

**Catalogers Group
Minutes, July 21, 2005**

Present: Nora Avetyan, Sharon Benamou, Valerie Bross, Claudia Horning, Beth Feinberg, Sara Shatford Layne, Joan LoPear, Toshie Marra, Luiz Mendes, Caroline Miller, Roxanne Peck, Hao Phan, Louise Ratliff, John Riemer, Angela Riggio (recorder), Rita Stumps, Kristen Wilson

The meeting focused on issues addressed at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. A new discussion format was followed: broad topics were grouped together and discussed in a more general and informal way; each topic's discussion was led by a person who attended ALA sessions involving these topics.

A. *RDA* (Resource Description and Access) – led by Sara

Sara noticed that the overall discussion of the revision of *AACR3* (now called *RDA*) focused around three areas or questions:

1. Where is it going?
2. How are we going to get there?
3. How do we gather ideas and input?

Based on comments from the ill-fated revision of *AACR2r*, the change in title from *AACR3* to *RDA* literally marks a change in the overall approach to this new revision.

Objections to Part 1 of *RDA*:

- Not radical enough; *RDA* needs to address the needs of other communities that use metadata.
- Others are asking “why change at all”? This revision is a mere tweaking of the rules.

Other comments/points made by Catalogers Group:

- Why not treat this as an international cataloging code?
- CC:DA is going to change its representation to include at least six representatives who will be chosen from new communities, such as the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative, commercial publishers, etc.
- When these representatives are chosen, what will their input be in the revision process?
- Is *RDA* supposed to be ‘all things for all people’?
- Sara thinks that the *RDA* idea to divide “display” from “content” could be problematic. The idea of “structure” is being omitted (e.g. the way description is organized is an inherent sort of structure).
- Other communities might see the organization of *RDA* as problematic, especially when the FRBR aspects of *RDA* are considered.
- A content standard is what is needed.
- How will *RDA* and *ISBD* be harmonized if their revisions take them in different directions?

The *RDA* revision process is expected to go through 2007. ALA, ALCTS, and the JSC are coordinating efforts to get/solicit input from constituents. They plan on holding 1 ½ hour forums at upcoming ALA midwinter and annual meetings (4-5:30 on Saturday).

B. E-Resource Management (ERM) – led by Angela

Angela mentioned two major themes that seemed to pervade the sessions she attended:

1. The development of a set of license terms derived from a textual license for population of an electronic resource management system (ERMS) is becoming a hot and sought-after standard.
2. Everyone seems to be jumping on the ERMS bandwagon, and the competition is heating up.

Other points of interest:

- The Innovative Interfaces ERM product now boasts 160 contracts, 133 of which are installed.
- Serials Solutions, SIRSI, Dynix, and VTLS are all planning the release of their ERM products in the near future.
- Interest in a “standardized” license language is now international; the British publishing groups are pushing for the “ontological” version of the ERMI licensing element subset.
- One of the outcomes from the NISO Workshop on Digital Rights Expression suggests that the ERMI licensing terms set be exposed and vetted by other communities (museums, archives, etc.).
- Leaders of projects like Open WorldCat and Google Print are proclaiming that more structured metadata is a “good thing” for better access to online resource via the Internet.
- E-journal lists were discussed at Big Heads; over 60% of libraries are using a browsable subject list, and people generally want to browse by subject.

C. Re-Professionalization of Cataloging Operations

John noted briefly that UC Berkeley is re-populating its cataloging workforce, which was down to one professional, with three new professional cataloging positions in specialized language areas.

D. ALA/ALCTS Policy Matters – led by Sara

A “Resolution on Equal Access to Resources in Non-Roman Alphabets in Libraries”

<http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/governance/council/councilagendas/annual2005a/CD60.doc>

met opposition from ALCTS. This was based heavily on the view that ALA Council should not be dictating what its chapters should be doing. Also, such a broad decree is not detailed enough to determine how it should be carried forward. ALCTS members were also frustrated by the lack of communication between invested parties on the matter.

Other points of interest:

- ALCTS members should get involved outside of the ALCTS group, in order to have more influence and say in the higher-level of activity being conducted by the ALA Council.
- ALCTS has the intention to digitize their journals, but are behind in doing so.
- ALCTS has appointed a committee to look at the re-design of their Web site.

E. CIP (CIP Advisory Group) – led by Luiz

There are many issues regarding the future and structure of the CIP (Cataloging In-Publication) Program. Sara reported that John Celli, head of CIP, has been asked by the Library of Congress to justify the existence of the CIP Program. The justification will be based on the results of a survey, which will explore the value that CIP provides.

Important considerations:

- Does CIP provide a service to our operations?
- How is CIP information used?
- Publishers often provide in-process metadata, but it is not as good as CIP metadata.

Other points of interest:

- LC would like to use CIP records that have been upgraded by PCC institutions. They have already completed a first screening of records, and a second phase is planned which to identify problems with these records.
- LC is interested in outside institutions contributing CIP for materials issued by their university presses.
- The UC Press is happy with their current relationship with the CIP Program.
- Outside contributors must use LC's database and workforms in order to contribute CIP records.
- LC will continue to complete the shelflisting on these records.

Sara distributed copies of "These are the Good Old Days: U.S. Book Publishing Has Become the World's Greatest Enabler of Reading" by Andrew Grabis, which was published in the 6/20/2005 issue of *Publishers Weekly*.

The next Catalogers Group meeting is scheduled for August 11. The meeting will continue the ALA topic discussions.