

The DCUG is planning on making a strong recommendation that all collections are to be cataloged at the collection level in the local catalog. The DCUG will post this on the CARLI CONTENTdm website, include it in existing documentation and notify libraries that have existing collections of this recommendation.

Recommendation and rationale below:

The Digital Collections User Group strongly recommends that each CARLI library participating in CARLI Digital Collections add a collection-level bibliographic record for each of their own digital collections to their local catalog that includes a URL link in a MARC 856 field to the digital collection. For CARLI I-Share libraries, it is strongly recommended that the electronic aspects of the collection-level bibliographic record be cataloged in accordance with the recommendations in the "Cataloging Electronic Resources/Electronic Resources Display in the OPAC Task Force Final Report" <http://www.carli.illinois.edu/mem-prod/I-Share/cat/archive/040419_cater_final.pdf>

Rationale: The library catalog has traditionally been the record of a library's monographic and other collections. Digital materials can also be described here and have the added benefit of reaching users not intentionally looking for such a format but for any library materials in a subject area. Libraries have long included records of special collections and archival materials in library catalogs. The types of collections that libraries contribute to CARLI Digital Collections often compliment monographic and audiovisual materials in library collections on the same subjects. Furthermore, library catalogs are among the most long lasting of library tools and the bibliographic records describing collections can be used for the foreseeable future with periodic updating of links. With the advent of open WorldCat and other attempts to open library catalogs to Internet search engines, OPAC bibliographic records provide another potential access and discovery point for Web users in general. Finally, CARLI has long encouraged the cataloging of electronic resources whether held by member libraries locally or at the consortial level. CARLI Digital collections should be no different in that regard.