

## BCC2010/SDC/2

### Subcommittee on Descriptive Cataloging 2010 Business Meeting San Diego, California

*Members present:* Mark Scharff (Chair), Joe Bartl (LC Representative), Don Brown, Jean Harden, Steve Henry, Mark McKnight, Patricia Thomson; *absent:* Candice Feldt, David Guion

The Subcommittee for Descriptive Cataloging held its business meeting for 2010 on Tuesday, March 23, from 12:30-2:00 pm. The seven Subcommittee members present were joined by about 30 visitors. As with 2009's meeting, *Resource Description and Access (RDA)* and prioritizing were the main points of business. The Chair began with a brief recounting of *RDA*-related events since last year's MLA meeting, including the March meeting of the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) that finalized the *RDA* text for naming musical works, the creation of the MLA/OLAC funnel for testing *RDA*, the software testing, and the schedule for *RDA* publication and testing.

Though it's not yet been published or tested as a code, thoughts have turned already to *RDA* revision. The JSC has compiled a list of "deferred issues," features (or gaps) in the code that were allowed to go into the first edition but which are not supported by one or more JSC constituencies. In the process of developing ALA's priority list for revision, its Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA) invited cataloging communities with liaisons to CC:DA to identify items of most interest to them and prioritize them. Mark Scharff, MLA's liaison to CC:DA, extracted a list from the JSC document and worked with BCC and MLA members to assign priority and detail MLA's concerns. He presented this document verbally at the CC:DA meeting at ALA Midwinter in January. The task of the Subcommittee in this meeting was to go through the list and identify which BCC subcommittees in addition to Descriptive would be involved in developing proposals. Members of the audience weighed in with comments and questions.

There was a question about the timing of the priority list—wouldn't it make more sense to do this after *RDA* has actually been published and tested? The answer was "yes," but CC:DA wanted to start the process now. MLA certainly did not want to miss out on input into ALA's priority list. Problems identified during the testing process can be addressed, and may actually trump items on the current priority list. The Chair reported that other communities, such as OLAC and the American Theological Library Association, had weighed in with their wish lists. Another factor driving timing is the expectation that *RDA* revision will be an ongoing process, albeit one that might require wider consultation than that for *AACR2*.

The list of priorities can be found at

[http://bcc.musiclibraryassoc.org/PositionPapers/RDA\\_Revision\\_Priority\\_List\\_2009.pdf](http://bcc.musiclibraryassoc.org/PositionPapers/RDA_Revision_Priority_List_2009.pdf)

The Authorities Subcommittee will be invited to collaborate on or take charge of concerns over constructing access points and of clarifying instructions about arrangements and adaptations. The Subject Access Subcommittee and the Form/Genre Task Force might offer some input on whether better correlation between terminology in access points and in form/genre headings can occur. The Task Force might help with developing a plan for ordering instruments within the medium of performance portion of a preferred access point.

So what's next? While work on some points must wait for availability of the *RDA* text, some larger questions can be addressed now (in particular, those surrounding then naming of popular and "ethnic" musical works). The free availability of *RDA* this summer is an important window of opportunity for all. We will also look for feedback from the MLA/OLAC *RDA* testers. Proposals should be ready for ALA Midwinter; it can be to MLA's advantage to be proactive rather than reactive. A "November-ish" date should be the goal.

The *RDA* discussion consumed most of the meeting time. The Subcommittee was told of the availability of the draft of *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Music)* for comment on the BCC wiki; the deadline for comments is May 1. The title of the manual leaves no doubt as to what MLA group needs to be looking at it.

The meeting concluded with a call for new members, and recognition of outgoing members Patricia Thomson, formerly of the Juilliard School, and Steve Henry, University of Maryland (who had accepted a one-year extension of his appointment to provide some continuity for *RDA* work).

Submitted by Mark Scharff, Chair, SDC

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*Last updated April 15, 2010*