

OCLC Research and RLG Partners have initiated the Missing Materials Beta Procedure Project to develop 'proof-of-concept' policies and procedures that use networking capabilities of WorldCat.org to broadcast details on a blog, *missingmaterials.org*. This blog focuses on unique and rare materials that have been declared stolen or missing from libraries and archives worldwide.

Addressing an ongoing problem

The loss of materials held in libraries and archives worldwide is a concern not only for owning institutions, but also for the international antiquarian book trade and global law enforcement. Centralized, highly visible exposure of missing materials can help identify stolen materials internationally and deter future crimes.

OCLC Research, the RLG Partnership and the RBMS Security Committee convened members of the cultural heritage collecting community as a working group to explore strategies for sharing reliable information about missing rare books and other materials. The goal was to determine what's lacking in current practice to alert the community about missing materials. Longer-range goals include (1) deterring theft; (2) preventing inadvertent purchases; and (3) facilitating recovery of valuable, stolen cultural materials.

Using WorldCat to address the problem

The OCLC® WorldCat® database offers a central location for collecting and broadcasting information to the cultural heritage community about missing and stolen materials. The project working group explored a number of questions to help define functional components for attaching information about missing materials to WorldCat records, including these:

1. What are the necessary elements of a process that would be implemented by trusted special collections booksellers and librarians, and could also be made available to a network of interested parties?
2. How should information about stolen materials be broadcast and accessed?

3. How can we minimize overhead, reduce obstacles, eliminate bottlenecks and ensure that only minimal costs are associated with participation?

Experimenting with a beta procedure

The Missing Materials project has evolved to develop a "beta" procedure for cultural heritage institutions to demonstrate their commitment to transparency about stolen and missing materials. The working group developed 'proof of concept' policies and procedures to experiment using network effects of OCLC's WorldCat.org™ interface to broadcast unique and rare materials that are missing or stolen on a blog: *missingmaterials.org*.

Missing Materials project at a glance

The Missing Materials project comprises three primary steps:

1. **Set-up:** Starting with a WorldCat record, a library creates its Missing Materials list in WorldCat, and registers for an RSS feed.
2. **Report:** The library adds a missing or stolen item to the list; the Missing Materials system automatically adds the 'MSMAT' holdings symbol and publishes the addition.
3. **Publish:** The missing or stolen item alert is distributed through the WorldCat database on the OCLC FirstSearch® service and through the Missing Materials blog. The alert is searchable and can be obtained via RSS feed or RSS2 e-mail.

Libraries, archives and antiquarian booksellers are invited to participate in the project.

MissingMaterials.org

A blog of rare and unique books and materials stolen or missing from libraries and archives

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LIBER CHRONICARUM.

Posted on May 29, 2009, 3:00 pm, by admin, under Uncategorized.

Liber chronicarum. by Hartmann Schedel
Nuremberg : Anton Koberger, 12 July 1493.
Columbia University: "Item stolen from RBML by July 1994." Complete. Pope Joan image present. Early 16C binding with inscription: "Sum Bibliothecae Coenobio Divae Gertrudis apud Lovanium." Goff S-307.
From Missing Materials Columbia RBML - test

No Comments »

COMPILATIO DE ASTRORUM SCIENTIA : MIT WIDMUNGSBRIEF AN ULRICH VON FRUNDSBERG, BISCHOF VON TRIENT, VON ERHARD RATDOLT

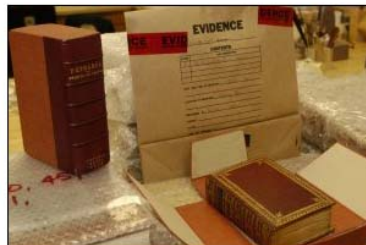
Posted on May 29, 2009, 3:00 pm, by admin, under Uncategorized.

Compilatio de astrorum scientia : mit Widmungsbrief an Ulrich von Frundsberg, Bischof von Trient, von Erhard Ratdolt by Leopoldus, de Austria; Erhard Ratdolt
Augsburg Erhard Ratdolt 1489.01.09.
"Item stolen from [Columbia University RBML] by July 1994." Goff L-185.
From Missing Materials Columbia RBML - test

No Comments »

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SEARCH MISSINGMATERIALS.ORG

The loss of materials held in libraries and archives worldwide is a concern not only for owning institutions, but also for the international antiquarian book trade and global law enforcement. In order to deter thieves, prevent inadvertent purchases and recover valuable stolen cultural materials, OCLC Research, the RLG Partnership and the RBMS Security Committee convened members of the cultural heritage collecting community to explore strategies for sharing reliable information about missing rare books and other materials.

The Missing Materials project has evolved to develop a "beta" procedure for cultural heritage institutions to demonstrate their commitment to transparency about stolen and missing materials. This blog-list, the fruits of this work, is under construction. Please send us comments and recommend improvements.

The Missing Materials blog provides a means to broadcast alerts to the WorldCat community about missing or stolen library materials.

For more information

To learn more, visit:

www.oclc.org/programs/ourwork/infrastructures/newservice/missingmaterials.htm or send e-mail to:

missingmaterials@oclc.org

missingmaterials@oclc.org.