

Reusable Prompt — Thread Artefact Catalogue

Prepared by Book Man — Reusable-Artefact-Catalogue-Prompt · 2026-06-20 · SHADS CW channel

Purpose: capture, in a single archived .md file, a verifiable record of everything an AI thread produced — files, conversational outputs, and referenced material — so the work can be audited later.

Design principle: the catalogue must be honest about what it can and cannot verify. The discipline is Chapter-Six-of-Mind-the-Gap discipline: do not let a confident-looking entry sit beside an unreconciled one without marking the difference.

The prompt — paste this into any thread

Produce a comprehensive catalogue, as an .md file saved to /mnt/user-data/outputs/, of every artefact this thread has produced or referenced. Cover three categories, each clearly demarcated:

Category A — Files saved to /mnt/user-data/outputs/ in this thread. These are your direct deliverables. For each, list:

1. Sequential reference number (A1, A2, A3...)
2. Filename exactly as saved
3. File mtime (the disk timestamp of creation)
4. The document's internal date if it differs from the mtime
5. Word count (extracted via the appropriate tool) or file size in bytes if word count is not extractable
6. Brief description in one or two sentences — what the artefact is and what it does
7. **Verification status:** [VERIFIED ON DISK] or [NOT FOUND ON DISK] — **based on a direct directory listing performed at the time the catalogue is written**

Category B — Artefacts referenced from earlier scope (transcript summary, pre-thread work, or prior sessions) but not directly verifiable from this thread's outputs. For each:

1. Sequential reference number (B1, B2, B3...)
2. Filename as referenced (with [as referenced] flag if you are not certain of the exact filename)
3. Date as referenced
4. Brief description of what the artefact is
5. **Source of the reference — e.g. "named in transcript summary," "referenced in conversation"**
6. **Verification status:** [REFERENCED — NOT DIRECTLY VERIFIED]

Category C — Substantial conversational outputs that did not become files but were significant pieces of work. For each:

1. Sequential reference number (C1, C2, C3...)
2. Approximate date or position in the thread
3. Description of what was produced — the topic, the structural work, the reasoning piece
4. Approximate word count if known, otherwise marked [in-conversation]
5. Why it is being catalogued — what makes it a piece of work worth preserving rather than ordinary conversational exchange

Thread metadata — list at the top of the catalogue:

- Your identifier in this thread (if a name, persona, or working identity has been used — e.g. "Book Man," "Jose," or whatever the thread has been called). If none, mark [no identifier used].
- Earliest verifiable artefact timestamp in Category A
- Latest verifiable artefact timestamp in Category A
- Current date at time of writing the catalogue
- Scope start date — the date the earliest referenced or produced artefact in *any category dates to, marked with its source*
- Approximate thread duration (earliest scope to current date)

Validation discipline:

- Before listing each Category A entry, perform a `ls -la /mnt/user-data/outputs/` (or equivalent directory listing) and check the file is actually present. If it is missing, mark [NOT FOUND ON DISK] rather than silently omitting or assuming.
- For Category A, the `mtime` is the canonical creation timestamp. The document's internal date is a *claim made inside the document and may differ — list both where they differ, and note the divergence in the description*.
- For Category B, be explicit that the timestamps and filenames are *as referenced, not as verified*.
- For Category C, do not inflate. Conversational exchanges that were not substantial pieces of work should not be catalogued here. Use judgement: if it took meaningful reasoning, produced a structural argument, or would be useful to retrieve later, include it. If it was ordinary dialogue, do not.

Honest closing section:

End the catalogue with a short section titled "*Honest reconciliation notes.*" In this section, name:

- Any Category A files where the `mtime` and the document's internal date diverge meaningfully
- Any Category B entries you are genuinely uncertain about
- Anything you suspect may exist but cannot verify
- Anything in your context that suggests files were produced but have not appeared in your directory listing

Formatting:

- Save as `.md` to `/mnt/user-data/outputs/`
- Filename should include the date and a thread-identifying suffix where possible (e.g. `Thread-Artefact-Catalogue-2026-06-09-BookMan.md`)
- Use headers, tables where useful, and inline markers ([VERIFIED ON DISK], [REFERENCED], [in-conversation]) consistently so the document is scannable

Refusal to smooth:

If you cannot complete any category — e.g. the directory listing fails, you have no transcript summary visible, you do not know your thread identifier — say so explicitly in the relevant section. Do not fill in confident-looking entries to cover the gap. The reader will rely on this catalogue as audit material. An honest "*I cannot see this*" is more useful than a smoothed-over reconstruction.

Notes on using this prompt across multiple threads

- The prompt is thread-agnostic. Paste it as a complete message in any AI thread where you want a catalogue of what was produced.
- Each thread's catalogue will be honest within its own context — it will not be able to verify artefacts from other threads.
- To build a complete cross-thread archive, run the prompt in each thread separately and consolidate the resulting `.md` files locally.
- Where threads have used persona names or working identities (Book Man, Jose, etc.), the catalogues will be self-labelled by that identity, making consolidation straightforward.