

Catalogers Group
February 5, 2004

Present: Gia Aivazian, Sharon Benamou, Cathy Brill, Valerie Bross, Beth Feinberg (Recorder), Cheri Folkner, Faina Kustanovich, Janice Matthiessen, Renée McBride, Joan LoPear, Nancy Norris, Hao Phan, Louise Ratliff, John Riemer, Angela Riggio, Barbara Rudich, Rita Stumps.

Discussion of Gary Strong's Jan. 29-30 all-staff meetings

Everyone in the department attended one of the informational sessions on the budget and other matters. The administrative changes in AdCon and ExComm did not seem major. Gary mentioned the need for backlog reduction in one of the sessions. As he noted at the Sept. 15th meeting with YRL Cataloging, material sitting in backlogs doesn't do anyone any good, since nobody can use it. Gary is interested in maintaining a balance between the amount of material acquired and the amount sent through cataloging. Staff are concerned at the possibility of layoffs, as only 6 vacancies have occurred so far this year, and the Library may need 18.5 FTE in vacancies to meet the budget cut. John also mentioned that the 11 new positions Gary discussed included the department's vacant Arabic Cataloger position, now authorized to be filled. Gary also noted in one of the sessions that he doesn't want Voyager to become an all-consuming enterprise like Orion2. In response to a question, Catalogers Group would like Cindy to come to a meeting in the near future for Q & A.

[This is currently scheduled for April 1.]

ALA Midwinter Reports

Barbara Rudich:

Barbara reported on several meetings:

SACO workshop. LC will be instituting a mandatory minimum annual number of SACO contributions for program members. Rita Stumps noted that response time from LC about SACO proposals is very slow.

LITA/ALCTS Authority Control in the Online Environment Interest Group; this included discussion of music uniform titles and Unicode implementation at LC. LC estimates that Unicode will be available in 2005. Barbara reviewed the 13 recommendations in the PCC Task Group on the Function of the Authority File's final report, available at: http://www.loc.gov/catdir/pcc/tgauthrpt_fin.pdf

Janice Matthiessen:

Janice is working with Dorothy McGarry on reviewing ISBD(A), for rare books. She also attended the ALCTS Big Heads meeting and the ALCTS President's Program, which was a tribute to Seymour Lubetzky.

Janice attended the MARC for Special Collections discussion group. The group has a lot of new people and is very active. She also attended the ACRL Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) Standards meeting; this group revises DCRB, and there is a beta version of this online now.