

The Big Merge: Cataloguing in SITKA

By Carol Elder.

People involved in the [SITKA Project](#) were busy the last day of the conference, as many different sessions were held throughout the day on this important initiative. The last session of the day was about the cataloguing database, and the work that is being done by the [SITKA Cataloguing Working Group](#). The presenters were Maureen Davidson, Chair of the Working Group and cataloguer at the College of the Rockies (soon migrating to the Evergreen system); Lauren Stara, Director of the Whistler Public Library (one of the SITKA libraries) and member of the Working Group; and Sharon Herbert, Project Manager for the Evergreen implementation across the province.

The session was well attended, as there is much interest and anticipation about how the cataloguing aspect of the Evergreen libraries will work. Lauren started things off by describing the project as a whole. She also introduced specifics about the 15 separate library databases being managed currently, which will be merged very soon to create the SITKA shared union catalogue. Essentially, there will be a master record for each item held and libraries will attach their holdings to that record. The Working Group has been meeting frequently for the past year developing the policies and procedures that will ensure consistency and high quality for the catalogue.

Maureen went on to describe the matching tags that all libraries will be trained to watch for in order to identify a master record for the item in hand. When there is no match, staff will use those same match points for copy records they will search for before adding them to the shared catalogue. Sharon addressed some of the more technical aspects, describing how Vancouver Public Library and the Thompson-Nicola Regional District Library System have provided their MARC databases as a basis for the master records. Each library that is currently using Evergreen will have their catalogue run against the master records and have their holdings attached, creating that initial union catalogue. From that point on, all libraries will use the union catalogue rather than have independent databases. Lauren finished things off by giving us an Evergreen demonstration, which included adding records and attaching holdings.

This project has long-ranging implications for libraries in British Columbia, further evidence of a very exciting time to come.

Carol Elder is the Chair of the Library & Information Technology Program at Langara College.