



MassCat Musings - May 2014 By Dodie Gaudet

All those other numbers

In past editions of MassCat Musings, I've talked about ISBNs. Books published after the 1960s almost always have an ISBN.

CDs (both music and spoken word) and DVDs may or may not have an ISBN and often have additional numbers. There are different kinds of numbers found on media and these numbers are sometimes helpful in locating the exact bibliographic record.

CDs (and cassettes and LPs) usually include something called the publisher's number (sometimes called the music number). This is the catalog number used by the publisher and generally consists of a combination of letters and numbers. For example CDC-7 47421 2 is the number for Concerto in A minor, op. 53 by Antonín Dvořák published by Angel Records. And C2756 is for the Recorded Books version of The Egyptologist by Arthur Phillips.

The number is usually found on the spine of the container and also on the disc itself. For those of you familiar with MARC codes, this number is recorded in the 028 field.

You can key either of those numbers into the MassCat catalog to retrieve those titles. But, be careful of spaces. The literal Koha software recognizes only CDC-7 47421 2, not CDC-7474212. Interestingly, you will find Concerto in A minor, op. 53 whether or not you include the dash (both CDC-7 47421 2 and CDC7 47421 2 will work)

The publisher's number is also searchable via the Z39.50 function using the RAW box. Since different software works differently, that function doesn't recognize a number with dashes. A search with 60550-4 (or 605504) in MassCat will retrieve Goodbumps audio book Haunted mask II, but only 605504 (not 6055-4) will find that same title via Z39.50.

The moral of the story: When using numbers to search, if including dashes and/or spaces gives you a "no results" message, try eliminating one or the other or both. Persistence can pay off.

Here's how I sometimes use the publisher's number: If I find a bibliographic record using an ISBN or author/title search, but I'm not certain if the record I found actually matches what I have in hand, I go to the MARC display and look at field 028. If the number in that field is also on my CD, I know I have a match. If the bib record and item have different numbers, I cannot use that bib record.

Next month: Using the numbers on DVDs.