

# Catapult

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## From the Editors

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to the first issue of 2019!

The upcoming changes to RDA will occupy us all for the rest of 2019 and into 2020. Expect the next issue to be filled with news and articles related to the changes but this issue is like the calm before the storm.

Cataloguers have the reputation of being a somewhat introverted bunch, but would working completely physically separated from your colleagues be your dream or nightmare?

Charlotte has written our feature article and shares her experience working full-time remotely from her home in Whitianga - 650 kilometres from the rest of her team in Wellington. Do you have a different or interesting workspace you'd like to share in our August issue? If so, give us a shout!

Kia pai tō koutou rā / have a nice day!

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***Catapult* is published three times a year (April, August and December)**

Archived issues are available on [DescribeNZ](#)

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## LIANZA CatSIG Committee

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Contact the Committee: [catsigcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:catsigcommittee@gmail.com)

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## LIANZA CatSIG news

CatSIG has been waiting to hear what changes will be happening for LIANZA's Special Interest Groups and regional bodies as a result of the recent Working Group investigation of this area.

These changes have now been announced on the [LIANZA website](#) and will come into effect from 1 July 2019. The CatSIG Committee will be evaluating the impact of these changes on how CatSIG operates, and how we will work in the future as a LIANZA Community.

If you have any feedback, please share with the Committee at [catsigcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:catsigcommittee@gmail.com)

### ORDAC

The CatSIG representatives on the [Oceania RDA Committee \(ORDAC\)](#) have been busy responding to requests from the RSC as the English text of the new Toolkit is being stabilised.

See the RDA resources and updates section later in this newsletter for more information.

### ***Catapult*—New Editors needed!**

Looking for a great professional development opportunity or something that will stand out in your [revalidation journal](#) for your Professional Registration?

Editing *Catapult* is a great way to not only learn how to put together a regular newsletter but also to learn a lot about what's happening in the world of cataloguing. It takes just a few hours each issue (of which there are now only three a year), and each time is easier than the last.

Charlotte and I have enjoyed putting the last few issues together but the upcoming RDA release will demand our time is spent in getting to grips with the new Toolkit and the follow-on work of updating all the National Library of New Zealand's policies.

You don't have to be a current LIANZA CatSIG Committee member to take on this role. You just need to be prepared to take on the responsibility for co-ordinating content and putting together the issue.

If you have any questions, contact either Charlotte or I, or the Committee at [catsigcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:catsigcommittee@gmail.com)

## Home work

*A reflection by Charlotte Christensen, Senior Collection Description Librarian for the National Library of New Zealand and full time remote worker*



*Charlotte on the phone*

In late 2012 I left the National Library office in Wellington for the tiny coastal community of Whitianga on the Coromandel Peninsula. Starting in January 2013 I resumed my work as a cataloguer, now working remotely from my home, and have continued ever since. I'm asked periodically how this happened. The National Library had not planned to have a remote worker, there was no advertised position for someone working remotely, and there was no special arrangement planned in advance. So how did I get to where I am?



*Photo from [Wikimedia Commons](#) of Mercury Bay, looking north - I walk the path along here into town with my 4-year-old. Whitianga has approximately 4000 residents as at the last census.*

I was previously working as a cataloguing team leader, and had handed in my notice, but in the last couple of weeks before I left there was a senior cataloguer role advertised. I applied for it, and carefully made the case that I could fulfil the requirements of the role while working remotely based on my knowledge of the work that needed to be done and the IT capability already in place. We had very recently been out of the Wellington National Library building for a complete refit, and during that time used a remote access system to perform some cataloguing tasks. We also had an increasing amount of born-digital material coming through which didn't require on site access. In my favour I had also had previous experience managing off site workers and could talk about how I thought it could benefit the team.

It's obvious now that I was able to make a good case for the remote working, but at the time I was not at all sure. It was clear to me that the preference would have been for someone to be on site and able to be in the office. I could understand that preference and I was asking for some faith that this would work as well for the library as it might for me.

### **Working remotely - the good stuff**

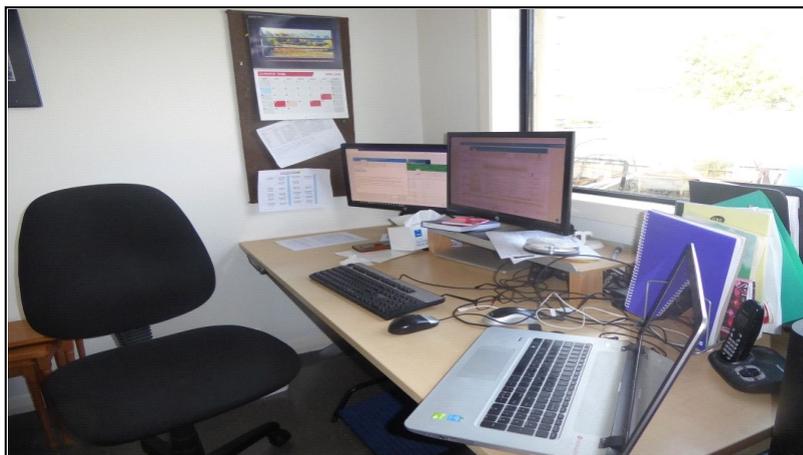
It's undeniable that there are some advantages to working from home. No commute, for one thing, and no dress code. There have been days when my toddlers have relocated my hairbrush to places unknown but I've still been on time to work (tidy hair not being so important when no-one can see you!) and on cold mornings I can wear totally unfashionable thick socks and slippers. I can choose the music to listen to while I work, and not worry that it won't suit everyone, and I can change my mind about what I'm having for lunch without having to spend any money. I don't have fire or earthquake drills (though we have had to evacuate a time or two on tsunami alert, but those weren't exactly drills) and I never have any trouble finding quiet space to do some thinking work, since there's no-one else in my office to distract me. Workplace illnesses pass me by as they sweep through the team, and my regional anniversary day falls on a different date than the Wellington one so I have a "quiet" day when they're off and a day off when they're working.

### **Working remotely - the challenges**

On the other hand, not everything is that easy.

You do need to take seriously the need for a proper 'office' if it's going to be a long-term arrangement. A proper chair and workstation make a huge difference to your comfort - your employer is still responsible for your health and safety in the

workplace, but you have to take some responsibility if you're slouching on the couch and then have issues. Like everything else, responsibility is shared.



*My workspace complete with two wide 23" screens and work laptop under the main screen with docking station - the second laptop is necessary because my work one doesn't allow me to print at home; it also doubles as my workday sound system*

I have to work hard to keep in touch with my colleagues, to stay involved and be aware of what's going on, and I never get to go on team outings or even share gossip over morning tea. Team meetings are done over the phone and I can't always hear everyone if there's a quiet speaker seated at a distance from the receiver, or if someone nearby shuffles some pages or moves their chair.

There's also the temptation of just being in the house. For some people I expect there may be a risk of shortening their hours because no-one's there to see them, and it's equally easy to work through a break or a little overtime just because you're in the middle of something and it's right there. I'm very rigid with my hours, working as though I was in the office, but my break times often aren't that restful. It's too tempting to fill/empty the dishwasher, hang out that washing, make the kids' beds, chop those veges for dinner, and do all manner of other things that mean I'm often back at my desk wondering where my break went. If I was at work I'd sit and chat or read a book, but here the chores call. Not having pre-made my lunch, too, means that I'm sometimes scrambling to find something I have time to make and eat before I've got to go back.

Then there's the reality that this is my home as well as my workplace. I have two children under 5 and I've had to learn to turn the music up and ignore the crying in the background when they're unhappy - they're going to be fine, and I'm not "here" - and to time my sneaks to the bathroom when they're not in range to see me. It's gotten easier since they go to day care three days a week, and my husband's a great house dad. They're very used to mummy being out of reach, but it can still be hard some days. More than once a phone conference has been interrupted by a young voice calling through the door for my attention.



*My two darlings at Easter*

There are also the interruptions from couriers coming to the door, or relatives ringing up for a chat and having to be rung back later. When I was new to the community I also had many invites to lunch (which lasts at least two hours, I discovered...) from friendly people who struggled to understand how I could be working at home and yet not be able to just work whatever hours I pleased. And this works the other way too - I can't count how many work-related calls I've taken on lunch breaks or after I've logged out for the day, frequently from IT staff, assuming that since I answered the phone I'm still at work. It's often easier to just have the conversation at the time than waste time explaining that they've got me "at home".

But above all, technology is the biggest challenge. Working remotely you have to be prepared to partially be your own IT support. I have equipment supplied by National Library but I have to set it up and make sure it works, and sometimes things work in a slightly different way for me than for people on site. Until a year ago, the technology did not allow for me to have a second screen, and every time there is a

change to the IP range or firewall I have issues with accessing tools or resources. I'm fortunate to be well-supported with a national service desk, but there is always a little confusion when they try to work out which office I'm working in, particularly when they want me to just "drop in" to sort something out. Even within the wider Department of Internal Affairs where the National Library sits, my completely remote role is something of a rarity.

### So what do I do all day?

There's certainly never time to worry about being bored!

The core of my role is straightforward cataloguing. I work almost exclusively on digital materials collected for the National Digital Heritage Archive (NDHA) which ranges from government reports to erotic fiction and everything in between which has been published in New Zealand. There are frequently no existing records for these titles, particularly the self-published ones, so it is a high proportion of original cataloguing which is something of a luxury these days.

Title	Publisher
They're our whānau : a community -powered and collaborative research report on Māori perspectives of New Zealand's justice system.	ActionStation
Urban drift /	Ane Tonga
No animal left behind: a report on a nimal inclusive emergency management law reform /	Animal Evac New Zealand Trust
The Exodus : activity book : kids ages 3-5 /	Bible Pathway Adventures
Input methodologies review draft decisions.	Commerce Commission New Zealand
Oh no look what the cat dragged in /	DHD Publishing
Translating for Pacific language resources : an organisational approach.	Le Va
Ganymede plague : a space opera adventure story /	Mondegreen

*An excerpt from my recent worklist showing a variety of titles*

In between, I am directly involved in the mahi of Te Whakakaokao (the Māori Subject Headings Working Group) and travel to hui several times a year, and I provide technical advice on cataloguing to the Kōtui Cataloguing Working Group through web-based meetings.

Internally I also have responsibility for helping to develop National Library cataloguing policy, as a senior cataloguer, and with the stabilised text of the RDA Beta Toolkit due out at the end of April I expect to be heavily involved in discussions on the revisions of our policies. I also provide support to other cataloguers at the National Library - we're a collegial group, and often seek each other's opinions on

the more complex issues we come across. I ask my share of curly questions, and get a good number back in return!

Last year I even tried my hand at distance training, though was eventually stymied by a lack of good screensharing software; this may still be an option for the future!

### **Would I do it again?**

Truth be told, I miss the office. The interaction with others, actually leaving the house during the day, the joys of proper heating and cooling systems that don't send my power bills skyrocketing - it has a lot going for it. But I'm grateful that the remote working option has worked out; if it hadn't I certainly wouldn't be cataloguing today.

I have been blessed with managers and team leaders willing to work with me to see this work out, but I have also had to prove the concept. I'm highly conscious of my daily cataloguing output (i.e. how many titles I complete) as the most obvious measure that I am contributing value to the team in spite of my physical separation, and I make a point of getting involved whenever I can, whether by emailed feedback, conference calls or rare physical visits. I use the tools available to me, and seek opportunities to expand the range of tasks I can take on. Working from home won't work for everyone, and it is harder to pull off than it may look, but it works for me.

## **Cataloguers : we need you!**

### *Calling for more stories for Catapult*

Above is Charlotte's story about where she works. How about telling us - and the other *Catapult* readers - about where you work? Do you spend long hours commuting? Can you wander along the beach on your lunchbreak? Do you share your space with a library pet (cat, dog, fish...)? Cataloguers are becoming a rare breed in New Zealand, so obviously we're becoming more interesting too!

Keep an eye out on the nz-libs and catsig email lists for the next call for content!

## Items in Brief

### **RDA resources and updates**

A major update to the text of the RDA Beta Site will be released at the end of April. This release will include a stabilized version of the English text which is an important milestone on the road to the completion of the 3R Project. For more information about what further steps need to happen before the Project will be completed, see this document from the RSC Chair: [Stabilization of the English Text of RDA \(27 November 2018\)](#)

A free orientation webinar will give an in-depth look at this update and demonstrate improved functionality of the Beta Site. For more information about this webinar see this announcement on the RDA Toolkit site: [Getting a handle on the new RDA Toolkit](#)

Several members of the RSC attended and presented at a number of sessions at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in January. The following presentations from this event are now available from the [RSC Presentations 2019 page](#). Some of these are also available on the [RDA Toolkit YouTube channel](#):

- ⇒ RDA Linked Data Update / Gordon Dunsire
- ⇒ New Ways of Working? The RSC in the Post 3R Era / Kathy Glennan
- ⇒ A Deeper Dive into Application Profiles and Policy Statements / Gordon Dunsire and James Hennelly
- ⇒ Relationship Elements / Kate James
- ⇒ RDA-ONIX Framework: New Content Types and New Carrier Types / Thomas Brenndorfer
- ⇒ Appellation Elements / Thomas Brenndorfer
- ⇒ A Deeper Dive into Nomen and Appellations / Gordon Dunsire
- ⇒ The LRM and its Impact on RDA and Related Standards / Gordon Dunsire
- ⇒ RDA Toolkit in 2019 / James Hennelly
- ⇒ Getting Beyond Beta / Kathy Glennan
- ⇒ Application Profiles and Cataloging a Manifestation / Gordon Dunsire

Additionally, the slides from two other recent presentations are available from the RSC Presentations 2019 page:

- ⇒ Anyone can say Anything about Any thing; RDA: Eine globale Metadaten-sprache für Kultureinrichtungen / Gordon Dunsire and Renate Behrens  
(Presentation at 7. Bibliothekskongress Leipzig 2019 "Bibliotheken verändern",

- 19 March 2019)
- ⇒ The New RDA Toolkit: Everything Has Changed -- or Has It? / Kathy Glennan (Presentation at Music OCLC Users Group, St. Louis, Missouri USA, 19 February 2019)

### **Online Audiovisual Cataloguers (OLAC) Newsletter**

The March 2019 issue of the OLAC newsletter is now available:

<https://www.olacinc.org/newsletter/mar-2019-newsletter-cover>

### **IFLA Metadata Newsletter**

The December 2018 issue of the newsletter is now available:

<https://www.ifla.org/cataloguing/newsletter>

### **Music OCLC Users Group email list (MOUG-L)**

Do you have a music cataloguing question? [Music OCLC Users Group email list \(MOUG-L\)](#) is a useful place to ask questions related to music cataloguing and metadata creation. You do not have to be a member of MOUG to join the list.

Also, did you know that there is a regular OLAC/MOUG Twitter chat on topics of interest to cataloguers such as cataloguing streaming mediate and ethical cataloguing for non-print materials? Follow @OLACinc, @MusicOCLC and #OLACMOUG on Twitter and check out the [Music OCLC Users Group website](#) to find transcripts of previous chats.

### **New from the Program for Co-operative Cataloguing (PCC)**

The PCC have just released their Policy on Terminal Periods which gives PCC libraries the option to omit terminal periods in their bibliographic records.

Another recent document is the PCC guide: Formulating and obtaining URIs: a guide to commonly used vocabularies and reference sources.

See the [PCC website](#) for details.

### **BIBFRAME/Linked Data News**

A free ALCTS webinar was held on March 27, 2019 which gave an update on the Library of Congress' work on BIBFRAME. The recording is available on the [ALCTS](#)

### [YouTube Channel.](#)

This recent paper was presented at the IFLA WLIC 2018 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia:  
[The Evolution of BIBFRAME: from MARC Surrogate to Web Conformant Data Model / Philip Schreur.](#)

### **OCLC Linked Data Round Table recording**

#### [OCLC Linked Data Round Table : Stories from the Front](#)

“An OCLC hosted panel of experts discusses their current activities and recent experiences with linked data. Includes updates on OCLC's initiatives, an LC update on BIBFRAME and more.” Published Feb 4 2019.

### **OCLC Metadata Quality "Office Hours"**

The OCLC AskQC team (Ask Quality Control) OCLC Metadata Quality staff run monthly “office hours” where cataloguers can join to discuss a topic and ask questions directly of the team. The recordings are made available on [OCLC's website](#).

### **The True Value of a Library Catalogue:**

This recent article from the Guardian describes the discovery of the catalogue of the personal library of Hernando Colón which gives an amazing window into what people were reading five hundred years ago.

#### [‘Extraordinary’ 500-year-old library catalogue reveals books lost to time](#)

“Because Colón collected everything he could lay his hands on, the catalogue is a real record of what people were reading 500 years ago, rather than just the classics. ‘The important part of Hernando’s library is it’s not just Plato and Cortez, he’s summarising everything from almanacs to news pamphlets. This is really giving us a window into the entirety of early print, much of which has gone missing, and how people read it – a world that is largely lost to us,’ said Wilson-Lee.”

## Upcoming courses

The **Association for Library Collections & Technical Services, a division of the American Library Association (ALCTS)** offers a regular program of courses which cover the basics of a range of technical services functions including cataloguing, collection development and management and acquisitions. See: [ALCTS Fundamentals Web Courses](#).

ALCTS also deliver regular webinars on interesting and relevant topics and they generously make their paid-for webinars available free after six months. Check out their [webinar archive](#) and their [YouTube channel](#) for interesting and high-quality content.

Upcoming course to note: *Fundamentals of Cataloguing, session 3* (May 20-June 28)

**Library Juice Academy** runs short, online courses on a number of library topics. In the coming months watch out for:  
*Dewey Decimal Classification; Library of Congress Classification; Metadata design; Metadata implementation; Using MarcEdit; Introduction to RDF.*

<http://libraryjuiceacademy.com/courses.php>

To get an idea of what the LJA online courses are like, have a look back at the June 2017 issue of *Catapult* which contains two short reviews of the course *Beyond the Basics: Cataloguing DVDs, Blu-ray Discs, and Streaming Videos*.

**Lyrisis** have a number of online cataloguing and metadata courses on offer. Typically the classes have a cost, but they do offer regular free webinars as well. Keep an eye on their upcoming classes and events page: <https://www.lyrisis.org/services/Pages/Classes.aspx>

**OCLC Webjunction** offers free online courses, covering a wide range of library interests:

<http://learn.webjunction.org/>

See the **LITA Online Learning** page [www.ala.org/lita/learning/online](http://www.ala.org/lita/learning/online) for upcoming professional development opportunities. A recent course offered was Metadata Management Tools.

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**CatSIG**

Cataloguing Special Interest Group