

BCC2002/SDC/2**Subcommittee on Descriptive Cataloging**
Report from the 2002 Las Vegas Conference

The Subcommittee on Descriptive Cataloging held a joint open meeting with the Subcommittee on MARC Formats on Wednesday, February 20, during the annual MLA meeting in Las Vegas. This report addresses only the Descriptive Cataloging sections of the joint meeting.

Nancy Lorimer highlighted items of interest to music catalogers from her CC:DA Midwinter meeting report (soon available on the BCC web page). She reported that work on the Appendix of Major Changes has been tabled pending further discussion on where to place the material in AACR2; that revisions to AACR2 to make the Rule of 3 optional have been tabled, and instead, JSC will spearhead an effort to revise Chapter 21 in its entirety; and that CC:DA created a new task force, the Task Force on Consistency across Part I in AACR2. All these documents, including the charge for the new task force, are available on the CC:DA website at <http://www.ala.org/alcts/organization/ccs/ccda/ccda.html>.

Nancy then introduced the problem of “conventional terminology”, a concept that was brought into AACR2 in the new version of Chapter 9 (Electronic Resources—formerly Computer Files) and for which there is a strong impetus in the cataloging world to extend to other chapters. Brad Young gave a short talk on problems of conventional terminology for sound recordings—the mixed types of terms, which might describe size, rpm, material of manufacture, etc.; the possibility of one format having several names; the possibility of change in the conventional terminology for a format over time; and other difficulties. The general discussion that followed suggested that the music community was not overly enthusiastic to introduce the concept of conventional terminology into Chapter 6. But as Nancy stated, and as was generally accepted by those present, we have little choice in the matter, and that we need to have as much influence as possible in what finally appears in the chapter. Nancy announced that the subcommittee is working on a rule revision to present to CC:DA for discussion.

The next topic for discussion was about possible new provisions for Area 5 (Physical Description) in Chapter 9. A CC:DA task force has suggested that Chapter 9 adopt content/carrier SMDs for direct electronic resources and optionally for remote resources. Thus a cataloger could use SMDs such as “1 score on CD-ROM” or “1 sound file (mp3)”. These SMDs would make use of conventional terminology from the relevant chapters. At the mid-winter meeting, a member of CC:DA asked whether these examples should not in fact be put in the relevant content chapters rather than in Chapter 9. The JSC representative asked for input from the communities involved. Nancy introduced the topic and asked for comments. Discussion centered on the ability of Chapter 6 to cover all formats of sound recordings (clearly some changes would be required), the relationship of Chapter 9 to other chapters, and the lack of direction given in AACR2 about how to combine instructions from multiple chapters when necessary. There was also a suggestion the content/carrier SMDs for electronic resources should in fact be in Chapter 1. A straw poll was taken on the question: Do you think that the electronic content/carrier SMDs, if accepted by JSC, should be given in Chapter 9 or in the chapter relevant to the content (or Chapter 1). The vote was unanimous that it should be in the relevant chapters. Nancy said that she would relay the results of the poll to CC:DA & the JSC representative.

Submitted by Nancy Lorimer

Last updated July 30, 2002