



MassCat Musings – January 2015 By Dodie Gaudet

More on Chief/Preferred Sources of Information

Happy New Year!

Last month, I wrote about the Chief Source of Information (AACR2 terminology) or Preferred Source of Information (RDA terminology) for books, which is the title page.

All media also have Chief or Preferred Sources of Information. For a Sound Recording, whether it's music or spoken word (i.e. an audio book), the cataloger goes to the disc surface first. It's not unusual to find variations between the disc surface and the container especially with music. As with variations between a book's title page and its cover, good cataloging requires that all titles be searchable in a catalog's title index and the source of the title noted within the bibliographic record.

Therefore, you might see the note "Title on container: ..." if that title is different from the one on the disc surface.

If an audio book is made up of several stories and each disc has a separate title, a cataloger will use the container as the source of the title and note that in the bib record. In this situation, the cataloger is using what is called a "collective title". An example might be a container with the title *The Best Known Works of Mark Twain*, with the first disc labeled *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, disc 2 labeled *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and disc 3 *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. The individual titles would be listed in a contents note, and the main title would be *The Best Know Works of Mark Twain*.

Whenever the main title is taken from a source other than the Chief or Preferred Source, a note is required. In the above case, the note would say "Title from container" or possibly "Container title".

The moral of the story is that same as last month: pay attention to the notes in the bibliographic record. What appears at first glance not to be a match, may be a match after all.