatas ; Sonatas, violin, piano

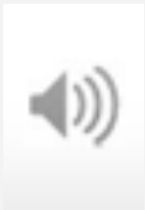
[Beethoven, Ludwig van](#), 1770-1827, composer.; Cerovsek, Corey, performer.; Jumppanen, Paavali, 1974-  
performer.; [Beethoven, Ludwig van](#), 1770-1827.

2006; Thun, Switzerland : Claves Records

 [Available Online](#) >



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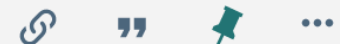
AUDIO CD

## 100 BEATS - Chilled Sampler

Lennon, T ; Amas K ; Choices ; Hands, R ; Rivers, Billy ; Cappell ; Fauré, Gabriel ; Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus ;  
Welas, Vlad ; Mitchell R ; Velvet, V ; Andy, Rich ; Colbie, C ; Hermelijn, Dylan ; Novak, Gregg ; Cocker, Paul ;  
[Beethoven, Ludwig van](#) ; Eon A ; Tchaikovsky, Pyotr Il'yich ; Sibelius, Jean ; Berkeley, Y ; John, Lomas ; Prokofiev,  
Sergey ; Spirit Drummer ; Garcia, S ; Nelson, C ; Jahn, Martin ; Island ; Rapson, S ; Cavan S ; Giazotto, Remo ; ...

Hong Kong: Naxos Digital Services US Inc

 [Available Online](#) >



# Quotations--Display

We lost the collocation of many works and expressions in OPACs that, to this day, typically do not properly index uniform titles. **Just talk to your music librarian colleagues to hear their dismay** about current online catalogs displaying musical works. Our tools are not as good as they should be or as they can be. ... Yet, those OPACs brought us the ability to filter and limit searches and to bring together records in ways we could not do in book or card catalogs. **They gave us the mixed blessing of keyword searching for great recall at the expense of precision.**

(Tillett, 2005)



# Quotations—Our mission

Bad record design and bad catalog design have dulled us to our mission to carry out the cataloging objectives. It is no wonder that even many catalogers have forgotten the potential value of main entries using uniform titles when necessary for carrying out the objectives of the catalog. ... generations of library leaders ... allowed the development of OPACs that impede the user who seeks particular works much more than the card catalog ever did. **Perhaps it is time for a Renaissance of the work principle** to lead the library catalog out of the Dark Ages that current library leadership have allowed to descend over it.

(Yee 2000)



# Quotations—New technology

If the assembly of such complex displays is beyond the capacity of [the vendors] that deliver records on demand over the Internet to catalog searchers, then perhaps the conclusion to be reached is that **this is not the correct technology** to be used in the construction of catalogs. Perhaps we are letting the tail wag the dog. Lest we become inveterate dog-waggers, perhaps we should **seek new technology** that is capable of producing online public access catalogs, as opposed to our current online public access finding lists.

(Yee 2005)

# Quotations--Relationships

“If our normalized data is not searched and displayed separately from non-normalized data, all of the expensive work we do to link and demonstrate relationships ... is **lost in a sea of mud.**”

(Yee 2013)





# Quotations—Bottom line

When we try to argue for the continuing existence of our profession on the basis of our expertise in the organization of information, **what scholar in the humanities is going to stand up for us**, after spending a career trying to navigate the **chaos we have created in our online catalogs** for those who are looking for known prolific works? (Yee 2005)

# Reasons for the Fallout

- Vendors do not read our literature.
- Each music librarian is only one voice among many in his/her own system. It is hard for one voice to have enough knowledge and clout to sufficiently explain, advocate, and convince others about what is needed in their corner of the universe.
- The information needed to have a coherent catalog is in the MARC record and is not used.
- The music community is small and without financial influence.
- The solution will be political—and technical.

# Why not to care?



Users will still search by keyword



Our authority system is too expensive



We're using the wrong technology



We're using the wrong philosophy

- True, but we as librarians have to be able to locate music in our catalog even if our users can't.
- Expensive but vital
- Yes, but the information is there and we know a good presentation is possible
- Perhaps, but that is for visionaries of the future

# Getting back on our migration route

- Write enhancement requests and advertise for votes from other institutions
- Focus the message—alphabetical display of uniform titles (from 240 and 700 |t fields) under author search
- Write letter with signatures from Alma Users Group, Big Ten librarians, an MLA committee, others?
- What am I forgetting?

# Bibliography, part 1

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# Bibliography, part 2

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