

Cataloging Electronic Resources in InfoSoup

Current Procedures and Background

Electronic resources are available in InfoSoup in three places: cataloged records, WebBridge links, and the Research Tools page. These electronic resources include ebooks, audiobook and video downloads, electronic magazines (through online database subscriptions), government documents, digital versions of items held by InfoSoup libraries, and selected web sites.

Electronic Resources Currently Cataloged

- NetLibrary ebooks and OverDrive audiobooks and video downloads are part of state-wide collections available to InfoSoup card holders. While not “locally” owned, these state-wide collections require library cards for authentication or access. These resources are selected by collection development librarians from Wisconsin libraries and have MARC records available for loading into the catalog. All NetLibrary and Overdrive titles are catalogued in InfoSoup.
- Electronic magazines are available in full-text from online database subscriptions such as EBSCO, Proquest and Gale. They are cataloged when MARC records are available.
- Many electronic versions of Wisconsin and Federal government documents are also included in InfoSoup. Links are included when a government document in our collection is no longer available in a print version, or by request of the resource library’s Wisconsin collection librarian.
- Numerous InfoSoup holdings are available in digital format from the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections. The U.W. collection is available via MARC record and can thus be easily maintained and updated. These links are included when available.
- Other items held by InfoSoup libraries with a digital version are handled in one of two ways. Either a separate electronic record is created, or, in the print record, a link to the digitized version is added to the 856 field (see *History of Outagamie County* <http://www.infosoup.org/record=b1150772>).

Recommended Procedures

Additional OWLSnet and BadgerLink subscriptions should continue to be catalogued when MARC records are available (as time and resources permit).

Locally Hosted and Developed Web Sites

The Electronic Resources Librarian and Catalog Librarian should select locally hosted web sites or documents that:

- are of interest and use to InfoSoup libraries and their patrons
- are *substantial* in nature, either containing original material (full-text or images), indexes and/or highlighting important library resources
- are likely to be updated and remain of interest over time.

For an example of a currently cataloged local resource, see Fox Valley Memory (<http://www.infosoup.org/record=b1613828>). Other resources that would fit the criteria for inclusion are Appleton's *Post-Crescent Index* and local history databases and indexes, and Kaukauna's *Newspaper Index and Post Card Collection*.

Collection specialists or library directors should notify the Electronic Resources Librarian or Catalog Librarian at OWLS when they wish to have digital documents evaluated for possible inclusion in the catalog.

Additional Statewide Resources

Other statewide full text/image collections produced by the State Historical Society, the University System, or other libraries should be considered for cataloging.

Beyond the Borders

While the focus of cataloging electronic resources should remain on database subscriptions and resources of local and state interest, other resources may be appropriate. We should explore adding selected items from established collections such as the Library of Congress. One example of resources for possible inclusion are books in the American Memory Collection *Pioneering the Upper Midwest Books from Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, ca. 1820-1910* (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/umhtml/>).

Additional Ideas to Explore

- Use common searches found in InfoSoup to direct patrons to a useful website. Examples such as *Battle of the Books* <http://www.battleofthebooks.org/> or accelerated reading lists. These are problematic, but may be worth investigating.
- Add records for items in NewspaperArchive (from BadgerLink).
- Add records for selected full-text resources available via HeritageQuest. (Since HeritageQuest does not provide MARC records, this might not be feasible, but may be worth considering.)
- Add records for photograph collections, using the thumbnails of the photographs in the catalog.

These ideas would be explored only as time and resources permit.