

Special Collections Cataloging in the 21st Century Academic Library

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Some Predictions for the Future

Special Collections

Optimistic: Special Collections will become increasingly more important to asserting library collections' uniqueness as a whole.

Cataloging

Pessimistic: Catalog is an outdated tool in the age of Google. All cataloging functions can be outsourced.

Paradox for Special Collections Catalogers

- Access is an essential component to Special Collections.
- Closed stacks, so patrons must rely on the catalog or other tools to identify research material.
- Special Collections cataloging is not ideal for outsourcing.

Future of Special Collections Cataloging

- Plenty of work to do.
- Face several important challenges and opportunities in the changing environment of 21st century academic libraries.

New and Revised Cataloging Rules

- *Special Collections specific:* DACS, DCRM.
- *General:* RDA.
- *Challenge:* Learning new rules.
- *Opportunity:* Set precedents for the future.

Position Catalog as Gateway to All Library Resources

- Includes integrating all Special Collections holdings into the catalog.
- Special Collections non-book materials are underrepresented in library catalogs.
- The more ways to discover Special Collections materials, the better.

Cooperative Catalogs

- Not realistic to expect distance patrons to search every library's catalog individually.
- Special Collections items should be included.
- Still some issues to be worked out in terms of displaying Special Collections information in these centralized systems.

Record in UA catalog

Record in OhioLINK

Author [Braden, James A. \(James Andrew\), 1872-1955](#)
Title [The trail of the Seneca / by James A. Braden ; illustrated by R.G. Vosburgh](#)
Imprint New York ; Akron, Ohio : Saalfeld, c1927

Permanent URL for this record: <http://library.uakron.edu/record=b3228646~S0>

Copy Status More Details Find Similar Items Full Record [Print Version](#)

Call # [PS3503.R168 T73 1927](#)
Phys Descr 249 p. : 1 ill. ; 19 cm
Summary "In which we follow the romantic careers of John Jerome and Return Kingdom a little farther. These two self-reliant boys are living peaceably in their cabin on the Cuyahoga when an Indian warrior is found dead in the woods nearby. The Seneca accuses John of witchcraft. This means death at the stake if he is captured. They decide that the Seneca's charge is made to shield himself, and set out to prove it. Mad Anthony, then on the Ohio, comes to their aid, but all their efforts prove futile and the lone cabin is found in ashes on their return"--Publisher's advertisement
Note With original dust jacket

Author [Braden, James A. \(James Andrew\), 1872-1955](#)
Series [The boys' pioneer series](#)
[Braden, James A. \(James Andrew\), 1872-1955. Boys' pioneer series](#)

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Subject [Frontier and pioneer life -- Ohio -- Juvenile fiction](#)

[Show similar items](#)

[Indians of North America -- Ohio -- Juvenile fiction](#)

[Show similar items](#)

[Witch hunting -- Juvenile fiction](#)

[Show similar items](#)

[Pioneer children -- Ohio -- Juvenile fiction](#)

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Other Auth [Saalfeld Pub. Co](#)

OCLC # 17500049

LOC	CALL #	STATUS
Spec.Col.	PS3503.R168 T73 1927	NON-CIRC

Author [Braden, James A. \(James Andrew\), 1872-1955](#)
Title [The trail of the Seneca / by James A. Braden ; illustrated by R. G. Vosburgh](#)
Publish Info New York ; Akron, Ohio : The Saalfeld Publishing Company, c1927

HOLDINGS FOR OhioLINK CENTRAL DATABASE

[REQUEST THIS ITEM](#)

[Kent State U](#) [U of Akron](#)

Library	Location	Online Version	Call Number/Serial Holdings	Status
Kent State U	MAIN Spec Coll NE Regional Depository		Saalfeld 73	LIB USE ONLY
Kent State U	MAIN Spec Coll NE Regional Depository		Saalfeld 74	LIB USE ONLY
U of Akron	Spec.Col.		PS3503.R168 T73 1927	LIB USE ONLY

Descript'n 249 p. : 1 ill. ; 19 cm
Series [Boys' pioneer series](#)
Note From the Saalfeld Publishing Company Collection
 Dust jacket
Genre/Form Juvenile literature. rbgrr
Alt Name [Saalfeld Pub. Co, Publisher.](#)
[Saalfeld Publishing Company Collection](#)
OCLC # 17500049



Ongoing Problem of Cataloging Backlogs

Need More Cataloging Staff

- Sadly, new funding for new positions is often unrealistic.
- Potential to reallocate existing cataloging staff towards Special Collections projects.
- Dovetail cataloging with other Special Collections initiatives such as creating EAD Finding Aids and Metadata.

Re-examine Special Collections Cataloging Practices

- Special Collections cataloging is very detailed and time consuming.
- Look at MPLP model and choose which collections get the most cataloging detail.
- Big challenge: not to go too far the other way and create records that are unusable.

Conclusion

- 21st century is a time of change and transition.
- Look at challenges as opportunities to shape the profession for the future.

Cataloging is not Dead!

Special Collections
Catalogers have a
lot of work ahead
of them.



Bibliography

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