

Authorities Subcommittee Annual Report, July 2012-June 2013
Raymond Schmidt, Chair

Membership: Raymond Schmidt (Chair, 2013), Sharon Benamou (2011), Jean Harden (2012), Morris Levy (2013), Stephen Mantz (2012), Jacob Schaub (2011), Michi Hoban (LC representative)

As part of the subcommittee chair's liaison responsibilities, Damian Iseminger (chair through February 2013) attended the meetings of the LITA/ALCTS-CaMMS Authority Control Interest Group (ACIG) and the Online Audiovisual Catalogers Cataloging Policy Committee Meeting (CAPC) held January 2013 at ALA Midwinter in Seattle, WA. Current chair Raymond Schmidt attended the ACIG and CAPC meetings in June 2013 at ALA Annual in Chicago, IL. Reports from the January and June meetings have been published in the *Music Cataloging Bulletin* and are available on the BCC website.

Subcommittee activities naturally focused on RDA in the months leading up to the Library of Congress' RDA implementation "day one" on March 31, 2013. Along with several others in BCC, subcommittee members planned and created content for "Hit the Ground Running: RDA Training for Music Catalogers," a daylong pre-conference held during the MLA meeting in San Jose. Two Authorities subcommittee members, Damian Iseminger and Raymond Schmidt, presented "Access" portions of the workshop.

Subcommittee members Damian Iseminger and Raymond Schmidt continue to serve on the RDA Music Implementation Task Force, which issued its first public draft of Best Practices for Music Cataloging, Using RDA and MARC21 in February 2013. The Task Force is currently working toward the completion of version 1.0 of the document, which incorporates feedback gathered since the release of the initial draft.

Collaborating with the Descriptive subcommittee, the Authorities subcommittee has been involved since May 2013 in preparing and submitting recommendations and RDA revision proposals to the RDA Music Joint Working Group (RMJWC), which in turn submits proposals to the Joint Steering Committee for the Development of RDA (JSC). A major proposal seeks to clarify the ways in which medium of performance is recorded either as a data element or as part of an authorized access point. The proposal was submitted to JSC on August 1, 2013. The Authorities subcommittee also considered the question of whether RDA should provide more guidance on the use of numeric designators in authorized access points for musical works (i.e. opus, serial, and thematic index numbers). The subcommittee reported back to RMJWC on this issue on June 4, 2013; to date, no consensus has been reached, but considerable groundwork has been laid for developing a future discussion paper or revision proposal.

Past Goals

The subcommittee met its goal of creating and presenting the RDA pre-conference at MLA in San Jose, which was well attended. The website for the pre-conference continues to serve as a training resource for music catalogers implementing RDA.

The chair's goal to work with the incoming chair on developing policies and procedures for updating the online resource Thematic Indexes Used in the Library of Congress/NACO Authority File is still in progress.

The subcommittee fulfilled its goal of providing recommendations and revision proposals to the RDA Music Joint Working Group.

Goals for FY 2013-2014

The chair plans to have the subcommittee collaborate with Michelle Koth and members of the former MLA Working Group on Types of Composition to update the online document "Types of Composition for Use in Music Uniform Titles" to bring the content in line with current RDA standards. Making RDA-related changes will ensure the continued usefulness of this document, which is a long-standing and vital tool for music catalogers. The subcommittee will work with the BCC chair to investigate hosting the document on the MLA website. These activities fulfill the MLA Strategic Plan goal area of Advocacy and Education, through publishing of the Types document, and fostering excellence in music cataloging.

The subcommittee will also explore the feasibility of creating a new resource for catalogers to provide a standard score order when recording medium of performance. Such a standard could be incorporated into Best Practices for Music Catalogers. By providing guidance in adhering to cataloging standards, this activity aligns with the MLA Strategic Plan's goal area of Education.

The subcommittee's ongoing work to revise and improve RDA through the proposals submitted to JSC aligns with the MLA goal area of Organizational Excellence in the MLA Strategic Plan. In the coming year, the subcommittee will collaborate with the RDA Music Joint Working Group to develop a discussion paper or proposal related to the use of numeric designations in authorized access points for musical works, to be completed in time for the RDA revision cycle in 2014.