

News Release: American Library Association

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For immediate release

"The Catalog: Its Nature and Prospects" is the subject of an institute to be held in New York City, October 9 - 10, 1975. The institute will be cosponsored by several units of the American Library Association including the Information Science and Automation Division, the Reference and Adult Services Division, and the Resources and Technical Services Division, Cataloging and Classification Section. Program Chairman is Maurice Freedman, New York Public Library.

The program will be concerned with the nature of the catalog and its prospects for the future. The catalog will be viewed on its own, and in the context of the technology of the 1970's and its use in American libraries. The target audience includes systems, technical services, cataloging or public service librarians.

The subjects to be covered include:

1. The nature and function of the catalog: what it is and what it is supposed to accomplish.
2. Innovative concepts of bibliography in an automated catalog: the "minicat" cataloging from the title page, the CRT terminal as a matrix, etc.--the new generation of cataloging and catalogs.
3. The use of automation to maintain a catalog and to guarantee its integrity.

4. The continuing role of the Library of Congress in the future catalogs in American libraries.

5. The catalog as a public service tool: a public service librarian's view of the current state of the catalog and cataloging data.

6. The electronic catalog. What effects will it have on the user, the public service librarian, the cataloger and the administrator?

7. The future of the catalog in American libraries. Microform catalogs, COM, on-line, off-line--the technological and conceptual trends presently developing and what they hold for the future.

8. The catalog as an interpretive and reflective instrument of world culture, national and international politics, and changes in life styles. Should it reflect the ideals, goals, outlook, and philosophy of world culture?

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