Library Catalogues and Digital Repositories

Steve Cooney: April 2022
Libraries are part of the Institution of the Haziratu'l-Quds

...whether local or national, will, as its component parts, such as the Secretariat, the Treasury, the Archives, the Library, the Publishing Office, the Assembly Hall, the Council Chamber, the Pilgrims' Hostel, are brought together and made jointly to operate in one spot, be increasingly regarded as the focus of all Bahá'í administrative activity, and symbolize, in a befitting manner, the ideal of service animating the Bahá'í community in its relation alike to the Faith and to mankind in genera – God Passes by 339-40
Note on Digital Humanities

- Library catalogues represent one facet of an ever growing and ever expanding field of digital humanities.
- This represents a computational turn in humanities.
- More than digitisation can include textual analysis, hypertext, data mining, statistical analysis. Digital mapping visualization and graph or networks tools
The key thing is being able to find information

I am driven by improving the quality of research output by building on our existing body of published work so we are always advancing forward

So I am interested in a search engine rather than the minutiae of shelving systems and where to physically place materials.

The purpose is to reduce the unknowns
The Idea of a Union Catalogue: Cataloguing something you don’t possess.

- There are several possibilities here. One is to have a catalogue that aggregates local libraries into a union catalogue. So you would record a bibliographic held in a local library but identify the holdings held in other places.
Want Lists

- Every library has gaps, specialised areas it wants to develop (say in my case New Zealand material).
- Want lists are made much easier when you have a working catalogue. Potential contributors/donaters can see your gaps.
- Crowd sourcing new material.
Evolving the National Baha’i Reference Library: Digital Repositories

- Ingestion: Archivematica: CERN Open Source Project
- Presentation: AtoM : Access to Memory (international Council on Archives)
- More Standards to Comprehend: METS, PREMIS, Dublin Core, the Library of Congress BagIt
Standards: MARC (Machine Readable Cataloging)

- Variants MARC21 (MARC for the 21st century) Esp US and Canada
- UNIMARC (International Federation of Library Associations)
- MARCXML (Human readable, more or less)
- Widespread so inertia for change is high
- BIBFRAME is the successor
Collection Policy and Scope

- Broad and catholic collection of materials
- Primarily in English but also the languages of Polynesia and Melanesia because there are significant members of these communities in New Zealand.
- Best efforts in terms of the languages of revelation. This is currently quite incomplete but expected to be filled out as the current generation of Iranians pass away. We will enrich these catalogues with digital material eventually.
- Other “foreign” languages where the material is significant, original, the only source for material: Persian, Arabic, Spanish, French, German, Portuguese, Russian. So this means we do not keep translations of Baha’u’llah and the New Era or other common materials but we do have, for example, a significant collection of Vahid Rafati’s works.
Software Tools: Koha

- Koha
  https://koha-community.org/
  Horowhenua Library Trust 1999 Rural region of New Zealand

- Koha in Te Reo Maori means gift

Commercial Forks – LibLime known as Bibliovation

Commercial Hosting of Koha:
https://koha-community.org/support/paid-support/country/
https://bywatersolutions.com/
https://www.catalyst.net.nz/koha
Challenges: Cataloguing Edited Volumes

- In some cases we have collected volumes of quite disparate material and then it becomes a cataloguing challenge of how to classify the material.

- Other cases are where we have an edited volume with a Bahaí chapter. First issue is whether to acquire the volume.

  https://library.abs.org.nz/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=30180
Challenges: Subject Authorities

- Key aspect of Bibliographic Control: Categorization and Classification
- Library of Congress Authorities
  - https://authorities.loc.gov/
- Library of Congress Linked Data
  - https://id.loc.gov/
- See also Publications by William Collins in Cataloging and Classification Quarterly


Challenges: Editions

- Every book retained requires storage space and maintenance overheads. The question of which editions to keep needs to be considered.

- Do you need to acquire every edition of say Lights of Guidance?
- Do you need multiple editions of the Guardians writings which have different prefaces and forewords but the body of the text is unchanged?
Challenges: Link Rot

- It is impossible to guarantee that a digital artifact will be where you found it when you go back.
- Manage your own reliable store of digital documents
Challenges: Print on Demand/Self Publishing

- Missing metadata (Publisher, date of publication, ISBN, Place of publication)
Challenges: Kindle only Publications, Digital Rights Management, Licensing

- Some Bahaí material is only available in Kindle format, licensed from Amazon to an individual person. This makes it difficult to have a holding of this title although it is always possible to have a bibliographic record.

- Amazon Kindle titles are not generally available through libraries although there is software integration with Amazon
Cataloguing in Koha

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### Additional Information

- **Title**: Resurrection and Renewal: The Making of the Babi movement in Iran, 1844-1850
- **Place of Publication**: Los Angeles
- **Name of Publisher**: Kalmat Press
- **Date of Publication**: 2005
Resurrection and Renewal: The Making of the Babi movement in Iran, 1844-1850

By: Abbas Amanat

Material type: Text

Series: Studies in the Babi and Bahá’í Religions ; 20
Publication details: Los Angeles: Kalimat Press 2000
Edition: 2005 paperback reprint with additional extended preface by author
Description: xxiv, 401 p. ; 24 cm

Subject(s): Bábí – History; Iran – History; Iran – Religion – 19th century


Online resources: PDF: Resurrection and Renewal: The Making of the Babi Movement in Iran, 1844-1850 Studies in the Babi and Bahá’í Religions, Volume 20, 2005

The most complete academic treatment of the early years of the Babi Faith. With energy and power, eminent historian Abbas Amanat communicates the sense of elation and terror that accompanied the birth of the New Age. He recounts the full story of the early converts and martyrs, the message of the Prophet, the shaping of the community, and the final break with Islam. A brilliant and important work of scholarship.

OPAC view: Open in new window.
MARC preview: Show.

Holdings (1)
OPAC View

Development site: https://library.abs.org.nz/
MARC View
From OPAC

This allows export of the bibliographic record to bibliographic collection tools (e.g. BibTex, RIS)
MARC21 and Classification Resources

- MARC 21 Format for Bibliographic Data
  - https://www.loc.gov/marc/bibliographic/
- RDA Steering Committee
  - http://www.rda-rsc.org/
- C# MARC Editor
  - https://csharpmarc.net/
- MarcEdit
  - https://marcedit.reeset.net/