

SPL Metadata

bibNumber

Each bibliographic record for which the spl owns a copy is assigned a unique identifier. colloquially a bibliographic record may be referred to as a "title". the spl has owned about 800 thousand unique "titles"

ItemNumber

Each physical item tracked by the spl is assigned a unique identifier upon arrival. This can be considered to represent the item's acquisition date

cout

The date and time at which an item was checked out. This is stored as a MySQL "datetime" type, which means we can perform MySQL functions on it like "date()" or "unix_timestamp()"

cin

The date and time at which an item was returned, also stored as a MySQL "datetime" type

collcode

This is a string of characters that encodes serveral data for each item, including the physical home (aka branch), collection type, and collection name

itemtype

This indicates what physical type of item this is, for instance a book, dvd, or cd, sheet music, etc. This is a string of characters that encodes serveral data for each item, including the media type, circulation policy, and fines policy

barcode

Each physical item tracked by the spl is tagged with an hybrid barcode+rfid sticker so it may be scanned by library staff or by machines

title

The item's title. Obviously multiple items can share the same title, but they'll have different bar codes and might even have different itemtypes. Like "Ghostbusters" the novel and "Ghostbusters" the VHS. Some titles may be empty

callNumber

A call number is unique to single item within the library catalog. Multiple copies of the same book will share the same call number but will each have different bar codes

deweyClass

Most itmes that are non-fictional have a Dewey Decimal Classification number. Fiction based subjects and some others in this category are marked NULL. Dewey numbers are pretty useful for understanding the item's content: "The DDC attempts to organize all knowledge into ten main classes. The ten main classes are each further subdivided into ten divisions, and each division into ten sections, giving ten main classes, 100 divisions and 1000 sections. DDC's advantage in using [decimals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/decimals) for its categories allows it to be purely numerical, while the drawback is that the codes are much longer and more difficult to remember as compared to an alphanumeric system."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dewey_Decimal_Classification

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Dewey_Decimal_classes

subj

Subj is like keyword tags that give us an idea about the item's content. Usually only the first few subject entries are used and the rest are marked NULL. This is assigned by whoever has the job of entering new items into the system, so its subjective