

## Another word for a “cataloger” Autocat Discussion July 2014

**Subject:** Another word for "cataloger"

**From:** Julie Moore <julie.renee.moore@GMAIL.COM>

**Reply-To:** AUTOCAT <AUTOCAT@LISTSERV.SYR.EDU>, Julie Moore <julie.renee.moore@GMAIL.COM>

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On several occasions at ALA, I introduced myself as a cataloger to non-cataloger librarians. There was a definite cringe among some people. One person said, "You really need to come up with a new title. 'Cataloger' sounds so old-fashioned." Old-fashioned or not, being a 'Cataloger' is what I am.

Have we identified a preferable, "cooler" job title is for what it is that we do?

Best wishes,  
Julie

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"Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."... James Matthew Barrie

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**Subject:** Another word for "cataloger"

**From:** Elena Stuart <stuaelen@MY.DOM.EDU>

**Reply-To:** AUTOCAT <AUTOCAT@LISTSERV.SYR.EDU>, Elena Stuart <stuaelen@MY.DOM.EDU>

**Date:** Sun, 6 Jul 2014 15:07:31 -0400

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 Reply

**Parts/Attachments:**  text/plain (23 lines)

Julie,

I think you have initiated an interesting discussion. As to me personally I do not mind being called a Cataloger. Maybe it sounds a little bit old-fashioned, but the semantic content of this word definitely involves a large historical context involving the whole history of the development of the library. My conviction is that we should not lose this context. A library was started with the appearance of a catalog which has always been its intellectual center, its brains that, speaking contemporary language has been providing access to necessary knowledge.

Contemporary technological language can suggest promising and enticing words like "Metadata specialist" or even better "Metadata architect". They sound significant and correspond to contemporary software practice, but they move the accent away from libraries to, for example, information centers because their semantics misses that context that clearly shows the historical continuity with libraries. This is the point where this discussion approaches another one:

Do we need libraries if all information can be found in the Internet?

I would not like to dramatize, but being a linguist I know that language identifies the way we think of things.

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