

# Metadata Management of Scarecrow Video's Silent Film Collection: An MLIS Capstone Project

By Janey Thompson

## What I did:

-Cross-checked each item (DVD, VHS tape) in the Silent Film collection, and, later, Silent Directors, to ensure each film was represented in Scarecrow's OZ database. For each film, I added IMDb identifiers and any additional names (alternative spellings, translations) the titles went by.

## Before:

Titles of DVDs and VHS tapes were listed as film titles, and subsequent films themselves would be represented as "alternate titles":

## After:

I created item records for each film and added them as "titles" within the main item, complete with a year, country of origin, IMDb ID, and alternate titles:

- Drawn at the Puppets' House* (1908, 3 min.)
- The Magic Hoop* (1908, 5 min.)
- The Little Soldier Who Became a God* (1908, 4 min.)
- The Boudoir Brothers* (1908, 2 min.)
- Transfigurations* (1909, 6 min.)
- Let's Be Sporty* (1909, 5 min.)
- Japanese Fantasy* (1909, 1 min.)
- The Hopy Microbes* (1909, 4 min.)
- Modern Education* (1909, 3 min.)
- The Living Fan* (1909, 4 min.)
- Spanish Clair de Lune* (1909, 4 min.)
- The Next Door Neighbors* (1909, 4 min.)
- Crowns* (1909, 5 min.)
- Delicate Porcelains* (1909, 3 min.)
- Monsieur Clown Among the Lilliputians* (1909, 4 min.)



Just one item could have dozens of film titles that were not properly represented in the database

Item Record: AMERICAN SLAPSTICK

Year: 2006

Country: USA

IMDb ID:

Alternate Titles (AKA):

- BEAUTY AND THE BUMP
- BOND
- CAUGHT IN THE RAIN
- CUPID'S RIVAL
- FORGOTTEN SWEETIES
- GOLF
- HEAVY LOVE
- LAUGHING GAS
- LUZZIES OF THE FIELD
- LUKE'S MOVIE MIDDLE
- NONSKID KID
- PAY YOUR DUES
- RECKLESS ROSIE
- SMITHY
- SOLD AT AUCTION
- SUBMARINE PIRATE
- UPPERCUTS

Rental Inventory

Enter Search Title or Rental SKU: 95457

Item: AMERICAN SLAPSTICK (1927) (3 DISKS) (RBA)

ItemID: 47883

UPC: 014381358124

Item Name: AMERICAN SLAPSTICK

Title	Year
LUZZIES OF THE FIELD	1924
SMITHY	1924
SUBMARINE PIRATE	1915
SOLD AT AUCTION!	1923
CAUGHT IN THE RAIN	1914

Special Section: DIRECTORS

Location: CHAPLIN, CHARLES

Multiple/Alternate/Additional Titles:

- LUZZIES OF THE FIELD (1924) - USA
- SMITHY (1924) - USA
- HOME WRECKER (1915) - USA
- SUBMARINE PIRATE (1915) - USA
- SUBMARINE STORY (1915) - USA
- SOLD AT AUCTION! (1923) - USA
- CAUGHT IN THE RAIN (1914) - USA
- AT IT AGAIN
- IN THE PARK
- WHO GOT STUNG?
- LAUGHING GAS (1914) - USA
- BUSY LITTLE DENTIST
- DENTIST: THE
- DOWN AND OUT
- LAFFING GAS
- TUNING HIS IVORIES
- CUPID'S RIVAL (1917) - USA
- ARTIST: THE
- BOND, THE (1918) - USA
- CHARLIE CHAPLIN IN A LIBERTY LOAN APPEAL
- GOLF (1922) - USA
- HEAVY LOVE (1926) - USA
- UPPERCUTS (1926) - USA
- BEAUTY AND THE BUMP (1927) - USA
- RECKLESS ROSIE (1928) - USA
- LUKE'S MOVIE MIDDLE (1918) - USA
- CINEMA DIRECTOR
- DIRECTOR OF THE CINEMA
- LUKE'S MODEL MOVIE

From this...

...to this:



For more obscure films, or ones with multiple titles, I had to consult primary sources, such as digitized copies of *Photoplay* magazine

Item Record: CHAPLIN EARLY MASTERPIECES V.2

Year: 1915

Format: DVD

Rating: U/G

Language: ENGLISH

Collection: NONE

Supplier: V.F.D.

Cost: \$0.00

Region Code: Region 1 (US & Canada)

Episodes: BY THE SEA, IMMIGRANT, PAWN SHOP

Previous (incorrect) representation of each film title as television episodes

Item Record: CHAPLIN EARLY MASTERPIECES V.2

Year: 1915

Format: DVD

Rating: U/G

Language: ENGLISH

Collection: NONE

Supplier: V.F.D.

Cost: \$0.00

Region Code: Region 1 (US & Canada)

Episodes: BY THE SEA, IMMIGRANT, PAWN SHOP

Correct representation of each film, with an item title as the name of the compilation

