**PART A**

**Statement of Purpose – Antique Toy Database**

The purpose of this database is to aid Antique Collectors and Dealers, Pawn Shop keepers, and Museum personnel, in cataloging, searching, and retrieving information concerning various antique toys. It has been created with each of their specific needs in mind and is tailored to provide content to meet those needs.

Collectors are able to search by type of toy or by manufacturer in order to complete their collections or browse for items they may be unaware of. Antique Dealers can create an organized database to keep track of inventory and respond to consumer demand by evaluating their current supply of certain toys. Pawn shop keepers would utilize such a database to get an idea of how much items may be worth and what the resale value might be depending on the condition of the item. Finally, Museum personnel can use this to keep track of their collections and search for period pieces that might complement a display.

The attributes used to describe each toy seek to meet the demands of each of our user groups, and allow for the creation of comprehensive records. A rigid standards guide ensures that an indexer will create records in a logical and useful manner. Carefully crafted rules for each field allow for effective searches depending on the need of the user.

We believe this database will adequately meet the demands of its intended user base and have a positive impact in collection, selling, and displaying of Antique Toys.

**Intended User Group**

Our group discussed four different types of users that would utilize and benefit from an Antique Toys database. The types of users include antique dealers, antique toy collectors, pawn shop keepers, and museum personnel. Below is an analysis of the needs and consideration for each of these groups, along with questions they might ask of our database system.

**Antique Dealers**

Antique dealers are people that sell any antique items that they can get their hands on, unless they specialize in only selling, for instance, only British train toys from the 19th century. Most of them aren’t too familiar with the price, history, etc of the items that they sell. They would use the database to search for more information about the items that they own in case future buyers would ask them questions about the item, such as the item’s history. They would want to make sure that they are selling them at a reasonable price that is not too low and not too high. As to the type of questions that they would ask, here are the following:  *Do you have more information from this specific manufacturer? Which of our antique toys can this customer purchase in a given price range? What antique toy is currently selling well? Do I have enough of this particular toy on hand to meet consumer demand?*

**Antique Toy Collectors**

Antique collectors would use this database to look for toys for a variety of reasons that range from whether the database contains information about a toy’s manufacturer, a specific series, any limited edition toys, etc. They would want to know what are currently popular right now in the market so that they can accumulate their collection even more, depending on their preference whether it is just antique toy trains or dolls. They would also like to know if any of their antique toys that they have in their possession at the moment are from a mass production series or from a 1st edition production series. As to the type of questions that they would ask, here are the following: *Do you have any toys listed that are made by this manufacturer? What are currently hot right now?* *I’m looking for toys from my childhood, do you have anything from this particular year or years?*

**Pawnshop Keepers**

Pawnshop keepers are people who buy resell used items, whether they are an everyday item or an antique. They would use the database if they believe that they might have an antique in possession. They would want to know everything there is to know about the item, such as whether or not it is an actual antique, what company produced the item, and when was it produced. They especially would want to know whether the item is of any value; and whether they could sell it at a higher price than what they paid for. As to the type of questions that they would ask, here are the following: *What do I have in my possession that I could sell at a high profit right now? Is this item an antique? What is the value of the item that I have right now?* *What condition is this item in and how much should I pay this customer for it?*

**Museum Curators/Directors**

Museums personnel would use this database to organize their collection based on what they have on display vs. what they have stored in archives. They would search for toys that would be interesting to display based on their age and their condition. Museums would choose to search by type if they wanted to display a collection of certain type of toy (i.e. planes, trains, dolls, etc.). Also, curators would search toys that were not in great condition to decide to send certain toys for restoration. Some potential questions museum curators would ask are: How many boats (trains, planes, or dolls) in good condition (for displaying)? *What toys were made prior to ...? Which toys are in poor condition? Do I have any duplicates that can be weeded out? What toys do I have made by a particular manufacturer for a themed display from the depression era?*

**Units of Description**

Each record describes one particular toy based on certain attributes which are explored below. Records are capable of signifying quantities of toys, but all of those items must match with the specifics designated in the fields. If any deviation exists, a new record is created to describe that unique situation.

**Analysis of Record Structure**

**Unique Identifier**

*EntryNo* :

-This field serves as our unique identifier and distinctly separates one record from the next by automatically assigning a sequenced number when records are created. This allows for easier database maintenance by the indexer in the future.

**Attribute Fields**

*Name:*

-This field represents the proper name given to each toy. It is the means by which the toy is identified and it is an important consideration for each user group that we have identified.

-A text field is utilized as all entries for this field will be text-based names.

-It is word indexed to allow for greater functionality in searches. Users can search for toys even if they only remember part of the name of a toy. This is especially useful to museums and collectors where they may need to indentify items based off of only part of the name, say, in the case of a damaged item.

*Manufacturer:*

-This field is important because our user groups all have reasons to know the identity of the manufacturer. Collectors might be interested in obtaining items from a certain toy company. Dealers may respond to this demand by acquiring toys in the same manner. Pawn shops can use the manufacturer’s information to help track down a price. Museums might feature a display on certain manufacturers and would want to quickly locate their wares.

-Text field, as the manufacturer’s name is typically presented as text.

-Word indexed to allow a broader search with more results. A user who knows only one part of the manufacture’s name has the capability of finding it within the search results. Ex. Searching for “Bub” produces “Karl Bub” in the search results.

*Type:*

*-* Type is important to our users because some will be looking at certain categories of toys. Certain collectors might be collecting only toy boats, or only dolls, etc. It is also helpful for antique dealers, who may want to quickly determine the different antique planes they have available. For our purposes it helps to categorize our collection.

-A text field is utilized because the information will be sorted by text-based names.

-It is word indexed to allow for more flexible searches down the line. New types of toys may be entered into the database which may exist as hybrids of two existing categories, so we want to allow users to have access to these items when they search.

*Year of Production:*

*-*In dealing with antiques, the year is an important attribute for all of our user groups. It can help in determining value for the antique dealer, the collector, and the pawn shop keeper, and is important to the museum personnel when selecting material for displays during a certain era. Using operators such as “<” and “>” allows users to specify items that were created before and after a specific year as well as search for that year in particular.

-The field will be designated as a numerical field since the year will be recorded as a 4-digit number.

-It is term indexed because it holds numerical values. When a user types in a year, ex. 1945, the search results will produce only items from 1945. If user wants to see every toy before 1945 they would put <1945 and all items prior to that year would be returned.

*Condition:*

-Condition is one of the more important attributes to our user groups because the condition of the toy affects its monetary value. It is an important consideration for dealers and pawn shops when either buying or selling toys. Collectors as well might be interested in obtaining only mint condition items, or they may like the challenge of restoring poorly kept toys. Museums can maintain their collection more efficiently, seeking out replacements for damaged items in their archives.

-This will be a text field to support the validation list used.

-A validation list containing three terms was chosen for this field. We settled on using **Mint**, **Fair**, and **Poor** because these terms are able to usefully describe the condition of toys to our user groups without creating confusion and becoming too convoluted. Collectors, dealers, pawn shops, and museums would all recognize the use of these terms.

-Term Indexed, to allow more specific results, and allow users to search only based on one or more of the given qualities on the validation list. The search results will produce only the provided terms.

*Price:*

-Price helps immediately determine a toy’s value to a collector or buyer. Our user groups needs to know price because they are interested in buying, selling, or reselling these toys. For our purposes it helps to categorize by price.

-A number field is used. We settled on using just numerical values and not any dollar or cent signs. This helps keeping searches uniform and conveys a clear price. It is also useful should the price data need to be formatted later on through another program or web service.

- Term indexed because it holds numerical values. When a user types in a price, the search results will produce ONLY that price. If a users wants to see every toy below $500 they would put <500 and all those results would be calculated. This is useful for users who have a specific price ranges.

*Quantity:*

*-*Since certain users (dealers and pawn shops) are buying and reselling antique toys they need to know how much of a toy is available to buy, or how much of an item exists in their stock.

-It is a number field because it holds a numerical value and represents quantity.

-It is term indexed to allow only the number values that are entered to appear in the results.

*Notes:*

-Notes are important for our database because it allows us to limit the number of fields, while still allowing for any extra information that might be unique to a particular item. Users can add a brief description, location, its uses if known, materials if known etc. This is useful for the user would like to add a little more in their description of the toy, and it also helps in determining value. A user may be looking for a certain function of a toy or certain materials as well and this information would be found in notes.

- It is a text field to facilitate a descriptive note.

-It is word indexed to allow a broader search with more results since the user is dealing with multiply sets of texts that could be relevant to their search. If it was term indexed it would yield very little to no

**Rules and Standards for Indexing – Antique Toys**

What follows are specific guidelines for creating fields and the structure of records in InMagic:

Fields to be used: **EntryNo**, **Name**, **Manufacturer**, **Type**, **Year**, **Condition**, **Price**, **Quantity, Notes**

Please arrange the fields in the order they appear below

**EntryNo**

* Unique Identifier
* Field Type: Automatic Numbering
* Indexing Information: Term Indexed

This field should be set-up exactly as stated above. Its sole purpose is to give each record a unique number

**Name**

* Field Type: Text
* Indexing Information: Word Indexed

The names of the toys should be proper names, for example “Charlie the Steamboat”. Utilize proper-case when creating actual records.

**Manufacturer**

* Field Type: Text
* Indexing Information: Word Indexed

The manufacturer should have a proper name, for example “Clydesdale Toys”. Utilize proper-case when creating actual records.

**Type**

* Field Type: Text
* Indexing Information: Word Indexed

Please restrict these values to **boat**, **plane**, **train**, and **doll** when creating records. No validation list is required; we just want to limit the different types to 4. Later on this database could be used for other toy types and we would want to allow for that.

**Year of Production**

* Field Type: Number
* Indexing Information: Term Indexed

The format for the year will be 4-digit entries e.g. **1885**, **1923**, etc. Please use this convention when creating records.

**Condition**

* Field Type: Text
* Indexing Information: Term Indexed
* Validation list required. Terms of list: **Mint**, **Fair**, **Poor**

Please utilize a validation list when creating the Condition Field and restrict the list to the aforementioned terms. On the validation tab, select **Entry Required** to ensure the indexer adds a value for this field.

**Price**

* Field Type: Number
* Indexing Information: Term Indexed

When creating records please use only whole number values for the Price Field and do not include dollar signs e.g. 235, 76, 150, etc.

**Quantity**

* Field Type: Number
* Indexing Information: Term Indexed

When creating records please use only whole number values for the Quantity Field and do not include dollar signs e.g. 1, 3, 12, etc.

**Notes**

* Field Type: Text
* Indexing Information: Word Indexed

Please provide only relevant notes such as the location found or the previous owner. If no notes are available, leave field empty.

**SAMPLE DATABASE RECORDS**

Entry No. 1

Name Steel Airplane

Type Plane

Year 1954

Condition Poor

Price 50

Quantity 1

Manufacturer Marx Co.

Notes Found in a garage sale.

Entry No. 2

Name Mickey Mouse Doll

Type Doll

Year 1968

Condition Fair

Price 375

Quantity 1

Manufacturer Disney

Notes None

Entry No. 3

Name River Queen Steamboat

Type Boat

Year 1875

Condition Fair

Price 785

Quantity 1

Manufacturer Gebbruder Bing

Notes Previous owner was a toy collector, found at estate sale.

Entry No. 4

Name Howdy Doody Marionette

Type Doll

Year 1946

Condition Mint

Price 85

Quantity 3

Manufacturer National Broadcasting Co.

Notes Sold at Pawn Shop.

Entry No. 5

Name Wooden Circus Train Pull Toy

Type Train

Year 1895

Condition Fair

Price 175

Quantity 1

Manfacturer R. Bliss Manfacturing Co.

Notes Found at an Estate sale.

Entry No. 6

Name Air Force 1 Miniature Model

Type Plane

Year 1985

Condition Fair

Price 675

Quantity 2

Manufacturer Mattel

Notes Presented to Ronald Reagan during administration, found at estate sale.

Entry No. 7

Name Plastic Tug Boat

Type Boat

Year 1955

Condition Mint

Price 75

Quantity 3

Manufactuer Arnold Co.

Notes None

Entry No. 8

Name Wooden Pinocchio Marionette

Type Doll

Year 1897

Condition Fair

Price 695

Quantity 1

Manufacturer Marionette Toy Company

Notes Found at a Thrift Store.

Entry No. 9

Name B & O Model Train

Type Train

Year 1975

Condition Poor

Price 25

Quantity 4

Manufacturer Alps Ltd.

Notes Previously owned by man who played with toys as a child.

Entry No. 10

Name Steel B-52 Bomber Replica

Type Plane

Year 1947

Condition Mint

Price 2500

Quantity 1

Manufacturer All-Nu Products Inc.

Notes Found at Antique shop.

Entry No. 11

Name Tin H.L. Hunley Replica

Type Boat

Year 1887

Condition Fair

Price 1500

Quantity 1

Manufacturer Karl Bub

Notes Found in archives of History Museum.

Entry No. 12

Name Wooden Nutcracker

Type Doll

Year 1835

Condition Poor

Price 350

Quantity 1

Manufacturer Unknown

Notes Found in Storage unit.

Entry No. 13

Name Wooden Biplane

Type Plane

Year 1915

Condition Fair

Price 1200

Quantity 1

Manufacturer R. Bliss Manufacturing Co.

Notes Found in attic when cleaning out old home.

Entry No. 14

Name Musical Wind-Up Stuffed Clown

Type Doll

Year 1956

Condition Fair

Price 75

Quantity 1

Manufacturer Unknown

Notes Previously owned by collector, found at Estate Sale

Entry No. 15

Name Wooden Wind-Up Steamboat

Type Boat

Year 1933

Condition Poor

Price 150

Quantity 1

Manufacturer George Borgfeldt & Co.

Notes Found in French Antique Shop.

Entry No. 16

Name Miniature Tin Train Set

Type Train

Year 1957

Condition Mint

Price 125

Quantity 2

Manufacturer Bassett-Lowke

Notes Previously owned by local pawnshop owner.

Entry No. 17

Name American Flyer Tin Trainset

Type Train

Year 1929

Condition Mint

Price 890

Quantity 1

Manufacturer American Flyer

Notes Found at antique store by collector.

Entry No. 18

Name Wooden Sailboat Pedal Car

Type Boat

Year 1956

Condition Fair

Price 350

Quantity 1

Manufacturer R. Bliss Manufacturing Co.

Notes None

Entry No. 19

Name UH-1 Metal Model Helicopter

Type Plane

Year 1975

Condition Mint

Price 125

Manufacturer Auburn

Quantity 1

Notes Sold in a Pawn Shop.

Entry No. 20

Name Porcelain Baby Doll

Type Doll

Year 1901

Condition Poor

Price 175

Quantity 1

Manufacturer Farnell

Notes None

Entry No. 21

Name Wooden Model Boat

Type Boat

Year 1947

Condition Fair

Price 160

Quantity 3

Manufacturer Gebrudder Fleischmann

Notes Built from a kit, found at garage sale.

Entry No. 22

Name Steele Transcontinental Railroad Miniature

Type Train

Year 1865

Condition Poor

Price 655

Manufacturer Althof, Bergmann

Quantity 1

Notes Found in a garage during antique picking trip.

Entry No. 23

Name Original Stretch Armstrong

Type Doll

Year 1981

Condition Mint

Price 125

Quantity 1

Manufacturer Kenner

Notes Found at Pawn Shop.

Entry No. 24

Name Tin Friction Plane

Type Plane

Year 1965

Condition Poor

Price 145

Quantity 2

Manufacturer Buffalo Toy Co.

Notes Previous owner found it in garage when cleaning; childhood toy.

Entry No. 25

Name Antique Wood Ride-On Plane

Type Plane

Year 1927

Condition Fair

Price 275

Quantity 1

Manufacturer Unknown

Notes Found at Antique Shop.

Entry No. 26

Name Metal English River Boat

Type Boat

Year 1932

Condition Poor

Price 240

Quantity 1

Manufacturer Hubley Manufacturing Co.

Notes Found at Estate Sale.

Entry No. 27

Name Cast Iron Louis Marx Pennsylvania Line Model Train

Type Train

Year 1901

Condition Fair

Price 1450

Quantity 1

Manufacturer Althof, Bergmann

Notes Found at a Pawn Shop.

Entry No. 28

Name Raggedy Ann Stuffed Doll

Type Doll

Year 1921

Condition Mint

Price 585

Quantity 2

Manufacturer P.F. Volland

Notes Found on Ebay, previous owner was a dol collector.