

Cataloging & Classification Quarterly
Best Paper Award
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David Bade, Monographic Cataloger, Joseph Regenstein Library, University of Chicago, is the recipient of the award for the best paper published in *CCQ* Volume 46, 2008.

The awards panel, Robert Holley (convener), Deirdre Kiorgaard, and Nancy Williamson, selected “The Perfect Bibliographic Record: Platonic Ideal, Rhetorical Strategy or Nonsense?” for its research on how the concept of the perfect record entered into the vocabulary of librarianship and influenced discussions of quality control.

Drawing upon a wide array of resources, Bade argues that the perfect record is used most often “as a rhetorical strategy for reducing the complex and context-dependent issue of quality to an absurdity” that then cuts off any meaningful examination of the concept. On a positive note, he concludes by providing five cases in which the mention of “the perfect record” leads to discussions that are “responsible, informed and beyond ideology.”

The awards panel specifically noted Bade’s novel approach, his bringing together materials from many different sources, his broad perspective, and the high quotability that comes from his rigorous analysis and excellent style. They also believed that others could build upon his methodology to attack other myths and straw men within the world of librarianship.

“The Perfect Bibliographic Record: Platonic Ideal, Rhetorical Strategy or Nonsense?” appears in *CCQ* 46(1): 109-133 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01639370802183081>).