



MassCat Musings - June 2014 By Dodie Gaudet

All those other numbers – Part II

As promised (see MassCat Musings from May 2014), here's some information about numbers found on DVDs.

Often (but not always), DVDs have an ISBN (International Standard Bibliographic Number). It can be 10-digit or 13-digit number (or both) depending on the age of the DVD.

Sometimes (but not always), DVDs have a publisher's number similar to the number found on CDs. This would likely be a letter/number combination (but could be numbers only) such as 08523 which is the publisher's number for the DVD of the movie *1776*.

Usually (but not always), DVDs have a bar code number called a UPC or Universal Product Code. This is a 12-digit number such as 097368230248.

It's important to pay attention to the UPC on DVDs because each variation of the same title will have its own UPC. For example, 025192167768 is the UPC for the DVD *2 Guns* (or *Two Guns*) and 025192167782 is the UPC for the 2-disc Blu Ray/DVD package of *2 Guns*. Other differences in the UPC might indicate the Widescreen vs. the Full screen version or the 25th anniversary edition or the director's cut. If the numbers are different, the DVDs are different and they need different bibliographic records.

For those of you who are familiar with MARC codes, the UPC is found in the 024 field.

Regardless of any numbers, please note the difference between a videodisc (a.k.a. DVD) and a videocassette (a.k.a. VHS). The content might be the same, but if you attach your holdings to the wrong one, you could end up with a very unhappy patron!

Till next month ...