Assignment 5: Social Cataloging and Tagging

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Links to Catalog

Regular Link:

https://www.librarything.com/catalog/peterkrausslibrarian

Permanent Link:

https://www.librarything.com/catalog.php?view=peterkrausslibrarian&collection=6&shelf=list&sort=tags&collection=6

Screenshot of Catalog

Figure 1: Screenshot

How the Catalog was Created

For my mini online Catalog, I chose to do a catalog of my top ten favorite books on LibraryThing. Before I began, I set up an account on LibraryThing and learned how to navigate the website. Then I created a new collection folder and titled it "Favorites." Once that was done, I used the search bar to search for my favorite books one by one. LibraryThing automatically had the metadata attached and a cover image, so all I had to do was add each individual book to the newly created folder.

Once my books were in my "Favorites" folder, I decided on which tags I would add. I started off with Fiction, Nonfiction, and poetry, and wrote down some custom tags that I thought were appropriate like "Dark" for *Watchmen*. Additionally, I selected a few tags from existing popular tags like "Fantasy," "dystopian," and "superhero." Lastly, I rated each book as 5-star. I found it difficult to narrow them down any further than 10, but if I had had an order of favorite to least favorite I would've tagged them as #1, #2, … , #10.

LibraryThing as a Social Cataloging Website

LibraryThing is a social cataloging website because it combines data from individual users and makes cataloging a collaborative activity. The most social aspect I used for this project is the tags created by users, which is an unstructured and democratic way for resource discovery. That isn't the only reason it's a social cataloging website though. Catalogers can rate and review resources, and they can share their collections and see other users' catalogs too. With this and the shared/imported metadata aspects, it makes creating your own catalog a lot easier, because others have done a lot of the heavy lifting for you. There are other social aspects to the website too like groups and forums, which make it easier to connect with other readers and find new books.