

THE COLLECTIVE

March 11-13, 2020 | Knoxville, TN

The Life-Changing Magic of RegEx

Convenor(s):

Kathryn Lybarger, Head, Cataloging and Metadata, University of Kentucky Libraries

Mike Monaco, Coordinator, Cataloging Services, The University of Akron

Brief Description of Program:

RegEx are a powerful tool for matching patterns. Like a Wish spell, though, they will do exactly what you ask so you need to be careful. But don't be afraid! Anyone can learn the life-changing magic of RegEx!

Kathryn Lybarger (University of Kentucky) will introduce participants to the basics of RegEx with a game of RegEx Bingo. Learn how RegEx work while vying for fabulous prizes! Well, prizes anyway.

Mike Monaco (The University of Akron) will then lead the participants through some exercises where we will compose some practical RegEx, and convene an interactive quiz to help you test what you've learned. (It's a Kahoot! quiz, so bring you smartphone, laptop, or tablet!)

RegEx are especially useful for metadata and cataloging work when you need to make systematic changes to data, but you don't need to be a MARC wizard to find ways to use RegEx to level up your database clean-up skills. Participants are encouraged to bring searching or pattern matching problems for the group to brainstorm RegEx solutions, but the conveners will also bring devious problems for participants to work out so everyone can leave enchanted by RegEx.

Tags:

Estimated Session Attendance: 11

NOTES FROM SESSION:

RegEx- Regular Expression. A way to describe a pattern. Find a pattern.

It's not just for programmers!

Used in tech services and word processing

/... / indicates a RegEx

Literal characters match. CAT matches Wildcat, scatter, etc. Doesn't match
Crate

Matching is case sensitive. Matching only part of the data is fine.

Meta characters `^$#%` give expressions power

Can be used in Google docs and sheets, Notepad ++, Excel(in developer mode), Word, grepWin(search tool)

See handouts for links to sandboxes and references.