RDA Music Implementation Task Force Business Meeting Report
MLA 2014 Atlanta
Submitted by Casey Mullin

Present: Task Force members: Casey Mullin (Stanford University), chair, Mary Huismann (University of Minnesota), Damian Iseminger (New England Conservatory), Nancy Lorimer (Stanford University), Daniel Paradis (Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec), Ray Schmidt (Wellesley College), Hermine Vermeij (UCLA); approximately 15-20 guests

***Best Practices for Music Cataloging Using RDA and MARC21*, Version 1.0 published in PDF on BCC website**

The Task Force completed the first published version of the Best Practices. Mullin thanked the Task Force members for their excellent, sustained efforts, to general applause.

Incorporating best practices content into the RDA Toolkit

The next step in the publication process will be to ask ALA Publishing to add the Best Practices content to the RDA Toolkit. Mullin reached out to James Hennelly of ALA Publishing and he met with Beth Iseminger, BCC Chair, and several Task Force members at ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia, to discuss a strategy for making this happen. Hennelly pledged that the PDF version of the full document could be added to the Resources or Tools tab by the time of the April Toolkit update, and that the Best Practices text could be linked from the respective instructions (in the manner of the Library of Congress-Program for Cooperative Cataloging Policy Statements (LC-PCC PS)) by the time of the Fall Toolkit update (currently scheduled for October 2014). The Task Force will be responsible for using the Toolkit editor (currently in development) to prepare the Best Practices content for integration into the Toolkit .The date of release of this editor is unknown at this time; Mullin will follow up with Hennelly as needed.

Concern was expressed about the proper way to format and the proper place from which to link the Chapter 3 Appendix (which includes a robust, somewhat unwieldy table of various audio recording carriers, their attributes, and MLA-recommended encodings). The Task Force will need to explore possible solutions with Hennelly; it is possible that this table, as well as the full MARC bibliographic record examples, would only be available in the full PDF document.

Mappings for the RDA Toolkit

At its business meeting in San Jose in 2013, the Task Force discussed the component of its charge that stipulated creating music-specific workflows for the RDA Toolkit. However, it was noted that workflows seem better suited as training tools rather than instantiations of MLA Best Practices. Workflows also do not appear to be commonly used or in high demand at this time. Rather, the Task Force felt that detailed MARC mappings would be a stronger addition to the Toolkit in the short term, and that designing workflows would be better handled by a group charged to create and develop RDA training materials. At the meeting in Atlanta, the Task Force revisited the issue, and determined that neither workflows nor mappings would warrant the effort to create them, in light of the plan to link to Best Practices directly from each instruction, thereby

bringing MLA's recommendations to the broadest-possible audience. Therefore, the Task Force decided not to pursue this element of their charge.

Potential RDA/LC-PCC PS revisions generated from MLA Best Practices

During the past year, the Task Force identified several provisions in the Best Practices that could potentially warrant revision proposals to either the RDA text itself or to the LC-PCC PS. Some of these provisions were adapted from Library of Congress Rule Interpretations (LCRI) that were not brought over to LC-PCC PS. The Library of Congress, in their feedback on the draft version of the Best Practices, noted that these decisions were a deliberate effort to reduce the amount of "case law" in the LC-PCC PS, since the RDA cataloging paradigm relies more on cataloger's judgment. Nonetheless, the Task Force felt that certain of these "deprecated" LCRIs still offered highly useful guidance to music catalogers, so they were incorporated into the Best Practices. Kathy Glennan, ALA representative to the Joint Steering Committee, suggested that the PCC Standing Committee on Standards be the body to contact to pursue reinstatement of deprecated LCRIs as LC-PCC PSs, if that is desired. The Task Force discussed this, and thought that with the Best Practices content linkable directly from RDA, the Best Practices would be equally as prominent and visible as the LC-PCC PS, and so it would be less necessary to pursue updates to the latter.

As for those best practice issues that suggest possible RDA revisions, two issues in particular were not resolved in the past cycle of Task Force deliberations, and will be passed along to the Descriptive Cataloging Subcommittee (and thence possibly to the newly reconstituted JSC Music Working Group) for further action. These issues are: the definition of a list title page and its suitability as a source of information; and, the discrepancy between the RDA definitions of leaf and page and the instructions for recording extent of notated music consisting of multiple sheets. The latter issue also has parallels to the work being done by the CC:DA Task Group on Machine-Actionable Data Elements in RDA Chapter 3.

Upcoming revisions to the Best Practices

A number of minor errors and inconsistencies were brought to the Task Force's attention since the release of Version 1.0. In the interest of adding as polished a product as possible to the Toolkit, the Task Force will issue a "Version 1.0.1." This version will include various corrections to wording and formatting, as well as incorporate impending changes to the RDA instructions resulting from "Music/3" (specifically, 6.15 and 6.28) that are scheduled to be rolled out as part of the April 2014 update. Mullin will notify Hennelly of the forthcoming version, which should be the version added to the Toolkit (instead of Version 1.0, to which he was already alerted).

Future of Task Force

Since the largest component of the Task Force's charge (developing Version 1.0 of the Best Practices) has now been fulfilled, a "sunsetting" plan for the group was discussed. Pursuant to the directive to "identify a means for continually reviewing, updating and disseminating the Best Practices document," the Task Force recommended that one or more permanent BCC

subcommittees (e.g., Authorities and Descriptive Cataloging) be responsible for future revisions to the Best Practices; BCC took up the matter at its second business meeting on Saturday, March 1. As for establishing a schedule for issuing revisions, it seems most prudent to "piggy-back" on the Toolkit's update schedule. Fortunately, updates to the RDA text, which frequently have a bearing on the MLA Best Practices, are announced well in advance of the Toolkit update; conversely, updates to LC-PCC PS are not usually issued with as much advance notice. Unfortunately, there may not be a way to coordinate seamlessly with all possible RDA constituencies, but aligning with RDA text updates is the highest priority.

Subsequent to releasing Version 1.0.1, the Task Force will spend the next several months preparing its content for incorporation into the Toolkit, using the forthcoming editor. Lastly, in light of accelerating developments in the BIBFRAME initiative, the Task Force discussed envisioning music cataloging best practices in this new Linked Data-based environment, possibly crafting mock-up RDF examples. The Metadata Subcommittee was identified as a possible collaborator in this endeavor.

Contingent upon successful completion of the above tasks, the Task Force stands ready to be dissolved around the time of the 2015 MLA Annual Meeting.