

CLASSIC RECORDS

- 1** - A classic record is a "generic" bibliographic record which is set up to accommodate variant editions of a classic work. They are usually confined to print versions of a work (as opposed to non-print).
- 2** - A classic work may be broadly defined as any work published by multiple publishers. These works are usually in the public domain (not protected by copyright).
- 3** - An excessive number of multiple records for the same title can make searching in CLAN difficult for both patrons and staff. To avoid this problem, a single, standardized bibliographic record is established, to which a library may then attach its individual copies/variant editions.
- 4** - Classic records are uniform in format. They are usually set up for a work in its unabridged form. There would normally be one classic record set up for all normal-sized type editions of a title and a separate record for all the large print editions. The words "classic ed." appear in both the EDITION and SERIES fields, and "Publisher varies" appears in the PUBLISHER field. There may also be a note stating that the title may vary. In such cases, the record should include these variant title entries. (Examples of classic records can be seen for the book, Billy Budd. Note that Bib number 1392840 is the classic record for the normal type edition and Bib number 1382828 is for the large print edition).
- 5** - Because these records do not contain edition-specific information, a library may choose to enter this information in its individual holdings records, but it is not required.
- 6** - A library may want a separate bib record for its particular edition of a classic work, especially if it is felt that it may be specifically asked for by patrons. A library may, for example, own a rare, first edition of a book. Or the edition may be annotated, contain illustrations by a prominent illustrator, or be translated into English by a well-known translator.
- 7** - Children's versions of classic titles are another case in which a separate bib record is desired, usually because the work has been abridged or because patrons are likely to ask for it by the name of the illustrator. For these reasons, children's versions of classics are rarely merged into a generic classic record.
- 8** - To get a list of classic records, do a SERIES search using the term "classic ed."
- 9** - It is requested that suggestions for titles for which classic records should be made be submitted to the Database Management Committee for consideration. A worthwhile candidate for a classic record would be any title for which a large number of bibliographic records exists in the database.