Authorities Subcommittee Annual Report, July 2013-June 2014
Raymond Schmidt, Chair

Membership: Raymond Schmidt (Chair, appointed 2013), Sharon Benamou (2011), Grace Fitzgerald (2014), 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, Ray Schmidt attended the meetings of the LITA/ALCTS-CaMMS Authority Control Interest Group (ACIG) and of the Online Audiovisual Catalogers Cataloging Policy Committee Meeting (CAPC) held January 2014 at ALA Midwinter in Philadelphia, PA, and June 2014 at ALA Annual in Las Vegas, NV. Reports from the January and June meetings have been published in the *Music Cataloging Bulletin* and are available on the BCC website.

With the wide adoption of RDA in the spring of 2013, the online document "Types of Compositions for Use in Music Uniform Titles" needed to be updated to conform to RDA instructions, particularly concerning the use of English-language cognates. The preface and principles of the list were revised, as well as the treatment of several terms within the list. The new version, "Types of Composition for Use in Authorized Access Points for Music" was drafted and reviewed in late 2013 by members of the subcommittee, as well as by BCC chair Beth Iseminger, and by the earlier working group who maintained the list (Mickey Koth, Chuck Herrold, Phyllis Jones, Morris Levy, and Mark Scharff). The updated document was released in February 2014. Special thanks to Mickey Koth for her work in updating the list and making it available on the web. The Types document will transition to the new BCC website when that site goes live (FY2015).

Subcommittee chair Raymond Schmidt continued to serve on the RDA Music Implementation Task Force, which issued version 1.0 of Best Practices for Music Cataloging, Using RDA and MARC21 in February 2014.

Members of the subcommittee worked on several fronts to improve RDA. In March 2014, JSC appointed a Music Working Group (JMWG), which includes two members of the Authorities subcommittee, Jean Harden and Ray Schmidt. Six proposals have been prepared by JMWG for the 2014 revision cycle, including a major proposal to reorganize instructions for choosing and recording a preferred title.

In May-June 2014, the subcommittee participated in a review of proposed authority file changes to access points containing standard combinations of instruments, replacing terms for standard combinations with the names of individual instruments. Subcommittee members Sharon Benamou, Morris Levy, Stephen Mantz, Jacob Schaub, and Ray Schmidt each reviewed sets of 1,000 authority records, examining changes to records generated by a program created by Gary Strawn, chair of the PCC Phase 3 Task Force.

Past Goals

The subcommittee met its goal of completing and posting the updated Types of Composition document. Maintenance of the document is in some sense now under the purview of the Authorities subcommittee, but it is still a time of transition. As new questions arise, ongoing discussions and decision-making continues to benefit from the substantial involvement of those who worked on the earlier version.

The subcommittee fulfilled its goal of exploring the feasibility of creating a resource for catalogers for determining score order when recording medium of performance in authorized access points. The question was discussed at length during the 2014 MLA Meeting in Atlanta, where there was agreement that in a linked data environment, score order will eventually become a non-issue, so that it is not necessary to develop a detailed standard. However, the subcommittee will continue to consider whether some form of guidance should be provided in an LC-PCC Policy Statement.

The subcommittee met its goal to revise and improve RDA through proposals submitted to JSC. Subcommittee members took part in JMWG's prioritization and drafting of proposals for the RDA revision cycle in 2014.

Goals for FY 2015

A number of issues have been identified concerning RDA and the Types of Composition document, such as the treatment of tempo markings as distinctive or generic titles. As these questions are resolved, they will be documented in the appropriate venues, such as the Types document itself or MLA RDA Best Practices, or through the proposal of LC-PCC Policy Statements. These activities fulfill the MLA Strategic Plan goal area of Advocacy and Education.

The subcommittee will continue to review programmatic changes to the LC/NACO authority file and identify possible ways to perform RDA-related authority file maintenance in a concerted effort. Bringing authority records up to current cataloging standards is a service to the entire music cataloging community, and this activity aligns with the MLA Strategic Plan's goal area of Organizational Excellence.

Through its participation on JMWG, and by providing constituency responses to JMWG proposals, the subcommittee will continue to revise RDA. This work aligns with the MLA goal area of Organizational Excellence in the MLA Strategic Plan.

In the upcoming year, the Authorities Subcommittee may be merged with the Descriptive Cataloging Subcommittee as part of the BCC reorganization review. If this is the case, the merged subcommittee will plan to work on the goals specified by the previous subcommittees.