There are several reasons we have engaged in classification projects. Most commonly, items are in various cataloging backlogs and are part of retrospective cataloging projects. Additionally, several departmental libraries are converting Dewey call numbers to Library of Congress.

We have a few different types of records in the online catalog that need enhancement. Some are brief records that were loaded when the catalog first went online and others are subtle records from vendors, records with tape or other errors, or records for which we now have better additional information to add.

We have participated in various projects in-house and with partners in order to provide digital access to Library materials that are non-copyrighted in the public domain, or are otherwise determined to benefit from a digital surrogate. Digital access helps with webstability, findability, indexing, and preserving the physical items. In certain areas of the University Library, books are shelved in less than ideal environmental conditions, whether it be too hot, too humid, too tightly shelved, or areas that were not originally designed for book storage. Relaxing these materials to a safer, temperature- and humidity-controlled environment is an ongoing priority.

Project Example: Merging Two Libraries
As part of a larger New Service Model initiative, two departmental libraries were being considered for merger which was a perfect time to utilize project management. Because the materials were already being handled, items were added to better utilize staff and financial resources. This created an added opportunity to perform a cataloging inventory and realign the materials from Dewey call numbers to Library of Congress call numbers.

Project Example: Processing a Cataloging Backlog
A cataloging backlog of Asian language materials had been growing for many years. Resources were made available to create enhance catalog access, but in order to successfully finish this project in a way that would be most beneficial to patrons, effort of use was essential. Through careful planning, the Library was able to dip into all of the following using the resources provided for cataloging: digital access, enhancement, new workflows, and in need of more space and additional funding.

Project Example: Digitizing a Special Collection
Funding was secured to provide digital access to the Library's Chinese materials which were collected for many years. These items were tucked into a corner of the main stacks, uncataloged. Project management techniques were utilized in order to not only provide digital access when possible but to also enhance catalog access, physically stabilize materials as needed, move the items to a more stable environment, clearly and in order to better utilize the space (stacks organization), and perform a catalog inventory of the items in the online catalog as part of this collection.