

January 26, 2026

TO: RAILS Board Consortia Committee
FROM: Nincy George, Cataloging Services Manager
SUBJECT: RAILS Cataloging Services Updates

Cataloging Training

The Cataloging Training program continues to address strong and ongoing demand among RAILS members for foundational and advanced instruction in cataloging, classification, and metadata standards. Current efforts focus on maintaining relevant, accessible training while responding to emerging trends and evolving member needs.

Training is typically delivered through Zoom for one-time webinars and the Moodle platform for six-week asynchronous courses. We are currently exploring a potential transition of select cataloging training content to Niche Academy.

Upcoming training opportunities:

- MARC 21 Standard six-week course (on Moodle)
- Cataloging for Non-Catalogers self-paced course (on Moodle)
- Webinars on New RDA, AI in Cataloging and Metadata, and Cataloging Objects

Cataloging for Non-Catalogers

The self-guided Cataloging for Non-Catalogers course is intended as a key resource to strengthen workforce capacity across member libraries with staff who perform cataloging-related tasks without formal training. It is expected to be available in April 2026 and will be continually refined.

Request for Input

To help guide future training efforts, we'd appreciate any feedback from the Consortia Committee in the following areas:

- Member needs: Topics, formats, or targeted skill levels that would be most beneficial
- Potential alignment: Opportunities to coordinate RAILS cataloging training with consortial training initiatives and shared cataloging activities

Updates to Cataloging Guidance Documents

Originally produced by the Cataloging Working Group of the Consortia Committee in 2018 and last updated in 2020, the "Best Practices for Consortial Cataloging" and "Cataloging Staff Competency Levels" [guidance documents](#) attached to this memo will be reviewed and revised in the coming months. Beyond updating out-of-date links and references and making necessary accessibility-related changes, we'd like to ensure that these documents are a useful reflection of current cataloging needs and issues within their respective scopes. Please share any feedback that we can consider as we make the updates.