

**BCC2008/SDC/3**

**Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access**  
**ALA Annual Meeting**  
**Anaheim, CA, June 28, 30, 2008**  
 Reported by Mark Scharff, MLA Liaison to CC:DA

The Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA) met in two sessions during the ALA Annual meeting in Anaheim; a third session was cancelled because the time was not needed to cover the agenda items. (I spent that time meeting with Kathy Glennan, BCC Chair and voting member of the CC:DA, to discuss MLA positions on various issues). The Chair, Cheri Folkner (Boise State University), led the discussions.

This report focuses on items of interest to the music library community. For more information about the meeting and for reports about activities mentioned below, please see the CC:DA web page at <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/tas/jca/ccda/index.html>. Presentation is more topical than chronological.

**Reports**

**CC:DA Chair.** The full report is at <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/tas/jca/ccda/docs/chair42.pdf>. The Chair reviewed the votes taken by electronic mail since Midwinter 2008 and asked for and received confirmation of the results. Most of the votes related to *RDA (Resource Description and Access)*; some authorized the JSC (Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA) liaison, John Attig, to make responses to *RDA* drafts and issues on the CC:DA's behalf. Among those responses was one to LC/12, a document from the Library of Congress proposing changes to the draft rules for recording titles and creating access points for musical works in *RDA* chapters 6, 17, and 18. I helped author the response at John's request; I had previously helped author ALA's response to those chapters of the *RDA* draft itself. Another vote authorized the creation of a task force to review drafts of *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Serials)*, or DCRM(S). Cheri also reported on the establishment of a public CC:DA read-only e-mail list to allow wider readership of CC:DA discussions. The list has over 300 subscribers. (To subscribe to the list, send an e-mail to [sympa@ala.org](mailto:sympa@ala.org) with the phrase "subscribe rules" in the subject line and the body of the message blank.) Finally, CC:DA has been asked to make a high-level assessment of the *RDA* product, independent of ALA's constituency response to the JSC. The result would be something akin to a top-10 list of strategic concerns. The report would be due by January 9, 2009.

**Library of Congress** (Barbara Tillett, LC liaison to CC:DA). For a detailed report of LC initiatives, visit: <http://www.loc.gov/ala/an-2008-update.html>

Barbara Tillett reviewed highlights from her report. Issues of particular interest to the music community include:

- The Section 108 Study Group, charged with developing recommendations for legislation to allow reasonable uses of copyrighted works by libraries and archives in the digital age, issued a final report on March 31, 2008. The Copyright Office is currently reviewing the report as a prelude to proposing legislation. Web site: <http://www.loc.gov/section108>
- As a response to one of the recommendations of the Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control, LC, the National Library of Medicine, and the National Agricultural Library issued a joint statement reiterating their common support for and participation in the development of *RDA*. The libraries agreed that implementation decisions would be based on the results of review and testing of the code after its publication. LC will be seeking libraries of various kinds as well as vendors to participate in the testing process, which is anticipated to take about six months. The testing process would directly compare AACR2 with *RDA* as a cataloging tool, and *RDA*-based records would be distributed to test their usability in local systems and bibliographic utilities. Planning for the test will take place during the fall of 2008; the actual test period would likely begin no earlier than March 2009, with implementation decisions made by early 2010. The text of the response is at: [http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/news/RDA\\_Letter\\_050108.pdf](http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/news/RDA_Letter_050108.pdf)
- Processes are in place to allow the addition of non-Roman-script data in authority records by both the national libraries and NACO participants. [This began on July 13.] OCLC has developed means of harvesting headings from bibliographic records to pre-populate existing authority records; NACO participants are asked to delay adding non-Roman-script data to those records until they have gone through that process. (667 fields will contain an identifying message.) Newly created records can contain the non-Roman fields from the outset. The procedures and guidelines will be reviewed after six months and adjusted as necessary. For full details, see the FAQ at <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsa/nonlatinfaq.html>

- As of June 2008, LC has distributed over 29,000 subject authority records created for the sake of machine validation of headings in bibliographic records (they would normally not be made because they contain free-floating subdivisions and need no references.).
- Release 6.5.2 of Voyager was implemented at LC in May. Among the new features for the public are access-point-specific keyword searching of access points in bibliographic records in the ILS, and of headings and references in LC Authorities; keyword searching in ILS holdings records; and wildcard values for left and internal truncation in keyword searches.

#### ALA Publishing Services (Don Chatham, Associate Executive Director)

Chatham announced that the JSC had approved a change in the release schedule for *RDA*. ALA Publishing received more time to complete the functional specifications document; Chatham stressed the need for a complete document to avoid cost overruns from excessive change orders. This pushes the development schedule back about two months. He also addressed mounting concern over the availability of a print version of *RDA*. There will not be a print version of *RDA* available at the time the online product is released. Chatham claims that "print derivatives" have been what was promised, but admitted that a different impression might have been given--a statement punctuated by comments from the audience. He rationalized this by citing the huge changes in format and content that have come through the *RDA* development process, and the need to allay initial anxieties about moving to a Web-based product. Simply printing Web pages, he said, won't produce a usable product; only after the Web version is out can something suitable for print be derived, and its nature is still uncertain. Among the many questions and concerns raised: 1) Is *RDA* an e-book? Some sentiment for and against--the links to external content and social networking features would seem to argue for it, though others saw them as add-ons; 2) there is vocal demand for something that can be **purchased**, and general frustration over the lack of any information on pricing; 3) some of the metadata communities who are targets of *RDA* may balk at paying for standards; 4) some noted the tensions between ALA Publishing as a business and ALA as a service organization, particularly in how that plays out in pricing and format for less affluent and Third-World users; 5) questions about how long AACR2 would be available after *RDA* release went unanswered (it was on sale at the ALA store in the convention center, however). Don stressed that there would be a demo of the product at the IFLA meeting in August.

#### Joint Steering Committee (John Attig, ALA Representative).

The Joint Steering Committee met in Chicago from April 13-22, 2008; during the first week the Committee of Principals met there, too. For the "Outcomes" summary, see <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/jsc/0804out.html>. In John's view, the "big stuff" is decided, and now the focus is on details, though the JSC is still working through comments from the first draft. A major change in structure is the replacement of "Required" and "Optional" designations for data elements with the definition of a set of "core elements." (Of interest to those who were concerned that Statement of Responsibility was proposed to be an optional element in *RDA*: the JSC agreed that it belonged in the set of "core elements.") This set of core elements might serve as the basis for a "concise *RDA*," which is the most likely form a print version of the code would take. Proposals to reorganize *RDA* along the lines of a data dictionary were rejected in favor of the current draft organization, judged to more closely mirror a cataloger's workflow. The table of contents will, however, reflect a more explicit distinction between attributes of FRBR entities and the relationships among them.

Among the decisions coming from the responses to Chapters 5-6: 1) instructions are needed for how to deal with naming a work when the creator is given different names in different manifestations of the work; 2) the AACR2 use of "Selections" will be carried over to access points in *RDA* (though probably not as a "rule of three") [this was a major MLA objection to the draft]. In Chapter 7, the music notation element will be a list of controlled terms, with MLA helping to supply the terms and definitions. A proposal to use the MARC21 list for field 048 for medium of performance of expression was considered; the decision was to retain an unstructured vocabulary for notes. In Chapter 8, the instructions have been reworded to emphasize the task of differentiating persons as opposed to creating unique access points. The element of Gender will be retained, but "other" has been removed as a term; the instructions allow for the use of terms other than "male" and "female" as needed. The appendix of relationship designators has been expanded, though some issues remain with ambiguities between work and expression roles for moving image materials.

Among items coming from a subsequent teleconference: 1) The Type of recording element refers to playback, not original capture, and there are now two elements (playback and recording medium); 2) there is a new expression-level element for aspect of video or film; 3) the outcome of the meeting of music specialists (q.v.) was not decisive, so the original *RDA* draft for naming and creating access points for musical works is the operative document for the present. John invited Kathy and me to

report on the meeting. We outlined those areas where we felt there was agreement or at least acceptance (cadenzas as separate but dependent works; librettos as textual works; the need to restore the use of "Selections" in preferred access points; the use of "distinctive" and "non-distinctive" as terms to describe the title that forms the basis of the title portion of a preferred access point) and those where there is not (most notably, the language and form on non-distinctive titles, and certain issues related to terms for medium of performance.)

John pointed out that the many changes made are not reflected in the draft documents at the JSC Web site; they are "snapshots" and need to be regarded as such. It's expected that the full draft will be available by the end of October--in the outline format, at least to reviewing constituencies. During the review period, comments would be limited to issues of consistency across the instructions, and full-out review of portions previously unreleased. The review period would end in January; release would be sometime toward the end of summer 2009.

The JSC has made the vast majority of the *RDA* working documents publicly available at <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/working1.html> to provide context for the changes being incorporated into *RDA*.

John's full report may be found at <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/tas/jca/ccda/docs/jsc0806.pdf>

The JSC will next meet in Ottawa, Canada, Nov. 9-18, 2008.

CC:DA Task Force on Specialist Cataloging Manuals (Mark Scharff). John Attig reported that the ALA report to the JSC, which contained *Standards, Manuals, and other Resources for Use with RDA*, a product of the Task Force, has been accepted by the JSC and commended as a good example of an ancillary document. Yet to be determined is how the JSC will act on the Task Forces' recommendations as to access and maintenance. The Task Force was discharged at this point.

Report from the Chair of the ALCTS Task Group on the LC Working Group Report (David Miller). This group was formed in January 2008 to formulate ALCTS's reponse to *On the Record*. It was also to identify ALCTS groups that would have input and to identify initiatives for the next 3-5 years. It seems certain that CC:DA will be approached.

Task Force to Review the Statement of International Cataloging Principles (Everett Allgood). The final report is available at <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/tas/jca/ccda/docs/tf-icp4.pdf>. CC:DA accepted the report. Open question: to what extent will RDA be in alignment with the document?

Task Force on CC:DA's Internal and External Communication (Laura Smart, and including MLA members Jim Alberts and Matthew Wise). The TF had two work items: developing an electronic contact list for external communication for specific areas (e.g. CJK, maps, music), and assisting with the migration of the CC:DA Web site from Penn State to the ALA server. The contact list seemed weighted to groups dealing with area studies and omitted others (such as MLA!). There was general agreement that CC:DA liaison groups were "no-brainers" for the list, and it will be revised accordingly. Migration activities were more fully covered in the Webmaster's report (q.v.). In the wake of establishing the public read-only CC:DA discussion list, the group considered various options for public and private e-mail lists for CC:DA, mostly having to do with the ability to archive sent messages. The Task Force's report was accepted and the group discharged.

CC:DA Webmaster (Patricia Hatch). Patricia has been trained on Collage, ALA's Web management system. The Penn State site continues to be updated, with much help from John Attig. The ALA site is up, but for the immediate future (by or after Midwinter) will contain only about 20 pages of current interest, with links back to PSU for historical stuff. Migration of existing CC:DA pages requires that they be converted into a particular flavor of XML; it's uncertain whether this can be done in a batch process, and it will almost certainly require cleanup. A new Task Force will be appointed to assist with the migration.

ALA Representative to NISO (Cindy Hepfer). Cindy reported on several initiatives, none of particular relevance to music.

RDA Implementation Task Force (Cheri Folkner in lieu of Shawne Miksa). Reactions to the Task Force-sponsored *RDA* Update Forum noted the large attendance but lack of questions from the audience. Some attendees reported that the forum was too much "canned stuff," and that there was not enough "nuts and bolts," that is, information on how to actually prepare for using *RDA*. Two future activities for the Task Force will be to create a clearinghouse on the ALA Web site for training materials, and to begin developing workflows. A 2009 preconference is likely. People around the table noted the challenges of implementing a content-only standard and said it was past time to get serious about making the decisions and developing the training materials. It was mentioned that FRBR training could be done now.

In personnel matters, outgoing voting members are Betsy Mangan, Patricia Thurston, and chair Cheri Folkner by rotation off the committee; Laura Smart and intern Daniel Joudray by resignation. New members will be Lori Robare, Kathy Winzer, Sylvia Hall Ellis, and Kevin Randall (filling Laura's term); Nancy Coleman will be the new intern. John Myers (Union College) will be the new CC:DA chair.

CC:DA will meet at least twice at ALA Midwinter in Denver--Saturday afternoon and Monday morning. The Friday afternoon meeting will be held if the agenda warrants.

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*Last updated September 3, 2008*