



Eluna Learns Practical Applications and Analytics Session Q & A

Our library adapted your work on recording cataloging activities statistics in a 9xx field. We decided to put the field in the bib record as a local extension field because we hoped to get data on e-titles as well as.

Minna Popkin: That is certainly one of the benefits of adding it in the bib record. We considered that but chose to add it in the holdings record in order to more easily track cataloging work by collection.

If an institution does not have membership can a person join individually?

Christine Quirion: Currently, Skilltype offers subscriptions to organizations like academic or public libraries, consortia, associations, or vendors. We hope to offer individual personal subscriptions during 2024. Follow Skilltype on social media to get updates when these subscriptions are available.

Is Skilltype available to ELUNA members? Is it complementary?

Christine Quirion: PE is interested in continuing to work with ELUNA's leadership to establish a community on Skilltype.

What is Skilltype really? Is it to connect and network with library service providers? Like LinkedIn?

Christine Quirion: Skilltype is a library talent platform that connects the library community (libraries, library professionals, vendors, consortia, and schools of information) to professional development resources, career insights and to one another. Skilltype is a new type of platform that makes it possible to find training, organizations, and experts in one place, focused on libraries and information.

You meant to say statistics data on cataloging? Or are you cataloging the data?

Minna Popkin: Yes, I meant statistics data on cataloging, not cataloging the data.

So the cataloging statistics data/dashboard is to allow managers and catalogers locate and determine locations of their possible errors to be fixed?

Minna Popkin: We use cataloging statistics data for different purposes, and we have long used reports to compile that data for staff and managers. One of the motivations for making putting the reports into a dashboard was to make it easier for catalogers to see their own cataloging statistics data and discover any errors in that data. When catalogers correct their own errors, we will get more accurate total counts for the whole department.

Is there a reason you chose to use a field in the holdings record and not the bib record?

Minna Popkin: We chose to add it in the holdings record in order to more easily track cataloging work by library and collection.

I'm afraid that this dashboard might be used for micromanagement (monitor the catalogers' activities). What do you think about this?

Minna Popkin: Certainly any method of tracking individual cataloger's cataloging output can be used for various purposes, good and bad. We have a long history of gathering data on each cataloger's cataloging work, first on paper using tick marks, and then using this local holdings field, and it is understood that these numbers are not the full measure of one's work. They can, however, be one tool in discussions between the cataloger and their supervisor. The number of records cataloged tells only one part of the story. Ultimately, it comes down to the relationship between the cataloger and their supervisor.

I don't know if I missed it in your screenshare, but can you make Training uploaded for a Team mandatory for a specific Team and/or optional for other Teams?

Christine Quirion: On Skilltype, organizations can set up teams for any use case. Training created by an organization can be connected to an organization, making them available to all members of an organization. A manager of a Team can add such items to a Training List, similar to a music playlist, that can be shared with the members of a specific team and include a note in the list description if the item is required or recommended.

Have you talked with any professional organizations about hosting official, certified training/webinars? For example, some organizations require you to certify through them that you've completed their training for professional development, continuing education, etc. Could those training/webinars also be certified through SkillType?

Christine Quirion: Skilltype is in touch with a variety of professional organizations about training that might be designated as certified or verified so that people completing specific training resources might be eligible for a certificate. As a software platform Skilltype is not a certifying entity, however Organizations that provide certificates of completion currently link their training through Skilltype and are able to obtain a certificate through the training provider. We are interested in partnering with training providers that are exploring certifications or verified training.