Organizing literary works, particularly in terms of subject analysis, has traditionally presented librarianship with difficulties that are not necessarily present with other types of works. This talk is developmental in nature, and has four goals:

• Summarize and synthesize results from two separate but related studies that examined the organization of literary and nonliterary works from two different methodological perspectives.
• Describe a possible new paradigm suggested by the results of the studies.
• Discuss future research needed to elaborate and further test the proposed paradigm.
• Discuss how the possible new paradigm can be presented in the classroom.

The studies in question also represent an attempt to avoid several assumptions:

• That users want access to literature at the level of the book.
• That existing cataloging tools are the best tools for organizing literary works.
• That quantitative and critical approaches need to be seen as antagonistic.

Rather than asking a more typical question such as, What can we do with the tools we have?, these studies are guided by the question, What tools do we need to have in the first place?