

**NACO-Music Project Advisory Committee**  
**Report to the MLA Cataloging & Metadata Committee**  
**February 2018, Portland, Oregon**

**NMP Advisory Committee Members**

Mary Huisman (St. Olaf College), Chair  
Mark Scharff (Washington University in St. Louis), NMP Coordinator  
Michi Hoban, Library of Congress Representative  
Casey Mullin (Western Washington University), Member-at-large  
Ann Churukian (Vassar College), Member-at-Large  
Tracey Snyder (Cornell University), CMC Representative

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**1. NMPAC membership changes**

A major change for the Committee was the departure of Phyllis Jones (Oberlin College) after a four-year term. She was a wise and steadying voice during a time of great change. Ann Churukian (Vassar College) was elected to the committee, marking a return for her to NMP leadership.

At the risk of omission, I would highlight the retirements of Ralph Hartsock (University of North Texas) and Allen Hoffman (Webster University), and the departure from NMP of Ann Caldwell (Brown University) and Wendy Schlegel (Webster University).

**2. NMP membership—PCC Statistics project**

Paul Frank of the Cooperative Programs Section at the Library of Congress formally announced in August that the PCC had hired a contractor to create an online directory of program members, including NACO funnels and funnel members. He also announced that the generation of PCC statistics would no longer be done by the LC Cooperative Programs Section staff, but would be compiled and reported by member institutions. Paul requested that funnels assess their membership as reflected in the current PCC statistics report and provide contact information only for institutions which are “active;” he defined “inactive” status to be for those who were no longer “working on behalf of the funnel.” He supplied a list of institutions that had made no NMP submissions during FY 2016 as a place to start.

To fulfill that mandate, I embarked on several projects:

- a) Contacting all members of the funnel in the list supplied by Paul. This list contained a good number of institutions not on the current NMP roster. In many cases, those institutions had been removed from the NMP books in a “housecleaning” early in the 2000s, at least as best I could reconstruct from my e-mail files (this reminded me of the loss NMP incurred with Ralph Papakhian’s death and the lack of passing on documentation). Other institutions **were** on the current NMP roster. A few were new to NMP since FY 2016, and a few others had resumed activity in the current year; they were good to go. In most cases,

the rest were institutions where there was no current NMP member, or where the member(s) had not begun the RDA bridge training. Making these contacts was not always easy, especially when the NMP member was no longer there and I needed to get in touch with the NACO decision-maker.

- b) Implement the results of the survey above. In some cases, my contacts affirmed that the institution did not plan to resume (or continue) NMP participation. Gratifyingly, some institutions that had been “weeded” before were now interested in resuming participation, and others committed themselves to beginning to undergo RDA review. Still others did not respond at all. Dozens of e-mails got sent and received in the process.
- c) Update the NMP directory to reflect these changes. NMPAC decided that institutions that were not reported to the PCC for the online directory but that had not explicitly declined NMP participation would remain on an internal list. This is some extra bookkeeping which I hope will prove worth the effort. The public list has some anomalies, but is far more reflective of reality than before.
- d) Edit the spreadsheet containing the PCC projects directory to correct/add/delete entries.

The matter of statistics is still pending the final set of PCC-generated statistics. It would be a good time for NMP members to determine the best way to collect statistics. A possible complication is that the PCC wants a single institutional source of statistics for all programs, which presumably means that an NMP participant would be reporting statistics to a coordinator at their institution. How and by whom the NMP numbers would be compiled is still an open question.

### 3. NMP membership—changes

Twelve (!) new personal participants were accepted into the Project since the 2017 annual meeting:

- Keith Bisallion (Stanford University)
- Diana Eynon (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
- Monica Figueroa (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)
- Jenée Force (Berklee College of Music)
- Joanna M. Fuchs (Brandeis University)
- Kristen Heider (Berklee College of Music)
- Patrick Hutchinson (Brown University)
- Keith Knop (University of Georgia)
- David R. Lewis (Bowling Green State University)
- Dustin Ludeman (New York Public Library)
- Allison McClanahan (Indiana University, Archives of Traditional Music)
- Synae Yoon (Southern Methodist University)

Two new institutional members were accepted:

- Berklee College of Music
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

#### Membership summary—active

- NMP currently has 85 individual participants from 62 institutions. The comparable numbers in the 2017 report were 93 individual participants from 80 institutions.
- There are 15 institutions where the NMP position is vacant (all on the internal roster).
- The number of participants who have achieved independent contributor status under RDA is as follows:
  - 44 for name records (increase of 2 from February 2017)
  - 30 for name-title records (increase of 2)
  - 2 for series records (no increase)

#### 4. Project statistics

	NARs		SARs		TOTAL
	New	Changed	New	Changed	
FY 2017*	8,351	6,191	10	6	14,558
FY 2016†	10,834	7,144	16	8	18,002
+/- (actual)	-1,483	-953	-6	-2	-3,444
+/- (%)	-13.7	-13.4	-37.5	-25.0	-19.1
Cumulative‡	284,222	126,700	2,985	585	414,492

NARs = Name Authority Records

SARs = Series Authority Records

\*October 1, 2016-September 30, 2017

†October 1, 2015-September 30, 2016

‡Through September 30, 2017

The consistent decreases in contribution numbers could have several explanations—larger numbers of new participants who enter NMP with independent status for name records and who contribute those records under a general-NACO siglum; or simply less willingness to navigate the extra data elements that are the norm for RDA records. LC's hiring of several NMP members was likely a factor. It's also possible that the 3R project to restructure RDA has had some effect. What effect the addition of BIBCO Music participants may have remains to be seen. Projected numbers for FY18 based on the first three months are not strong, but I don't have the experience to say whether that is a legitimate exercise.

#### 5. NMP-L policy

The hiring of several NMP members by the Library of Congress, mentioned above, raised the question of whether those people should remain as subscribers to NMP-L, which is a closed list. The decision was not only to retain them as subscribers, but to honor a request

from the Head of the Music Cataloging Teams to subscribe members of the teams who serve as LC liaisons to NMP for bibliographic file maintenance and policy questions.

## **6. Future directions**

As mentioned above, implementing the new mode of gathering and reporting statistics will be a major challenge for all. The rollout of the restructuring and reorganization of the RDA Toolkit, and in particular the incorporation of the terminology and concepts of the IFLA Library Resource Model (LRM) will certainly have an impact as we learn to navigate instructions in a different way. The implementation of a linked-data environment for storage and retrieval of authority data is perhaps not imminent, but also not a distant-horizon matter. MLA is well-positioned to track the developments that will shape the future of what we now call authority control; MLA members are involved deeply in the work being done to make these changes.

## **7. Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank the members of the NMPAC for their quick and efficient work during the past year, and for their cumulative years of devotion to the workings of NMP. I also thank the members of the NACO-Music Project for allowing me to serve them.

Respectfully submitted,

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