



Is it still a book or not:

cataloging artist books for Special Collections at University of Houston Libraries

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Background

- 12 artist books purchased for Special Collections in 2015
- Cartonera books
- Unique design and non-standard publishing





Cataloging Process

- 9 out of 12 have an OCLC record (Thanks to U. of Wisconsin and others)
- Record enrichment
- 3 need original cataloging
- Adding UH local copy information
- Decision on LC classification schedule



Record Enrichment

- Add 500 note for additional physical description
- Add 520 note for summary (provided by curator)
- Add local UH copy # in 590 for local note
- Add genre forms if not found
 - 655 artist books #2 rbgenr
 - 655 Corrugated board bindings (Binding) #2 rbbin
- Use N7433.35 A-Z or N7433.4 A-Z for class numbers

There is one particular item...

- A jacob's ladder
- Book vs. Visual materials
- Fixed field
- 300 field
- 336/337/338 field





Is it still a book or not?

- From a user's point of view
- An artist book is the work of art in the form of a book
- The line between a book and an art piece

Here is the MARC record

Visual Materials	Rec stat	c	Entered	20171212	Replaced	20171212161209.3	
Type r	ELvl l	Srce d	Audn		Ctrl		Lang eng
BLvl m	Form	GPub	Time n n n		MRec		Ctry txu
Desc i	TMat a	Tech n	DtSt s		Dates 2013	,	
040		TXH #b eng #e rda #c TXH #d TXH					
041	0	eng #a spa					
050	4	N7433.4.F66 #b T67 2013					
090		#b					
049		[Spec Col] TXHU					
100	1	Flores, Jorge Galván, #e artist					
245	1 0	Tortillera viscera.					
264	1	Houston, Tex. : #b Jorge Galván Flores, #c 2013.					
300		4 string-bounded blocks : #b wood, color ; #c 35 x 5 x 1 cm folded into 9 x 5 x 5 cm					
336		three-dimensional form #b tdf #2 rdacontent					
337		unmediated #b n #2 rdamedia					
338		object #b nr #2 rdacarrier					
500		Jacob's ladder binding with text printed on red Tyvek binding paper. Each birch block with acrylic paint and closure. Title label on top of case.					
500		Edition of eight with one artist proof.					
546		Text in English and Spanish.					



Lessons learned

- Research on cataloging materials
- Communications with curator
- Think from a user's perspective
- Ask for help on the discussion list



Notes

- OCLC#1015251783, #809207850, #944136882, #944136183, #768871998, #808149148, #944252959, #1015315650, #945982621, #1014023637, #922388526, #907277399
- University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries' Cartonera Publishers Database:
 - <https://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/arts/eloisacart/>



Thank you!

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Resource Description Librarian
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Xiping Liu. "Tortillera viscera." 2018. JPEG file.