Assessment of API-generated Links to HathiTrust, Internet Archive, and Google Books Affiliation

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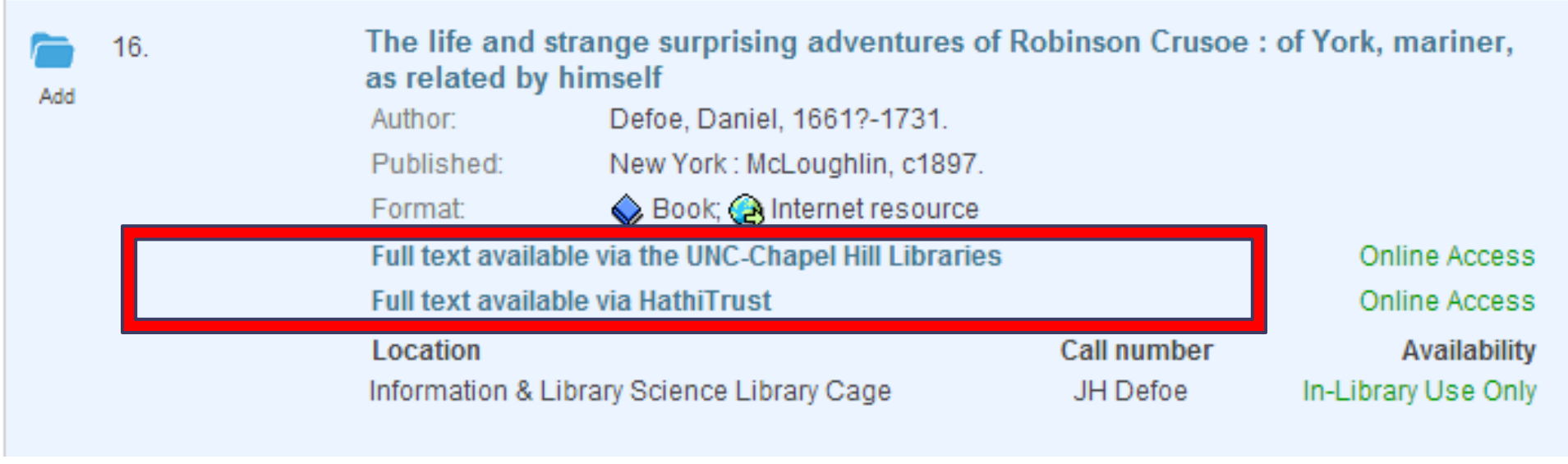
Background

- UNC-Chapel Hill uses application programming interfaces (API) to link patrons to digitized surrogates of works in the public domain.
- These APIs provide links to Google Books, Internet Archive, and HathiTrust, among others.

Background

- For the most part, these API-generated links seem to work fine.
- However, there are some problematic and confusing links to these digitized resources.



What are the problems?

- Problems include:
  - Linking to the wrong edition of the work
  - Linking to the wrong volume of a multi-volume work
  - Digitized surrogate lacking complete text or missing other materials (such as illustrations).
  - Linking to the wrong work entirely
- Problems stem from metadata issues on UNC's end, metadata issues on the repositories' side, or problems with the image capture of the item.

The project

- Derived a random sample of OCLC records used in both the UNC and HathiTrust catalogs.
- Physical copy of each item examined, comparing it to the digital copies linked in the catalog.
- Items with discrepancies in the image or the metadata were flagged for further review.

2nd pass? Y N

date of search_____

title _____

call # _____

barcode #_____

.b# _____

for multi-vol. sets, vol. to search: ____

I. BIB RECORD MATCHES ITEM IN HAND?

Y___ N___ title
Y___ N___ author
Y___ N___ publisher
Y___ N___ publication date
Y___ N___ publication place
Y___ N___ pagination
Y___ N___ n/a ____ edition
Y___ N___ n/a ____ series
Y___ N___ part of multi-vol. set?
If yes, # of vols. in bib record: _____

II. NUMBER OF ITEMS PER LINK IN ENDECA:

____ HathiTrust

____ Internet Archive—links within IA

____ Google

☐ TOTAL LINKED ITEMS

III. LINKED ITEMS MATCH ITEM IN HAND?

Sample vol. not dig., alternate vols. viewed:

HT: _____ IA: _____ G: _____

Y = Yes; N = No; n/a = does not apply

	HT		IA		G	
	MD	img	MD	img	MD	img
title						
author						
pub.						
pub.date						
pub. pl.						
pag.						
edition						
series						
illus.						
frontis.						
all vols. dig.						
sample vol. dig.						
source (HT, IA, G)						

856 field: No Yes _____

Results and Preliminary Observations

- 289 items with digital surrogates selected, to provide a statistically significant sample.
- Of these, 6 items were not able to be located. A total of 283 items were physically examined and compared to online surrogates.
- These 283 items had 508 digital surrogates available.
  - Some items had no links even when there was a digital surrogate available.
  - Other items had multiple links to different websites.

Results and Preliminary Observations

- Links present in our catalog:
  - DocSouth: 1
  - Google Books: 138
  - Government Publications Office: 2
  - Harvard: 1
  - HathiTrust: 236
  - Internet Archive: 116
- Results don't add up to 508, because a few items had digital surrogates that were not linked in our catalog.

Results and Preliminary Observations

- 145 links (28.54%) reviewed in greater detail because of an identified discrepancy between the physical item and the digital surrogate.
- Many of these discrepancies determined to be minor.
  - Slightly different pagination
  - Missing frontispiece
  - Metadata mismatch but digitized images match item

Results and Preliminary Observations

- 38 digital items (7.48% of examined items; 26.21% of items with discrepancies) were determined to be “not good enough.”
- Examples of items “not good enough” include:
  - Different edition of same work
  - Different volume of same series
  - Warped or unreadable text
  - Absence of crucial supplementary material (e.g., foldout maps, illustrations)

Results and Preliminary Observations

- Of these 38 “not good enough” items, 7 were not linked in our catalog at all.
- Of the remaining 31 links:
  - 13 are missing materials (including 4 with fold-out maps that would be essential to the work)
  - 1 is a bad scan
  - 6 lead to the wrong edition of the work
  - 4 have our book attached to the wrong WorldCat record
  - 2 stem from local cataloging errors
  - 5 stem from bibliographic problems surrounding multi-volume sets and serials.

Results and Preliminary Observations

- Clear majority of links lead to the expected digital copy without a problem.
- Problems are far more likely to come from the scanned image than the metadata.
- Multi-volume works are more likely to have issues
- Links flagged as “not good enough” have an overwhelming chance of Google Books being the source of the scan.
- Missing materials (pages, illustrations, maps) are the biggest problem.
- Copyright date and pagination are the two categories most likely to be a mismatch between our item and the digitized surrogate.

Questions for Further Exploration

- Are there cost-effective and feasible measures that could be taken to…
  - Fill in missing content for digital manifestations?
  - Provide a link to a better digital copy?
  - Identify and correct metadata errors?
- Is there a way to build on cooperative cataloging programs to allow these sorts of corrections?

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