

# Virtual AskQC Office Hours

Data and algorithms and bibs, oh my!

OCLC Metadata Quality

April 2023

# Housekeeping

This session is being recorded



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This session is being recorded

All session recordings, slides, and notes are available at [oc.lc/askqc](https://oc.lc/askqc)

The screenshot shows the OCLC website's AskQC page. At the top, there is the OCLC logo, a search bar with the text "How can we help you?", and navigation links for "Release Notes", "System Status Dashboard", and "Contact OCLC Support". Below the search bar is a breadcrumb trail: "Home » WorldCat » Metadata Quality » AskQC". The main heading is "Previous AskQC office hours", with a sub-heading "Last updated: Apr 16, 2021" and a download icon. Below this is the text "Find past AskQC office hour recordings and supporting materials." followed by a table.

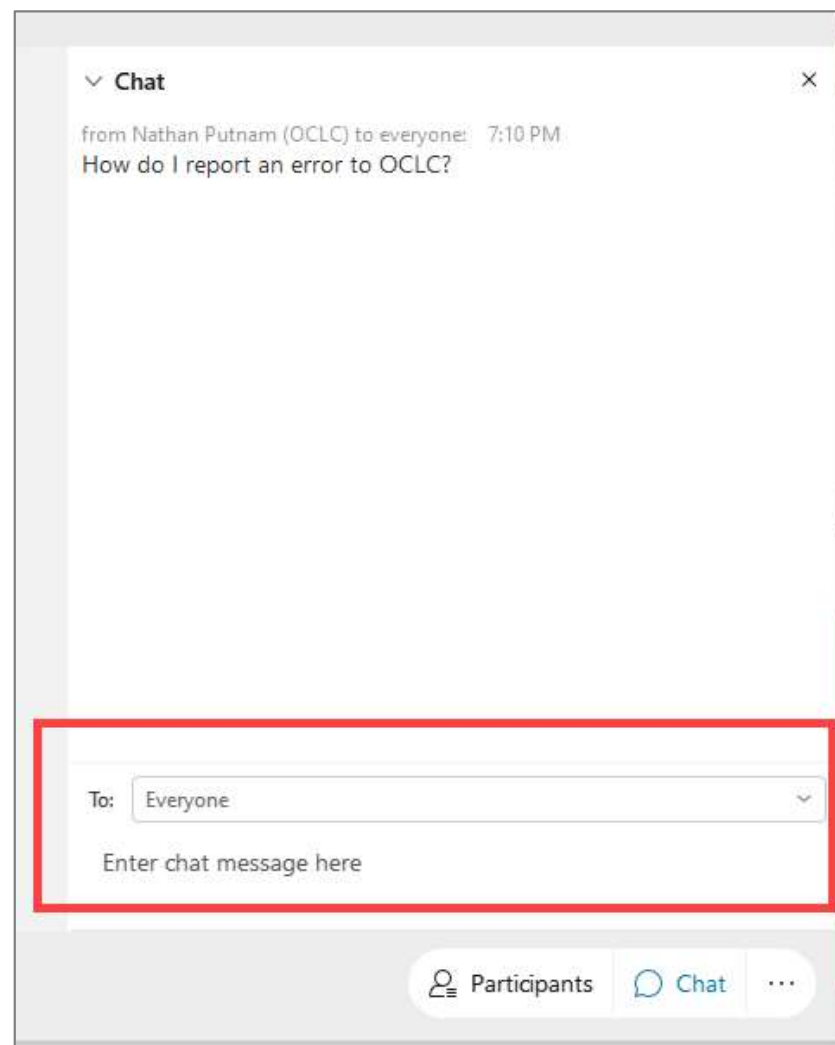
Date	Title	Supporting material
March 2021	PCC and OCLC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">WebEx recording - March 9</a></li><li>• <a href="#">WebEx recording - March 18</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Presentation slides</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Summary and member questions</a></li></ul>
February 2021	7xx linking fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">WebEx recording - February 9</a></li><li>• <a href="#">WebEx recording - February 18</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Presentation slides</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Summary and member questions</a></li></ul>

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Enter questions in chat to “Everyone” at any time during the presentation



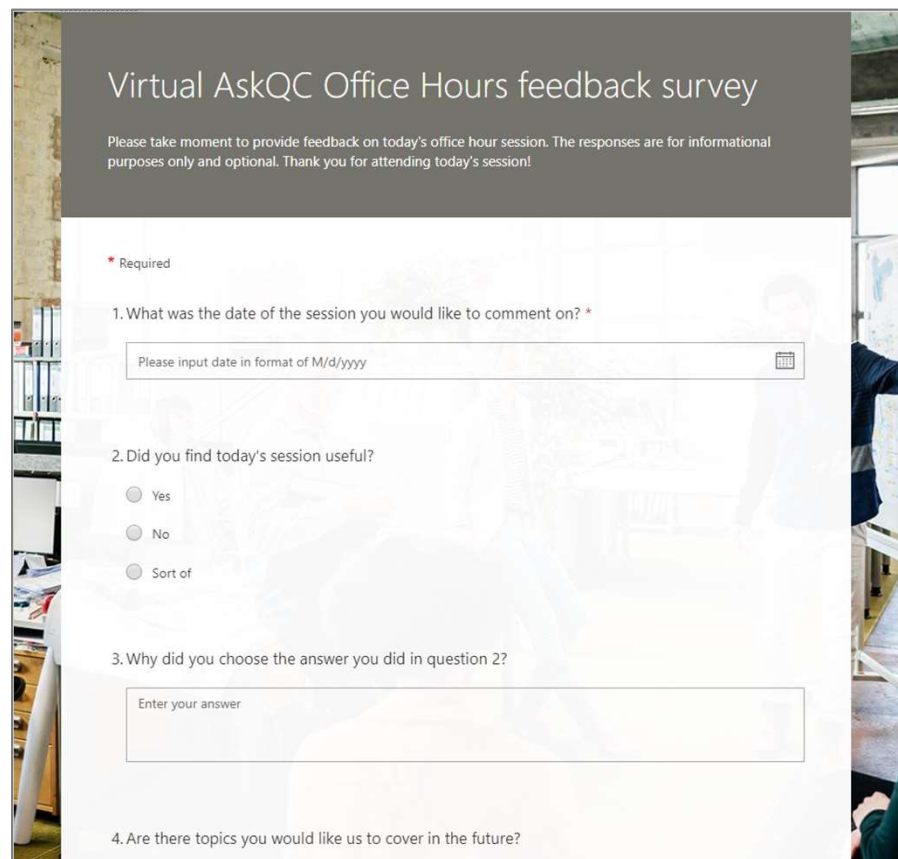
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Enter questions in chat to “Everyone” at any time during the presentation.

After the session, you will be directed to a brief, optional survey



Virtual AskQC Office Hours feedback survey

Please take moment to provide feedback on today's office hour session. The responses are for informational purposes only and optional. Thank you for attending today's session!

\* Required

1. What was the date of the session you would like to comment on? \*

Please input date in format of M/d/yyyy

2. Did you find today's session useful?

Yes

No

Sort of

3. Why did you choose the answer you did in question 2?

Enter your answer

4. Are there topics you would like us to cover in the future?

# On the call today



**Hayley Moreno**  
Senior Data Analyst



**Laura Ramsey**  
Senior Metadata  
Operations Manager



**Nathan Putnam**  
Director, Data Quality &  
Governance



**Jenny Toves**  
Senior Technical Manager



**Becky Dean**  
Lead Data Analyst



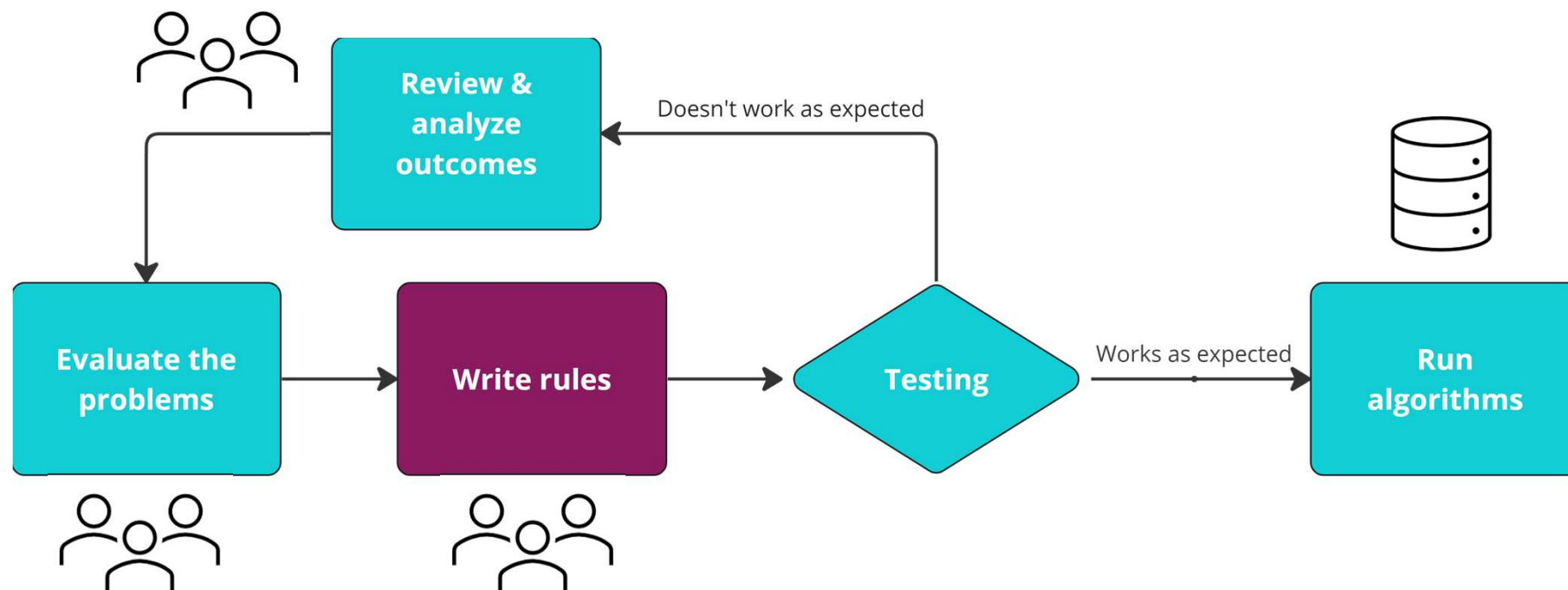
**Robin Six**  
Senior Data Analyst

# Data and algorithms and bibs, oh my!

**Laura Ramsey**  
Senior Metadata  
Operations Manager

**Nathan Putnam**  
Director,  
Data Quality & Governance

# Rules-based algorithms



Adapted from: Géron, Aurélien. Hands-On Machine Learning with Scikit-Learn, Keras, and TensorFlow. Second edition. O'Reilly Media. Kindle Edition.





# Rules-based algorithms

The image shows a series of overlapping text boxes, each containing a snippet of text from a document. Some text is highlighted in red. The text includes various identifiers, dates, and fragments of sentences, representing candidate duplicate records.

The image shows a series of overlapping boxes, each representing a rule used for matching and merging records. Each box contains a rule statement and a snippet of text.

- Rule 1: if X then Y**
- Rule 2: if A then B**
- Rule 3: if M then N**
- Rule ...: if ... then ...**
- Rule n: if  $n_1$  then  $n_2$**

The snippets of text are fragments of the same text seen in the previous image, illustrating how the rules are applied to match and merge them.

Candidate duplicate records → Matching & merging rules



# Rules-based algorithms

Doc id	Doc title	Entered	Revised
800	Starbucks	20070327	20220101040417
801	Starbucks	20070327	20220101040417
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812	Starbucks	20070327	20220101040417
813	Starbucks	20070327	20220101040417
814	Starbucks	20070327	20220101040417
815	Starbucks	20070327	20220101040417
816	Starbucks	20070327	20220101040417
817	Starbucks	20070327	20220101040417
818	Starbucks	20070327	20220101040417
819	Starbucks	20070327	20220101040417
820	Starbucks	20070327	20220101040417

**Rule 1: if X then Y**  
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**Rule 2: if A then B**  
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**Rule 3: if M then N**  
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**Rule ...: if ... then ...**  
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**Rule n: if  $n_1$  then  $n_2$**   
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# Where does this leave us?

## Duplicate Detection & Resolution

- 1 million duplicates removed

## Member Merge Program

- 20,000 duplicates removed

## OCLC Quality Staff Activities

- 12,000 duplicates removed

Over **1 million duplicate** records removed between July 2022 and March 2023.

Source: OCLC, MQ Accumulated Stats | Data as of March 2023.

# Where does this leave us?

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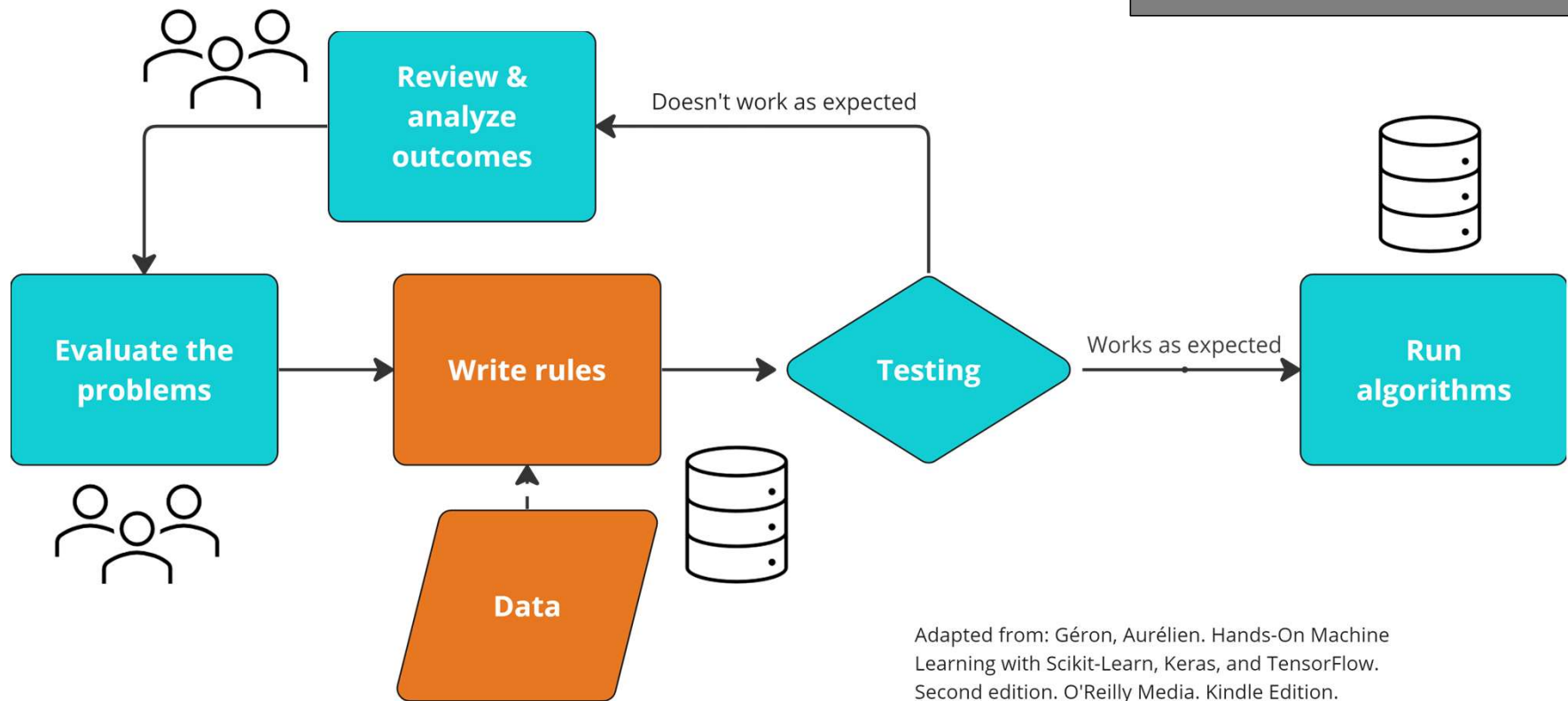
Over **1 million duplicate** records removed between July 2022 and March 2023.

*...but we all know there are more out there.*

Source: OCLC, MQ Accumulated Stats | Data as of March 2023.

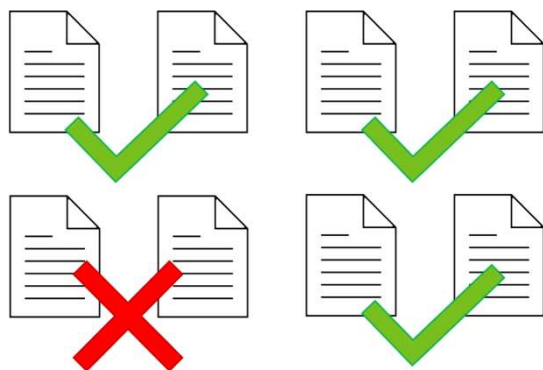
# Machine Learning

The science (and art) of programming computers to learn from data



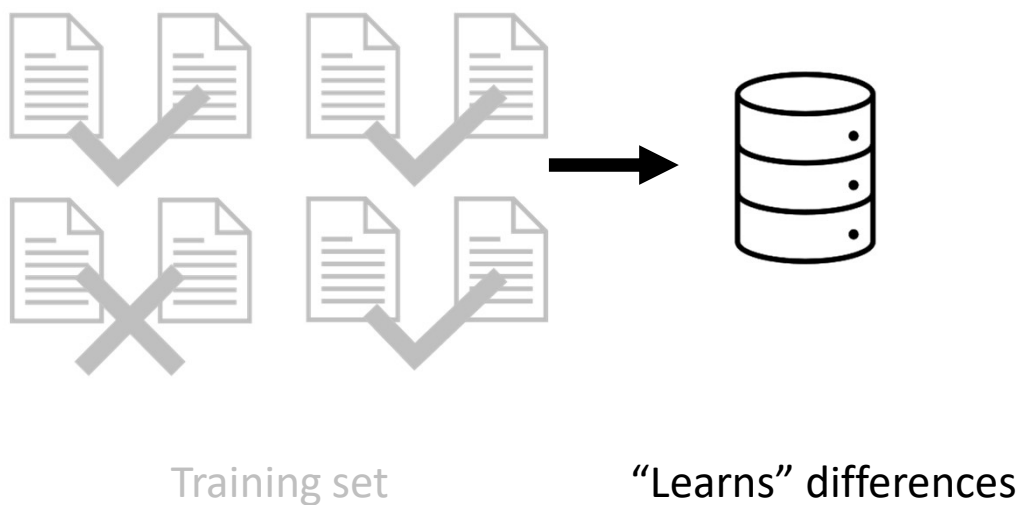
Adapted from: Géron, Aurélien. Hands-On Machine Learning with Scikit-Learn, Keras, and TensorFlow. Second edition. O'Reilly Media. Kindle Edition.

# Machine Learning



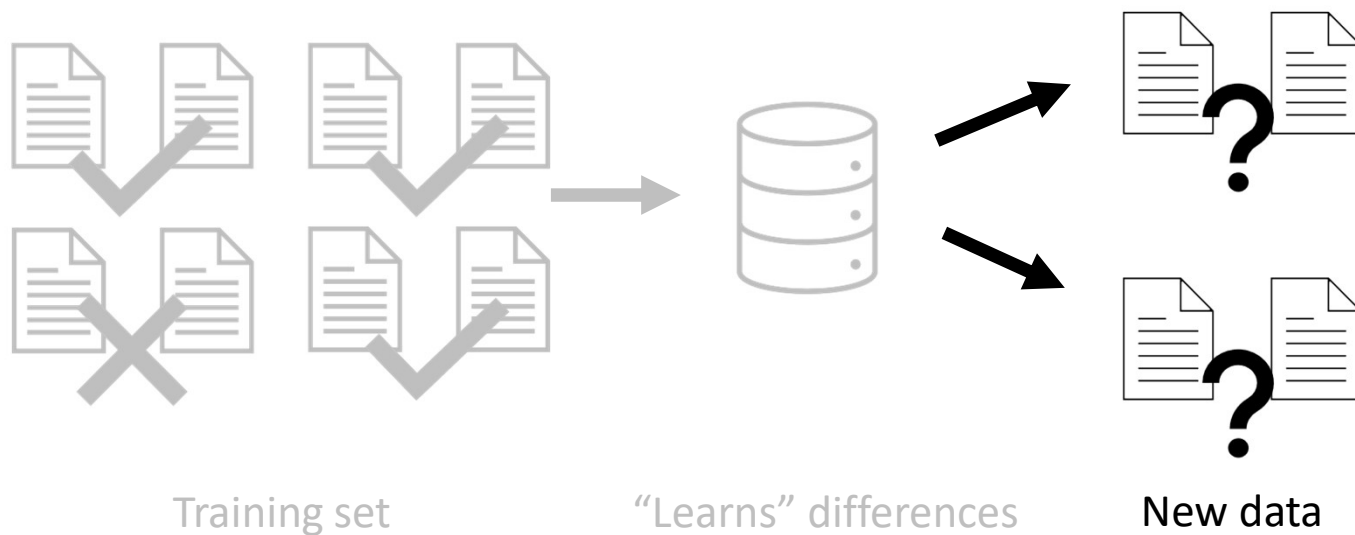
Training set

# Machine Learning

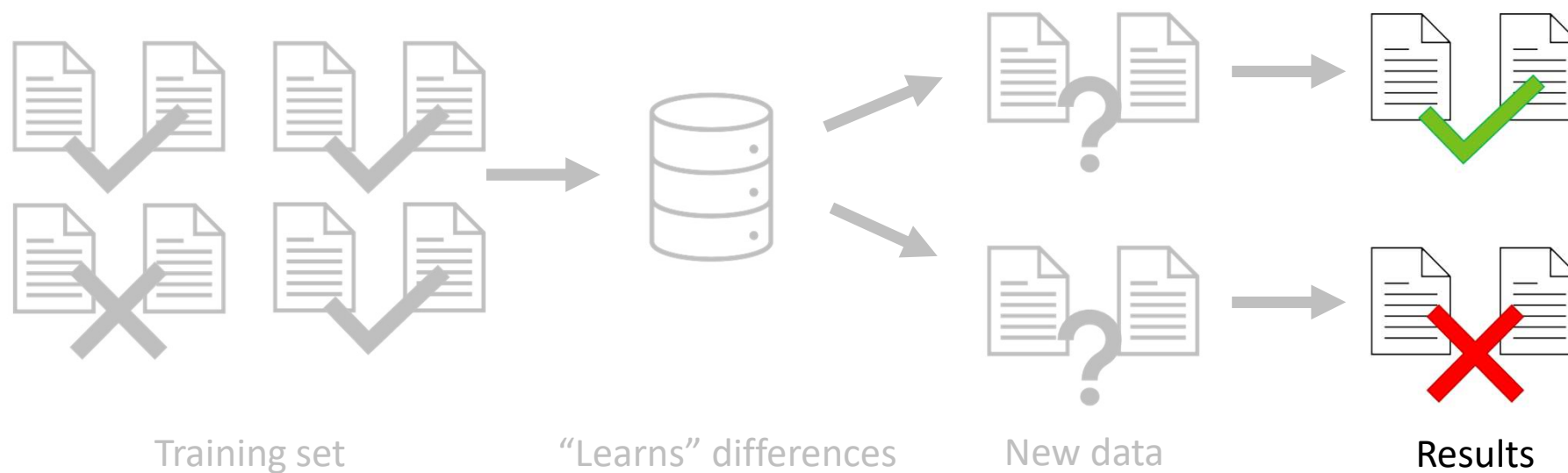




# Machine Learning



# Machine Learning



# Machine Learning projects

- OCLC Data Labelling Project

*Objective: Tap into the expertise of the cataloging community to validate and enhance our model's understanding of duplicate records, which ultimately improves the quality of WorldCat for the entire cooperative and library community*

- A sample of 60,000 sets for the tool was generated using MinHash
- The labelled data should be representative of WorldCat in terms of language of item, language of cataloging, material type, etc.
- For more information about MinHash: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MinHash>



# Are these records analogous?

For questions or assistance contact us at

[datapooling@oclc.org](mailto:datapooling@oclc.org)

Logout  
FAQ  
Leaderboard

Random Pair

**Generate new pair**

Select language of cataloging  
ENG

Select material type  
BOOK

Select age of record  
After 1830

Generate Pair

---

Do these two records describe the same item?

Yes  
 No  
 Unsure

Use checkboxes to select the fields most relevant to your decision

Submit Decision

Record 1	Fields	Record 2
<input type="checkbox"/> cam a M	leader	cam a Ma
<input type="checkbox"/> 1049733403	c001	967844886
<input type="checkbox"/> 730515s1957 iluack b 000 0 eng d	c008	960105s1957 iluack b 001 0 eng d
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$a 58005012	d010	\$a 58005012
<input type="checkbox"/> \$a NAM \$b eng \$c NAM	d040	\$a CASUM \$b eng \$c CASUM
<input type="checkbox"/> Missing Entry	d050	\$a RA971 \$b M24 1957
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$a MacEachern, Malcolm Thomas, \$d 1881-1956.	d100	\$a MacEachern, Malcolm Thomas, \$d 1881-1956.
<input type="checkbox"/> \$a Hospital organization and management.	d245	\$a Hospital organization and management / \$c by Malcolm T. MacEachern.
<input type="checkbox"/> \$a [Rev. 3d ed.]	d250	\$a Rev. 3rd ed.
<input type="checkbox"/> Missing Entry	d260	\$a Chicago : \$b Physicians' Record Co., \$c 1957.
<input type="checkbox"/> \$a Chicago : \$b Physicians' Record Co., \$c 1957.	d264	Missing Entry
<input type="checkbox"/> \$a xlii, 1,316 pages : \$b illustrations, color portrait, forms ; \$c 25 cm	d300	\$a xlii, 1316 pages, 27 unnumbered leaves of plates : \$b illustrations (some color) ; \$c 25 cm
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$a text \$b bt \$2 rdacontent	d336	\$a text \$b bt \$2 rdacontent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$a unmediated \$b n \$2 rdamedia	d337	\$a unmediated \$b n \$2 rdamedia
<input type="checkbox"/> \$a volume \$b nc \$2 rdacarrier	d338	\$a volume \$b nc \$2 rdacarrier
<input type="checkbox"/> \$a Includes bibliographies.	d504	\$a Includes bibliographical references and index.

# Labelling project stats

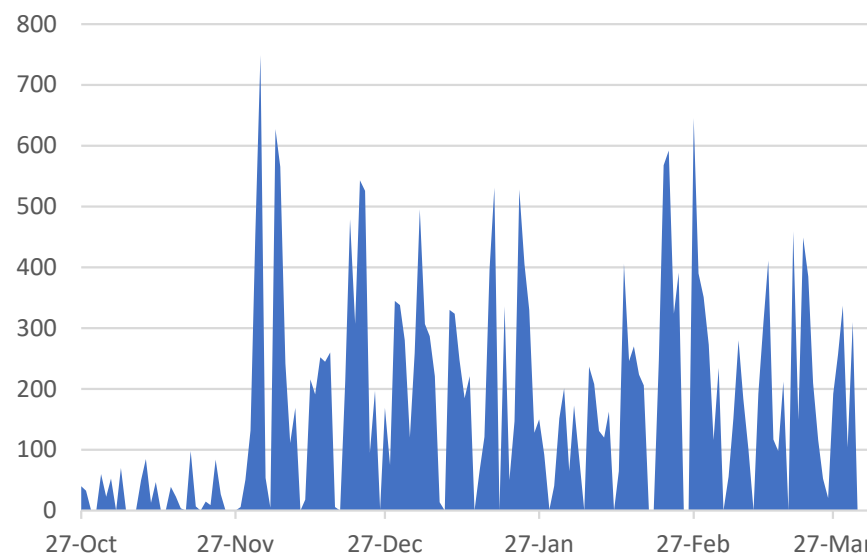
## Comparison outcomes

- 40% → the pair IS a duplicate
- 60% → the pair IS NOT a duplicate

## Top 5 fields used for decisions

- 245 – Title statement
- 300 – Physical description
- 260 – Publication, etc. statement
- 100 – Main entry - personal name
- 264 – Publication, etc. statement

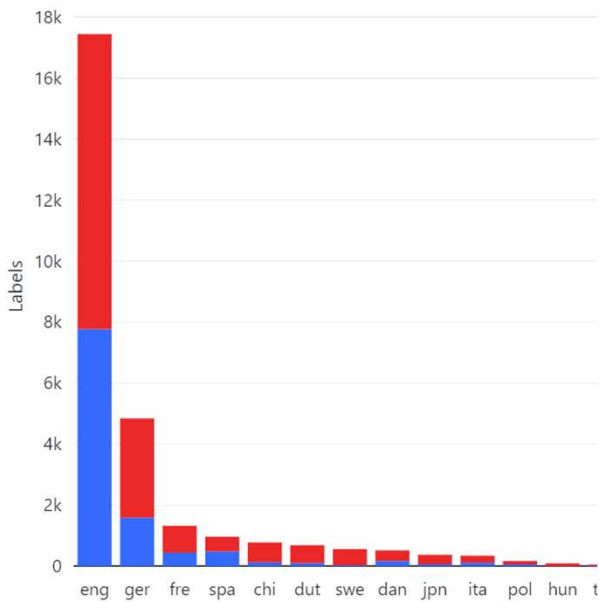
## Daily contribution counts



Source: OCLC, Data Science | Data as of April 2023.

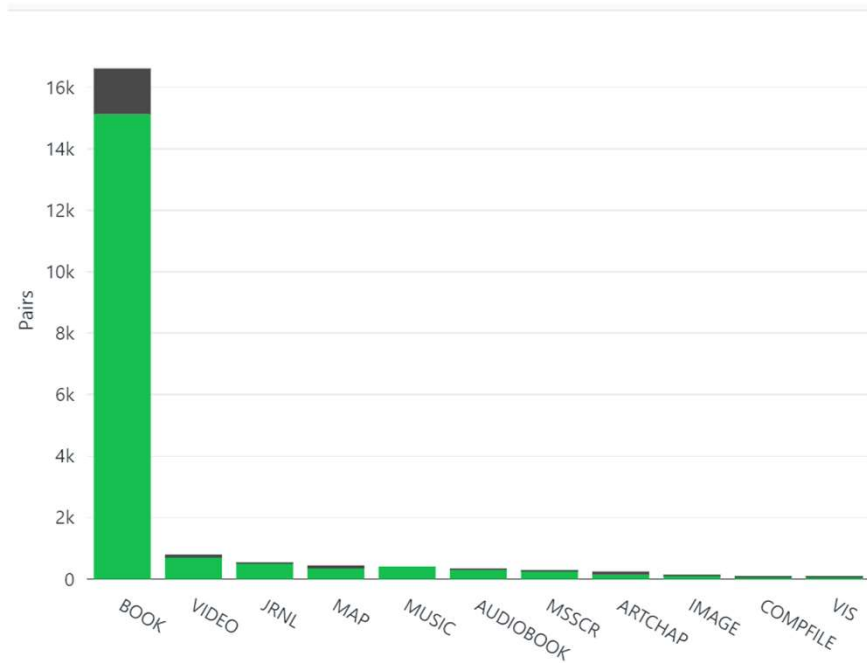
# Labelling project stats

## Language of cataloging



Source: OCLC, Data Science | Data as of April 2023.

## Item format



# Progress so far

- Group 1—Exact duplicates
  - Primary match keys are normalized and compared
- Group 2—Vendor duplicates
  - Records from identified vendors with looser criteria
- Group 3—Model duplicates
  - Labelled data used to train model

# Considerations

- Like rule-based instructions, ML isn't a catch-all solution
  - Models provide a degree of accuracy
- Accepting the degree of uncertainty
  - Is cleaning up millions of duplicate records worth a thousand or so incorrect merges?
- Shift in thinking
  - A rule for every situation is not possible, especially complex data sets
  - Use ML to fill in gaps
  - Experts still involved in training set and evaluation



# On the call today



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Senior Data Analyst



**Laura Ramsey**  
Senior Metadata  
Operations Manager



**Nathan Putnam**  
Director, Data Quality &  
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**Jenny Toves**  
Senior Technical Manager



**Becky Dean**  
Lead Data Analyst



**Robin Six**  
Senior Data Analyst

# Thank you!

## May Virtual AskQC Office Hours

What's in a name? Descriptive access points overview

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Tuesday, 9 May at 10:00 AM Eastern  
Thursday, 18 May at 4:00 PM Eastern

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Registration and session links  
available at [oc.lc/askqc](https://oc.lc/askqc)

Send cataloging policy questions at  
any time to [askqc@oclc.org](mailto:askqc@oclc.org)



Photo by [Eric Rothermel](#) on [Unsplash](#)