

On what there is

A project for a general chess bibliography

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Introduction

- Chessbook collector
- Need for a general bibliography
- Chessbook collectors, auctioneers and researchers
- The Amsterdam Group (TAG) (Michael Negele, JS)
- Bibliography in co-operation
- Database that is accessible on internet
- Basis is existing catalogues and bibliographies
- Content is supplied by the participants
- Moderated by experts
- Scutala b.v. (Hans Bruckman, Henk van Riemsdijk, JS)
- Collectors Database System (CDS)

On what there is

- What is there to collect
- Search for the unknown
- Need a *complete bibliography*
- Researcher needs location of a copy
- No general bibliography after 1880
(Antonius van der Linde)
- Bibliographies of publications in one language
(Betts, Sacharov, Sanvito)
- Bibliographies of a particular subject
(Egbert Meissenburg)
- Catalogues of collections and libraries
(Royal Library The Hague)
- Auction and sales catalogues
(Klittich-Pfankuch)

On what there is (2)

Bibliographical information is haphazard and time-consuming
For internet searches:

- non-relevant information (precision) (e.g. Victoria Chess)
- no standard title description
- incomplete search results (recall)
- digitally unavailable information
- need to know where to search
- may need to search many sources

The Amsterdam Group (TAG)

- First meeting in my house in Amsterdam, Nov. 30th, 2002
- Juri Awerbach, Ken Whyld, Walter Simon (Vienna), Peter Holmgren (Sweden)
- Hans Engberts, Joop Jansen, Harold van der Heijden, Gert Timmerman
- Harald Balló, Horst Lüders, Hans-Jürgen Fresen, Michael Negele
- Association of chessbook collectors
- Membership is open to individuals and institutions
- Membership fee (approximately 50 euro)
- Develop a complete (on-line) bibliography of chess literature
- Questionnaire distributed
- To be founded officially

Goals of +BS

- General chess bibliography
- All works, not restricted to one subject, language or collection
- A unified bibliography (of existing bibliographies and entries)
- Up-to-date bibliography (by entering additions and corrections)
- More extensive bibliography (more bibliographical details)
- Providing catalogues of as yet undescribed collections
- References to and known locations of particular copies
- Details like provenance, dedications, ex-libris, physical condition
- Auction details (auction item descriptions, illustrations and prices)
- Online bibliography, accessible by internet
- Extensive, automated search possibilities
- Standard bibliography as basis for offer and demand

Basic concept

- General bibliography in co-operation (using internet)
[but provide for non-internet persons]
- “Standard” bibliographies as basis for additional contributions
- Collector can use the general bibliography as checklist
- to compose catalogue of own collection
- adding additional material from own collection
- Entries moderated by country administrators and theme specialists

Uses of database (+BS)

- Every user needs registration
- Login and password (after acceptance of registration)
- Restricted consult (delivers restricted information of titles)
- Normal consult (searching for complete information related to titles)
- Adding copies (adding descriptions of copies of titles present in +BS)
- Adding titles or editions/printings
(adding descriptions of titles or editions/printings not in +BS)
- Changing entries (changing or proposing changes to entries in +BS)
- Adding a catalogue of a collection
(adding the fact that a copy of an edition/printing is present in the collection to be catalogued without the necessity to add a description of this copy)
- Confirming or rejecting and removing proposed entries (moderation)
- Adding a bibliography
(with references to the entries in this bibliography)

Users

- Chessbook collectors
(members of Amsterdam Group)
- Libraries
(Royal Library in The Hague, Kieler Schachbibliothek)
- Auctioneers
(Klittich-Pfankuch in Braunschweig)
- Book traders
(Mike Sheehan (Caissa))
- Chess researchers
(Ken Whyld)
- Moderators
(Country administrators and theme experts)

Requirements

- Main language English
- Other languages optional
- Titles
 - in original language(s) and alphabet(s)
 - transcribed into Latin characters
 - translated into English
- Descriptions may be (also) in original language
- No obligatory fields
(free to add details without being forced to give any)
- Classification / keywords
- Indexing / cross references

Requirements (2)

- GUI requirements
 - (the normal user is collector, not computer professional)
- compatibility with user operating system - use Java
- availability of database (7x24) (Linux database)
- full text search with wild cards and fuzzy search
- standard call number
- multiple languages in text (e.g. in titles) - use Unicode
- standard transcription rules for non-latin languages (to English)
- preferred spellings of titles and names (authors, editors, printers, chess players)
 - use authority lists
- supply suggestions for new entries based on the authority lists
- private data like prices paid may be added in a non publicly visible manner
- online or off-line batch capabilities
- export/import in generally accepted standard formats, like UniMARC
- import/integrate existing bibliographic databases and catalogues

Problems

- Financing of development and providing database server
 - Commercial value of +BS, CDS
 - Membership fee
 - Pay for use (download quantity or connection time)
 - Payment for content (summaries, availability of sources)
- Integration of entries
 - duplication of titles
 - inconsistencies in description of the same title
- Category/indexing of titles
- Copyright of existing bibliographies

Technical specification of prototype

- Server = Linux Slackware (kernel 2.4.19)
- Database = Postgresql 7.3.2
- Client : Windows (95, 98, NT, 2000, Xp)
- Programming language Java
- Connection protocol: TCP/IP

Future

- Find funding
- Legal issues
- Capability to add pictures (e.g. title pages)
- Feedback possibilities for users
- Auction capabilities
- Application for other communities of collectors
 - Application of OCR / ICR
 - Computer assisted title description
 - Automated summaries
 - Unlocking of contents

Conclusions

- Need for a general database of collectibles (CDS)
- Collectors, auctioneers and researchers
- Database in co-operation over internet
- Moderators for confirming additions and changes
- Chess bibliography
- Integration of entries
- Problems
- Current status
- Future of CDS