

Introduction to the Library Catalog (Part 1 of 3)

Skills Category Students will increase their understanding of the library catalog.

Grade Level 2nd

Time Required 15 minutes

Objectives Students will understand what a library catalog is.

Materials Needed Projector
Various Catalogs to show students
Library book with a good MARC record in cataloging.

Preparation Become well acquainted with material to be presented

Procedure “I want to show you some catalogs that came in my mail. (seed catalog, clothing catalog, sale items, Oriental Trading, IKEA catalog, etc.)”

Show students, and then ask: “What is a catalog?” Comments

“So, a catalog can be a book, or published materials that tell about things: Maybe you would have a catalog from a company showing all the bulbs or seeds you can plant in your garden. Maybe you would have a catalog showing the things that are on sale at a store. Maybe you would have a catalog telling about community sports and classes you can take.

Some catalogs come in the mail and some catalogs are online. Whatever kind of catalog you have will give you details or information about the items. What kind of things do you think I can learn from a catalog? Size, color, what it looks like, how much it costs etc.

“I think it is fun to look at catalogs. Sometimes I use catalogs to help me pick out things I want to buy.

(You could either have a discussion about catalogs as scripted above, or you could pass out the catalogs to small groups and have the students tell you what kinds of information they were able to find in the catalogs.)

“In this library we have a book catalog. It is online. These computers (show student stations) contain our library catalog.) What kind of details or information do you think we will be able to find out about books?”

Discuss: as you hold up a book. (In discussion, mention: title of book, author, illustrator, how many pages, how big the book is, what the story is about.)

(Pull up the book in cataloging and show what information is there.)

“Were you right about what is in a library catalog? Yes, you were. Next time we will find out how you can find the information yourself.”