SUMMARY NOTES:

What are some of the concerns you have when cataloging? What do you think are the barriers for you?

Not enough time
Not enough money
Not enough staff
It's not sexy
Lack of expertise
Not enough information in the item
Backlog of legacy data / overwhemling
Lack of past documentation/ lack of guidelines for future cataloging
Lack of technological resources
Security of rare items
Need to make it uniform, because every archivist before me had their own way of doing it...
Cataloging is not automated
Afraid to catalog materials because staff don't understand them
Old formats

CHAT HISTORY:

Beth Knazook: What are some of the concerns you have when cataloging? What do you think are the barriers for you?
Allison Young: TIME
Melissa Anderson: time consuming
University of Chicago: Not enough staff, time or money.
Ricki Moskowitz: resources
Roberta: Complex and difficult rules for how to catalog
Hillery York: it's not sexy/ marketable to donors
University of Chicago: Lack of language expertise.
David Bigwood: Staff training
The Trustees, Archives & Research Center: Not enough info re: item cataloging
University of Chicago: Priorities constantly changing.
Jessica Holada: Lack of subject expertise.
Rock County Historical Society: Backlog of legacy data is a burden, volunteers and staff come and go, priority of other projects, limited financial resources
Cathy Miller: Organizational issues - what folder label best describes the content I am looking at? How much description is too much?
Litchfield Historical Society: lack of technological resources, databases, etc.
Wofford College Library: Labor intensive, intimidating backlog,
University of Minnesota: security of rare items in staff spaces
Sachiko Iwabuchi (UH Manoa): Some books need some extra knowledge to be cataloged. For instance, my cataloger needs more than basic knowledge of standard (modern) Japanese, but they need some knowledge of and time to verify unfamiliar surnames, place names.
Michelle Schabowski: Need to make it uniform, because every archivist before me had their own way of doing it...
Robin Grunwald: Cataloging is not automated enough with our tool
University of Minnesota: Transport of items from one building where items are housed, to another building where catalog staff reside
Melissa Anderson: language barriers
Wofford College Library: In a small library we are pulled in multiple directions; staff wear multiple hats
Cathy Miller: potentially altering the original intent with description
Roberta: Collections that are truly hidden, physically -- not accessible to catalogers
David Bigwood: Not always get past tech resources, old formats where the tech no longer exists.
Melissa Anderson: it seems like as soon as we get through a chunk of backlog we end up converting systems and then we have cleanup to do all over again