

# Digging into metadata:

context, code, collaboration

# Necessary background

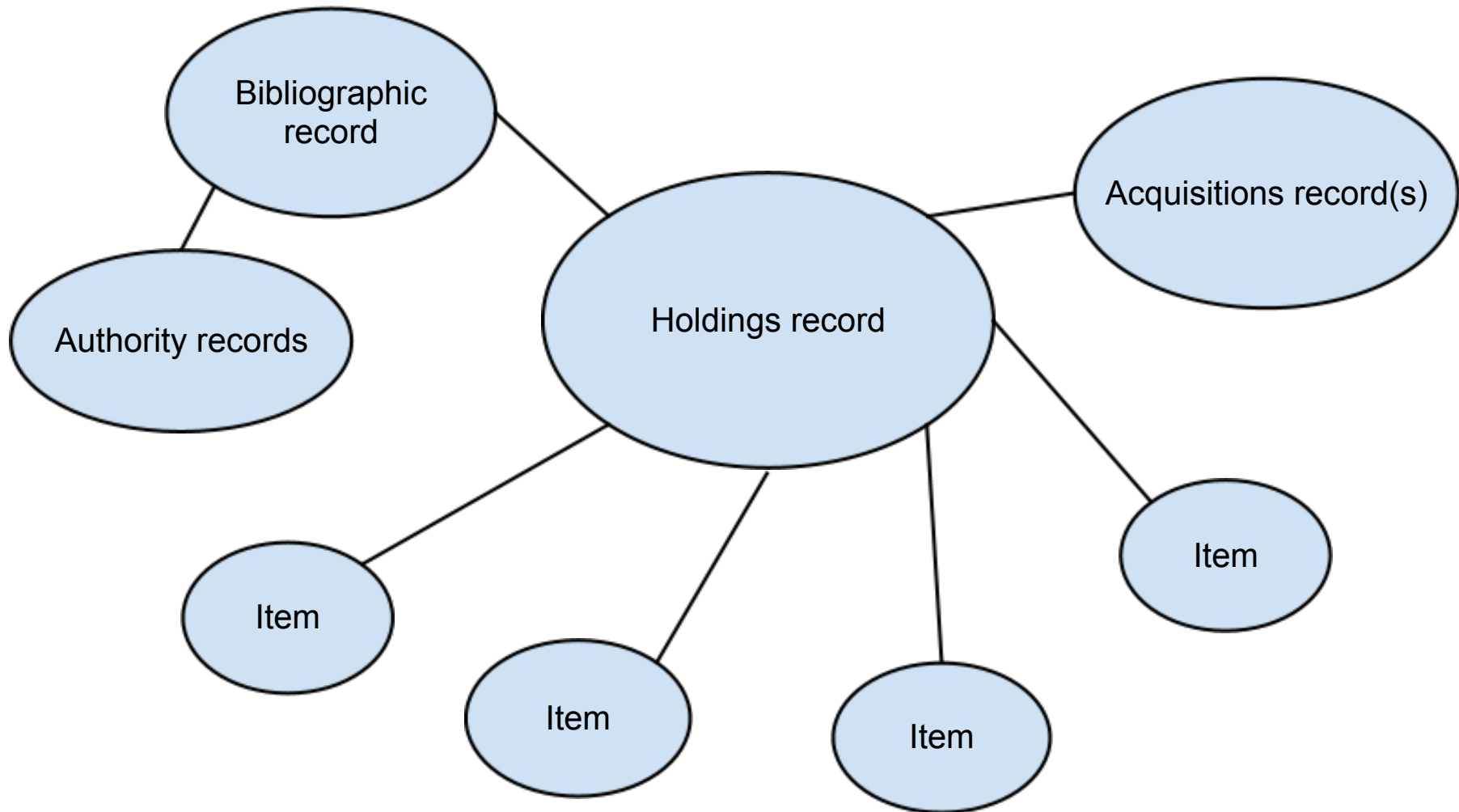
- How did we get here anyway?

# Systems

- Systems have ended up dictating design and how we interact with data.
- The [history of the integrated library systems](#) also plays a huge role.

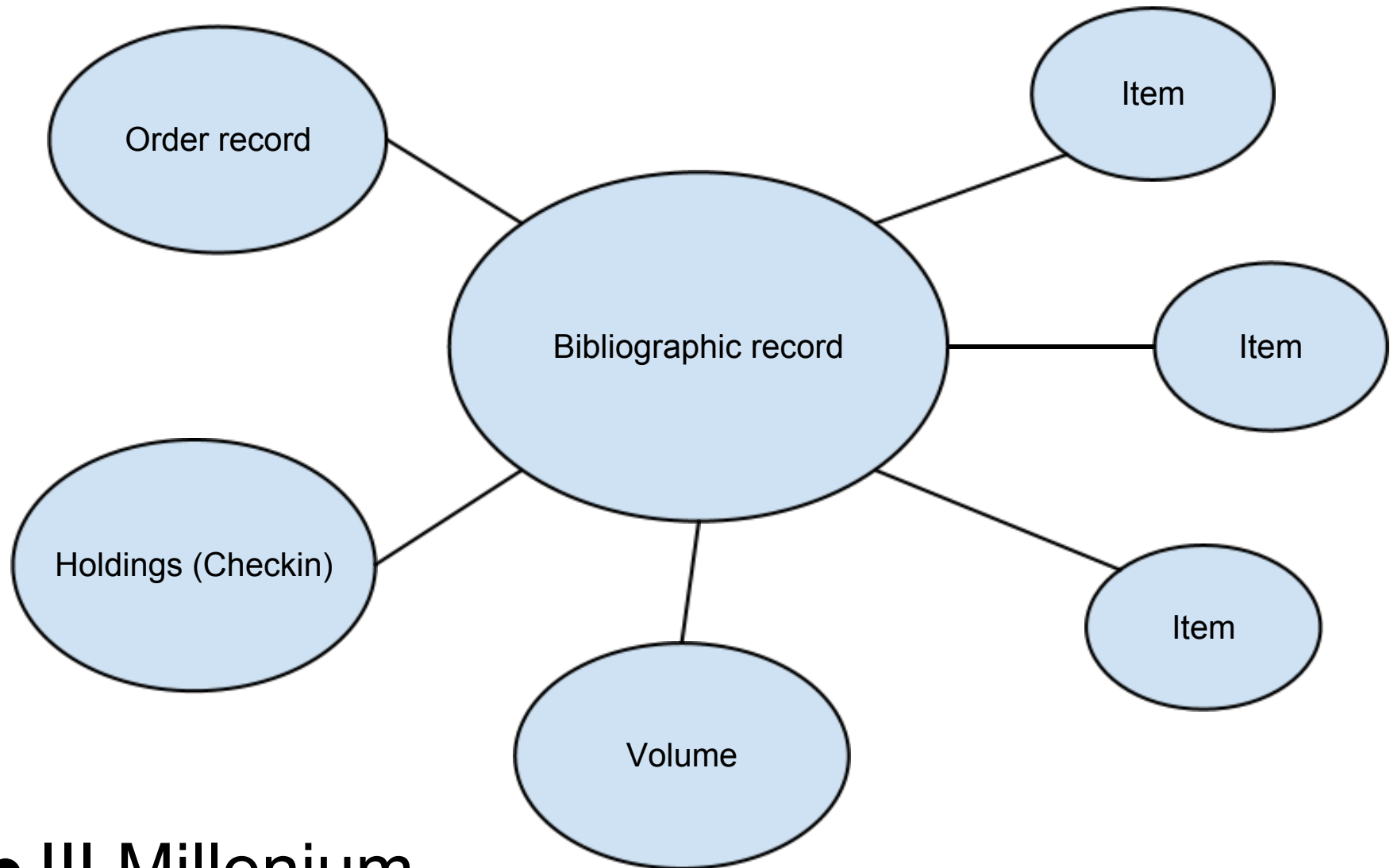
core of many systems cannot be changed = data structure still the same from 60s to 80s

# System record relationships



- Voyager

# System record relationships



- III Millenium

# Rules rules rules (oh, and standards)

Some acronyms:

- AACR
- AACR2
- LCRIs      particular format of AACR2 for their MARC
- RDA
- LCPSs      LC policy statements
- PCC, BIBCO and BSR, CONSER and CSR, NACO
- ISBD      integrated into AACR2 but not RDA      may follow or not
- MARC (duh!)
- ISSN/ISBN      ISSN = controlled, ISBN = not
- FRBR, FRAD, FRISAD      bibliographic model that we're trying to apply

More Info:

[http://wiki.code4lib.org/index.php/Digging\\_into\\_metadata:\\_context%2C\\_code%2C\\_and\\_collaboration](http://wiki.code4lib.org/index.php/Digging_into_metadata:_context%2C_code%2C_and_collaboration)

# Why should I care?

these rules/standards provide different instructions/expectations for data  
e.g. difference between AACR2 + RDA  
might use same bibrecord  
updated again and again  
might have 4 sets of rules embedded  
sometimes one way road, might not be able to changed back  
originally baed on card cataloguing, why we still have lots of abbreviations, etc.  
then systems were first based on that

- **Context**
- **Transcription vs. cataloger supplied** - transcribe = taken from item including spelling errors, etc.
- **Use of local fields** - any additional data (providing data) uses different set of rules
  - may not conform to any other standard
  - may not have been documented

hard to migrate/change because of how costly it is, OCLC took 5 years to do it  
will be in a transition period for a long time because the existing data isn't going away

if want more flexibility in a system, might look at those that began late 90s or later  
ByWater, Equinox with more eXtensible cataloguing  
some more modular, ingest data in any standard  
e.g. Sierra - supposed to have access to Postgres database =! black box  
looking at Solr indexing

## Cataloguer's Judgement

analogous to choosing which language to program an app

= a lot of local practices

might have improper use of fields, etc.

most libraries create metadata as if the data wasn't going to leave the institution

only meets the needs of local institution

affects use of metadata in and out of institution

One Example:

Drupal, Solr, Ill system -> discovery layer

data that is not used by the public interface

e.g. materials format data doesn't show in Ill - no one says "this is incorrect"

working on a list of assumptions, usually horribly wrong

e.g. fixed fields and variable fields that do not match - then ILS may override MARC record info

# \$judgement

Cataloguer's Judgement = double-edged sword

# War Stories

Linked Data - e.g. replace keywords with  
ViewShare - csv to do reconciliation of e.g. geographic names



# I'm a cataloger,

following technical mailing lists

need to understand that you can't just program things away

understand how quickly things change and how iterative they are

need to be able to add data when new info is discovered

too much library data is thought of as "static" or "done"

likely b/c of how difficult it was to change cards

*now what?*

understand change management:

can't fix with coding without figuring out complexity of data



"buy us chocolates"  
follow some technical lists  
if want to search autocat:

<http://www.cwu.edu/~dcc/Autocat/Archives-search.html>

cataloguers more likely to look at single record, typically have difficulty patterns over a lot of records

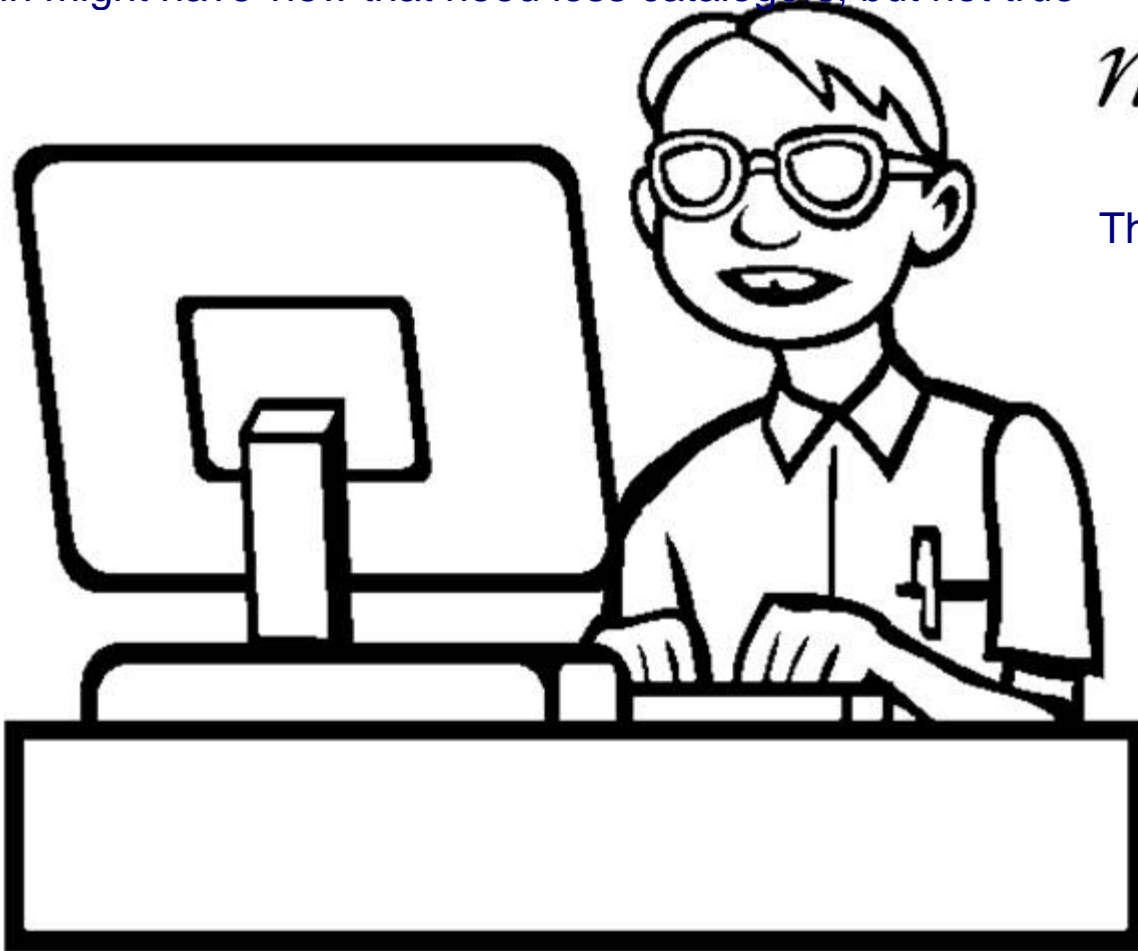
automation: see if 1-2 ppl are more inclined to make their lives easier

admin might have view that need less catalogers, but not true

# I'm a coder,

*now what?*

Thank cataloguers for coming to code4lib



# Codaloger?

or

# Cataloder?

Crazy

Code4libber

Catcoder - #catcode - cataloguers doing codeyear

[catcode.pbworks.com](http://catcode.pbworks.com)

[www.libcatcode.org](http://www.libcatcode.org) in the vein of stackoverflow