

Music Library Association Bibliographic Control Committee
Subcommittee on Descriptive Cataloging
Annual Report, July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011
Submitted by Mark Scharff, Chair

Members of the Subcommittee

Jim Alberts (Library of Congress, MBRS) (new in 2011)
Joseph Bartl (Library of Congress liaison)
Sarah Cohen (Florida State University)
Patricia Falk (Bowling Green State University) (new in 2011)
David Guion
Jean Harden (University of North Texas)
Gary Markham (new in 2011)
Mark McKnight (University of North Texas)
Candy Feldt (Harvard University)
Tracey Snyder (Cornell University)

The past year

The publication of *Resource Description and Access (RDA)* in June 2010 represented another “resting point” for the Subcommittee as a whole. The Chair, however, continued to serve as one of the coordinators for the MLA/OLAC funnel chosen to participate in the RDA testing program (which included SDC members Jean Harden as a participant). It had been expected that the Subcommittee would start work on developing proposals for revision to the RDA text that represented known problems whose resolution had been deferred by the Joint Steering Committee for the Development of RDA (JSC) until after publication. But life circumstances, and the lack of a developed revision proposal process within ALA ALCTS CCS Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA) took some of the urgency out of that task. Following the 2011 ALA Midwinter meeting, the process started to take on shape, and the Subcommittee members were charged with deciding how many of the deferred issues to tackle for ALA Annual, and to volunteer (or be drafted) to work on them. The Chair also communicated with the chair of the Authorities Subcommittee to prepare for work on proposals that had both authority-control and descriptive components. The prioritization and work assignments were made at the Subcommittee’s meeting at the MLA Annual meeting. Three proposals were identified:

- a. Clarify the status of containers as potential preferred sources of information, and restore the provision to prefer a source containing a collective title for resources embodying multiple works (RDA instructions in Chapter 2)
- b. Extend RDA 7.24 on recording artistic/technical credits to apply to sound recordings (currently limited to moving-image materials)
- c. Revisit the assumptions underlying the instructions for recording data elements that pose unwanted restrictions for the sake of producing

“access-point-ready” data. This seemed to come down to reorganizing RDA Chapters 6.14.-6.18 and 6.27-6.28. This proposal would be spearheaded by the Authorities Subcommittee, with some SDC members participating.

Groups were charged to discuss the issues on the BCC Wiki and to draft the proposal using a model that follows CC:DA’s guidelines for revision proposals. This discussion and drafting took place from March until May, and proposals for points “a” and “b” above were sent to CC:DA in mid-May for review and consideration at the ALA Annual meeting in New Orleans. Point “c” was judged to be larger in scope and not expected to be ready for consideration at Annual.

In personnel matters, subcommittee member Don Brown (El Camino Community College) left the committee because he was no longer an MLA member. Three new members were appointed to the subcommittee after the 2011 MLA meeting, as noted in the roster.

Goals for 2010-2011—Status update

1. Work with other BCC subcommittees and MLA groups to draft proposals for revision of the RDA text in three areas deemed of highest priority. This work must be completed by Thanksgiving for submission to CC:DA. **Submission timeline pushed back to submission for ALA Annual.**
 - a. Revisiting the assumptions underlying the instructions for recording data elements that pose unwanted restrictions for the sake of producing “access-point-ready” data. **Proposal being prepared.**
 - b. Clarify the status of containers as a preferred source of information. **Proposal submitted to CC:DA**
 - c. Propose changes to the instructions for naming arrangements and adaptations that help more readily distinguish between the two categories, reduce the Western-music bias, and give more weight to arrangers and adaptors as creators for their role in works based on world and folk musics. **Not yet begun; will be done in collaboration with Authorities Subcommittee, and perhaps members of Subject Access Subcommittee.**
2. Work on other RDA revision needs as requested by ALA. This also must be done by Thanksgiving.
 - a. Naming larger instrumental ensembles in preferred access points, and ordering instruments in medium of performance statements.
 - b. Resolving difficulties presented by preferred access points for operas for which the libretto is written by the composer (without qualification, the access point for the opera is the same as that for the libretto; but adding qualifiers raises other problems).
 - c. Use of "Lyrics" vs. "Texts" as a form qualifier in preferred access points. **All three deferred.**

3. Participate in the planning and execution of RDA-related programs and activities at the 2011 MLA Annual Meeting. **The Chair made presentations at the BCC Town Hall and the program “RDA: Kicking the Tires.” The latter presentation included subcommittee member Jean Harden.**

Goals for 2011-2012

1. Work on other RDA revision needs as requested by ALA or MLA members:
 - a. The proposal given above as point “c.”
 - b. Naming larger instrumental ensembles in preferred access points, and ordering instruments in medium of performance statements.
 - c. Resolving difficulties presented by preferred access points for operas for which the libretto is written by the composer (without qualification, the access point for the opera is the same as that for the libretto; but adding qualifiers raises other problems)
 - d. Use of “Lyrics” vs. “Texts” as a form qualifier in preferred access points.
2. Coordinate with representatives of the Library of Congress and the Canadian Association of Music Libraries to assess RDA revision proposals coming from the groups, attempting to achieve some consensus in advance of sending proposals to CC:DA.
3. Install a new Chair for the Subcommittee to take office following the 2012 MLA meeting. A strong candidate has been approached and has given indications of a willingness to accept appointment.