Squeezing RSS From Aleph:

One Library's Tale

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Background

Virginia Commonwealth University

– Located in Downtown Richmond

– 32,436 students

– 2 campuses

– One of the top 100 research

universities in the country

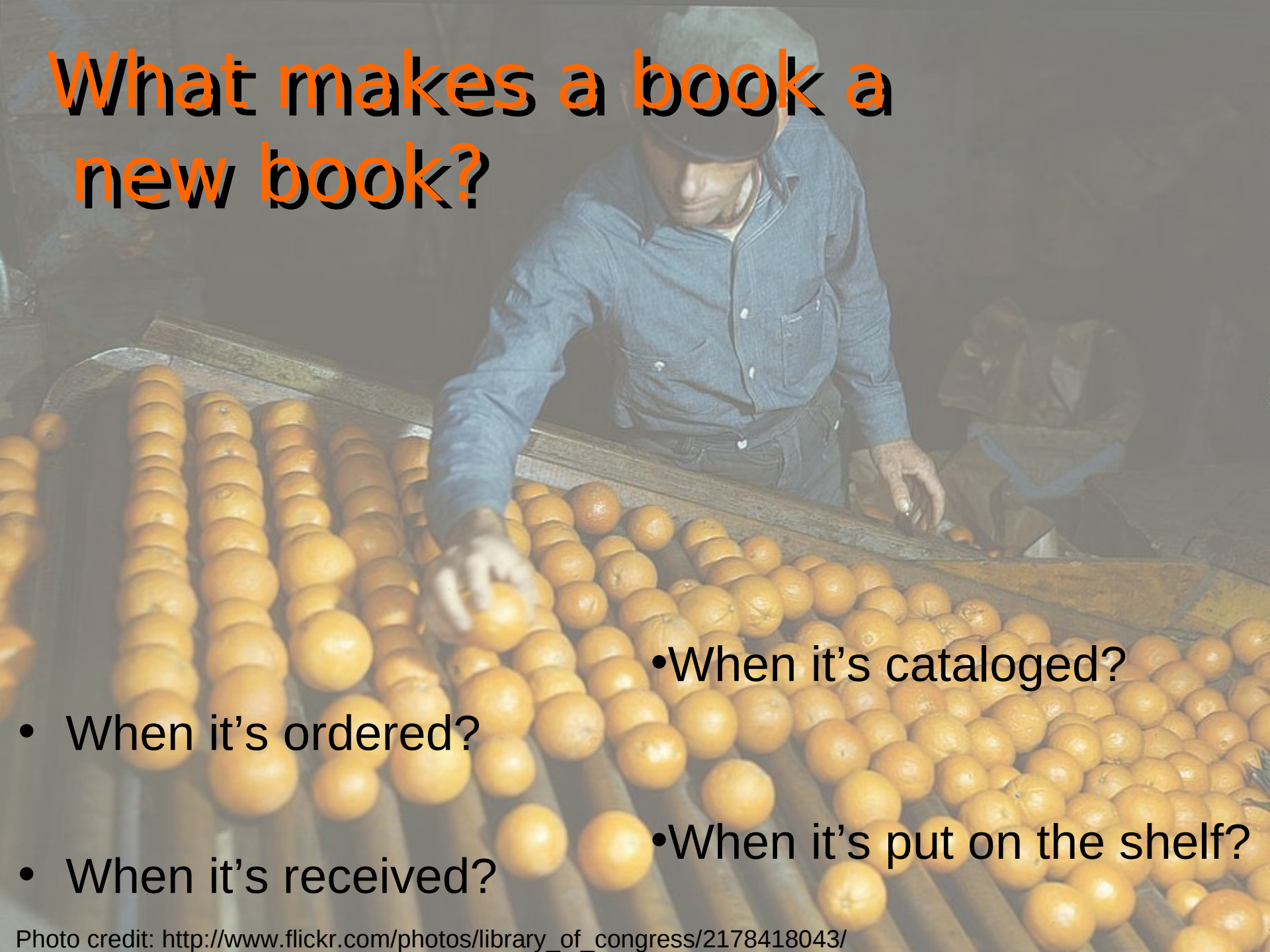Photo credit: http://www.flickr.com/photos/paulyp13/2869898225/

Origins

- *Requests from advisory groups*
- *Logical bases for other items*
  - *Compact storage*
  - *Journals*
  - *Medical Library*

New Titles Logical Base

- *Inspired by paper "What Has the Library Bought for You Lately?" by Jane Aitkens, McGill University*
- *Added new field to bib records of items identified as updated the previous month*
- *Not originally intended for RSS feeds*

What makes a book a new book?

- When it's ordered?

- When it's received?

- When it's cataloged?

- When it's put on the shelf?

New Books =

Items that are available to be checked out

New Books Rollout

- *Testing in August 2005*
- *In production November 2005*
- *Updated monthly*

SS Feeds Origins

- *Next Gen OPAC envy*
- *Started April 2009*
- *In production January 2010*

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Aleph Setup

- *X-services configuration*
  - *www_x user*
  - *Server_allow*
  - *Field display – tag files*
    - *alephe/www_x_eng*

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X-Services

- *Find*

  http://catalog.library.vcu.edu/X?op=find
  &base=vcu01new&request=wtp=DV+or+LD+or+FR+or+VC+or+IV

- *Sort*

  http://catalog.library.vcu.edu/X?op=sort-set
  &base=vcu01new&set_number=0045
  &sort_code_1=08&sort_order_1=D&sort_code_2=03&sort_order_2=A

- *Present*

  http://catalog.library.vcu.edu/X?op=present
  &base=vcu01new&set_number=0045&set_entry=001-100

PHP Script

- *Choice of PHP*
- *Run by cron*
- *Available on the EL Commons CodeShare*

Divide and Conquer

- *How to divide the information?*
  - *Call number range based on subject*

- *All vs. Many vs. Some*

- *LIS took the first pass*
  - *Given to collection management for input*
  - *Some didn't make the cut*

FeedBurner

- Stat Tracking
  - Subscribers
  - Click-through
- Subscribe by email
- Add feed to Twitter

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Next Steps

- *University Portal Integration*
- *LibGuides Integration*

Questions?

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www.library.vcu.edu