SHARED CATALOGING:
NEW ROLES FOR OLD DATA

András Kardos (k.andris@gmail.com)
Iván Csámer (csamer@edutech.elte.hu)
ELTE

Our project seeks to find new ways to make use of shared cataloging, with the primary focus on readers. The question is how to support them better using shared cataloging, and what new services can be offered based on the knowledgebase in this catalog. We think that the most important things to implement are "single window" service – that is a shared catalog truly acting as a single entity –, and user friendly, personalized search interface. This is why we work on effectively merging catalogs created in different libraries, using various systems and guidelines, that are frequently changing and sometimes taken quite loosely – into a single unified entity, and to better suit the search patterns of the readers, convert it to a database along the lines suggested by IFLA's FRBR. Readers look for works (short stories and papers), and not specific editions and books. For these purpose we are working on novel algorithms, that abstract away from the MARC format, and concentrate more on the information within. Their purpose is to merge information from all available sources, instead of simply finding the duplicates. Based on test data we have good preliminary results. For making the search interface and the catalog itself more efficient and social then Web 2.0 and it's technologies, and the Library 2.0 initiative based on it's ideas give us a good starting points. We think that that the reader can, and must be involved into the refinement of the catalog, a work that is beyond the resource constraints of professionals. This will let them help each other - naturally under some sort on control. The progress of our research can be followed at the address http://konyvtar.info („library" dot info in hungarian). Besides showing our results, the conference (will) be a good opportunity to seek cooperation with other projects and libraries, and to get professional feedback on our work.