

Music Library Association  
Bibliographic Control Committee, Subcommittee on Descriptive Cataloging  
Business Meeting, Dallas TX  
February 17, 2012, 1:30-3:00 pm, Fairmont Hotel

Members present: Mark Scharff (chair), Sarah Cohen, Patty Falk, Candice Feldt, Jean Harden, Gary Markham, Mark McKnight, Tracey Snyder.

SDC met in joint session with the Authorities Subcommittee from 1:30-2:00. Notes from that meeting may be found in that subcommittee's documents.

The SDC meeting was called to order by the Chair, Mark Scharff, at 2:05. He noted the absence of members Jim Alberts and David Guion and LC representative Joe Bartl, none of whom had been able to come to MLA this year.

Scharff offered a summary of pertinent activities and discussions at the 2012 Midwinter meeting of ALA's Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA). Of particular concern was the fate of the MLA-submitted proposal to broaden the scope of RDA 7.24 (Artistic/Technical Credits) to allow recording of such credits for sound recordings. The Joint Steering Committee actually approved the proposal, but delayed its implementation until some problems regarding making it applicable to all resources could be worked out. A task force on Sources of Information in RDA, chaired by Scharff, reported on its progress in reworking the MLA proposal to clarify the status of publisher-issued containers as preferred sources of information, and to give preference to a collective title as the identifier for a resource as a whole. A fuller accounting of the meeting can be found on the BCC Web site under "ALA Reports."

Under Old Business:

- A. Scharff asked Tracey Snyder, incoming SDC chair and chief author of the 7.24 proposal, to monitor further developments, but to assume that SDC would not be leading the charge.
- B. As for the container/collective title proposal, a bit of rewriting will likely take care of concerns over whether a container can be a preferred source of information. The question of what identifies a resource as a whole is not as easily dealt with, because RDA makes no distinction between a collective title and a list of constituent titles in serving that purpose, so long as the latter are all found in the same source. Another goal is to make provision for resources that contain a "main work" and titled supplementary works to allow for the source bearing the title of the main work to be the preferred source, in lieu of recording all the part titles in the title area as a non-collective title. This is of particular interest to video catalogers, and continues to be a challenge.
- C. SDC considered proposed changes to its charge. Some come out of name changes in ALA groups. Some were taking care of punctuation. Others arose from reflection on what constituted "descriptive cataloging" in the soon-to-come RDA era, with its emphasis on data

elements, some of which would now be from controlled vocabularies. The group decided on a text and recommended sending it along to BCC for consideration. [Note: BCC thought otherwise, and asked SDC to send the charge along for consideration electronically.]

#### Under New Business:

- A. Scharff reported on a CC:DA task force looking at data elements in chapter 3 of RDA, with an eye to how the elements can be made more machine-actionable by teasing apart data that represents more than one attribute (e.g. “1 score” combines an enumerative subelement with a subelement that names a physical format). One of the group’s early discoveries was that printed music seemed anomalous in using strings in the extent area that added a third subelement, that of intellectual modification (e.g. “1 vocal score,” “1 conductor’s score.”) A task force member asked Scharff at ALA Midwinter what reaction music catalogers would have to removing terms such as “vocal” or “conductor’s” from that area and recording them elsewhere. Scharff’s immediate reaction was that the term needed to be reunited with the extent for the purpose of public display, regardless of its location in a catalog record. The task force will be reporting again at ALA Annual, and Scharff advised the subcommittee to stay tuned for further developments.
- B. One of the points in the report of the ALA representative to the Joint Steering Committee, John Attig, was that there were terms in the RDA Vocabularies that needed definitions before those vocabularies could be entered in the Metadata Registry. Some of these terms are music-related. While most of them would more likely be dealt with by the Authorities Subcommittee, one, “Layout of tactile musical notation,” is clearly a Descriptive task. The definition need not be long and involved, but should include a citation of its source, and should be comprehensible to a non-expert.
- C. ALA’s representative to NISO had asked for CC:DA comment on ISO Standard 15707, defining an International Standard Musical Work Code (ISWC). The standard is up for renewal (there is a five-year cycle for review), and the options for comments were to retain, to cancel, or to update. Read in light of RDA, the standard seemed to have some problems with terminology that sounded like FRBR or RDA but did not quite mean the same thing. Some definitions seemed arbitrary; why does a potpourri have to be published, for example? It was unclear what utility the ISWC would have for librarians (recognizing that it was developed for rights management)—would the codes be descriptive elements, or could they really function as identifiers? Because Snyder would be busy right after MLA, Scharff volunteered to solicit and collate further responses. [Note: Snyder sent the comments to Lori Robare, CC:DA chair, on Feb. 29].
- D. In other matters, the RDA Music Revisions Facilitation Task Force has asked SDC to propose a revision to RDA 2.11.1.3, which limits the recording of copyright dates to the latest one found in the resource. For sound recordings, this causes problems, particularly if the latest date is a © date and it differs from the ® date; since the © date would likely provide the inferred publication date, the earlier provenance of the recorded sound as conveyed with

the © date would be lost. Patty Falk volunteered to work on this proposal, to be joined by other members of the subcommittee not present or not yet appointed.

#### Wrap-up

Scharff recognized outgoing members of the subcommittee (David Guion, Jean Harden, Mark McKnight) and thanked them for their service. He reminded the audience that letters of interest in being considered for SDC membership would be accepted through noon on Saturday. The meeting adjourned shortly after 3:00.

Submitted by Mark Scharff, with thanks to Sarah Hess Cohen for supplying a rough draft.