Cultuurconnect

Lightning Talk: the CatAI-Quest
33rd EBLIDA Conference
April 7th-9th 2025, Riga

The CatAI-Quest: generating descriptive metadata using AI

Open Vlacc?

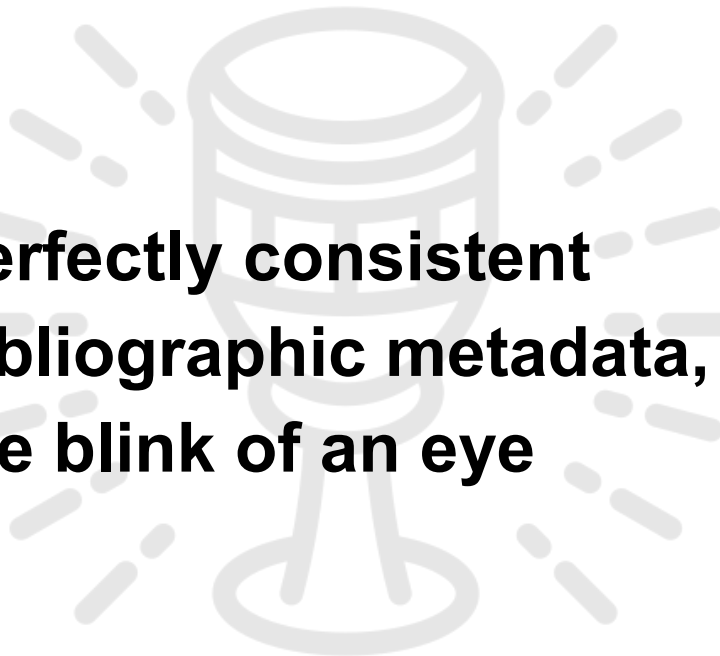**Cataloguing service for all 300+ public libraries in Flanders (BE)**

25.000 new descriptions/year + enhancing and correcting existing records: labour-intensive, often repetitive

The Holy Grail?

Perfectly consistent bibliographic metadata, in the blink of an eye

Extra goals of this quest?

Can AI help …

Cataloguers
eliminate redundant
and 'mindless' tasks

Library staff
standard labels,
ready-to-use
classifications

Library patrons
meaningful keywords
and genres = better
retrievability

Traps we want to avoid
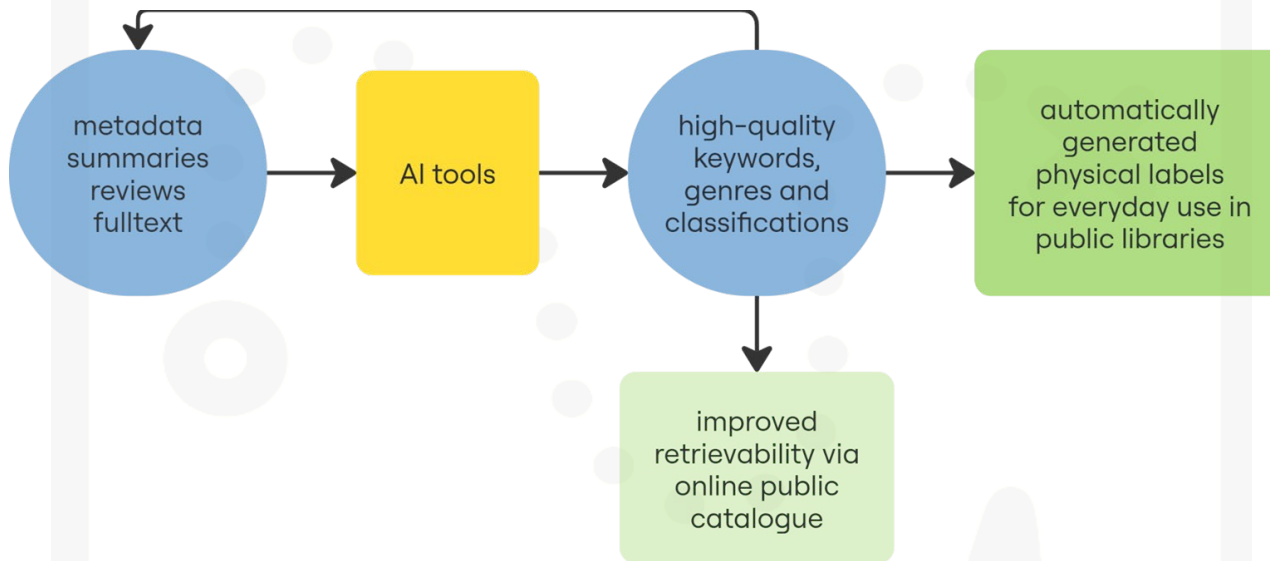
Quality of our metadata

Sustainability

AI to cater <u>our</u> needs

Stay independent

The journey

Dragons we encountered

Intellectual property rights

Inexperience at data science

Training troubles: untrainable classes in our classification systems

Time-consuming re-training

Biased vocabulary by commercial models

Gems we discovered

Statistic algorithm to predict metadata

Valuing the usefulness of our way of working

Future adventures with AI