

Technical Services Trends

Although public library directors may not always have background in all aspects of library science, they can learn about key issues through conferences and workshops, networking, staff and reading and discussion. Directors may want to increase their knowledge about trends in technical services.

Cindy Orr, a library consultant--[Cynthia Orr Consulting](#) prepared a way to evaluate your tech services department: "[How to Evaluate Your Technical Services Department](#)," 2012.

Patricia Lowrey, Technical Services Administrator, Cleveland Public Library and Cynthia Orr, Cynthia Orr Consulting, presented "[The Changing Role of Technical Services](#)" at the [Texas Library Association Conference, San Antonio, April 2010](#). Their [handouts](#) are also available. They stress that when you think about efficiency, you should consider first if the task is even necessary. The [PLA Blog](#) provides a summary of their presentation.

The College of DuPage Press has been presenting a series of webcast conferences, [Library Futures: Staying Ahead of the Curve 2010--Cataloging](#). Once presented and cataloged, DVDs are available through the Access Pennsylvania Database. This web conference provides an "update on the developments influencing the direction of cataloging practices. This program details considerations and strategies for the effective sharing of library data, and offers new perspectives to embrace changes that will define the library community's place in the global information environment."

"[Good Practices for Great Outcomes: Cataloging Efficiencies that Make a Difference](#)," an OCLC member event held at the Boston Public Library, December 1, 2011 offered practical and theoretical ideas for technical services improvement.

The presentation by Ted Fons at the Canadian Library Association Conference, Montreal, May 29, 2009, "[New Thinking on Metadata Management, Exposure & Quality](#)," has a discussion of current technical services issues on slides 25-38 and 54-57.

Jee Davis' presentation "[Managing Technical Services for Continuous Change](#)," May 6, 2011 provides a template as new thinking, processes and procedures change the tech services arena.

Ever think about changes in technical services? The video of the ALA Midwinter presentation on January 24, 2009, "[Redefining Technical Services Workflows](#)" with presenters, Karen Calhoun, OCLC, Robin Fradenburgh, University of Texas at Austin, and Kathy Carter and Sharon Marshall, University of Alberta Libraries, who share their

approaches to improving technical services workflows and user experiences. There are ideas here for public libraries as well.

The College of DuPage Press series [Library Futures: Staying Ahead of the Curve](#) presented the video conference, [Cataloging: Where Are We Now: Where Are We Going?](#) Glen Ellyn, IL: College of DuPage Press, 2010. Available on DVD through Access Pennsylvania Database. Topics covered include: "Are our old standards still relevant today? Has keyword trumped the subject heading?"

Bradford Lee Eden's presentation to the Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference, 2009, "[Technical Services Futures: What Are They?](#)" deals with the enormous changes that libraries are seeing related to information. Slides and video are available.

The [RDA Toolkit](#) provides detailed instruction, guidelines and background about the Resource Description & Access, the new standard for resource description and access designed for the digital world.

"[Good Practices for Great Outcomes: RDA in 2012--Get Prepared](#)," an OCLC member event held December 2, 2011. By preparing an implementation plan, you can address what's important for your library.

To stay up-to-date with technical services trends you can either visit the [OCLC website](#) or subscribe to their [RSS feeds, news, seminars and podcasts](#).

Library directors should be aware of the myriad of [documentation and tools](#) that the [Library of Congress](#) provides.

[Webjunction Courses](#)

[WebJunction Pennsylvania](#) provides a large selection of free online workshops and training courses available to library employees, library board members, and trustees in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This service is supported by a grant from the Office of Commonwealth Libraries. Log on to your account for access to courses such as:

[Introduction to Cataloging for Non-Catalogers \(LibraryU\)](#)

[Shelving with Dewey \(LibraryU\)](#)

[Shelving with Library of Congress Classification \(LibraryU\)](#)

[Access PA Database Online Beginner Training Course](#)

[Weeding the Library Collection \(LibraryU\)](#)