

**BCC2010/MD/4****BCC Metadata Subcommittee  
Annual Report: FY 2009/2010**

**Members:** Jenn Riley, chair (2008-2013), Keith Chapman (2009-2013), Eric Harbeson (2009-2013), Caitlin Hunter (2009-2013), Karen Lund (LC Representative), James Mason (2009-2011), Renée McBride (2009-2011), Felicia Piscitelli (2009-2011), Terry Simpkins (2009-2013), Kimmy Szeto (2010-2014), Rebecca Thompson (2009-2011)

**Report on Activities:**

The 2009/2010 fiscal year was the first full year of existence for the BCC Metadata Subcommittee, having been established in early 2009. We met formally in person at the MLA 2010 Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA, for the first time, getting to know one another and brainstorming ideas in a form that's difficult to replicate with solely online communication. Our work during this fiscal year focused heavily on more fully exploring various aspects of our charge, including providing "forums for the discussion of music metadata issues" and facilitating "the creation of guidelines and best practices for the application of metadata standards to musical materials."

To provide a forum for discussion and further education of the MLA membership on non-MARC metadata issues, the Metadata Subcommittee through its parent Bibliographic Control Committee proposed a session for the MLA 2010 Annual Conference entitled "Workflow Design for Metadata Creation." The session featured three speakers: Caitlin Hunter from the Library of Congress' Recorded Sound Division, Amanda Harlan from Baylor University, and Renée McBride from the Resource Description & Management Department at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. It was extremely well-attended, and participants and audience members alike commented on the benefits of its wide scope combined with advice on practical application of non-MARC metadata workflows.

In support of our charge to create metadata guidelines and best practices, in 2009/2010 the BCC Metadata Subcommittee partnered with the American Library Association's Task Force on Audio Preservation Metadata Task Force, within the ALA ALCTS (Association for Library Collections and Technical Services) Preservation and Reformatting Section, to produce an online resource "Metadata Standards and Guidelines Relevant to Digital Audio." This resource may be found online on an ALA-hosted site, at [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/resources/preserv/audio\\_metadata.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/resources/preserv/audio_metadata.pdf). MLA's partnership to create this document was made possible through the Association's liaison program, in the form of financial support for the Metadata Subcommittee chair to attend the ALA conference and facilitate connections with relevant ALA groups.

At our Subcommittee's in-person meeting at MLA 2010, we agreed to embark upon a fairly large-scale effort to create an online music metadata resource clearinghouse. We understand the complexity of building such a resource and keeping it up to date over time. To attempt to focus our efforts in the initial stages, we plan to issue a survey to the MLA membership designed to better understand what the needs are for such a resource. We are excited about the possibilities this initiative could bring to MLA, and to the library, archives, and museum communities in general. The results from this survey will allow us to build the most useful resource possible. We are also continuing to explore other educational opportunities. Finally, at the 2010 MLA Annual Meeting, the Subcommittee accepted the resignation of valued member Linda Barnhart. Following the meeting, we welcomed Kimmy Szeto of the Queens Borough Public Library to our ranks as a replacement for Linda.

**List of previous goals and progress made toward each goal:**

As formal goals for committees are a new initiative for MLA in 2010/2011, the BCC Metadata Subcommittee did not set formal goals in 2009/2010. We had an informal goal to simply get the Subcommittee moving on a variety of initiatives, and as detailed in our report on activities, we believe we have made significant progress towards this goal. However, there is always more to do.

**List of goals for the next year:**

1. Construct and distribute a survey to the MLA membership designed to better understand what individuals and institutions need from an online music metadata clearinghouse. Ask questions about how systems work on the back end that aren't available looking at end-use interfaces from the outside, the availability of metadata creation documentation and sample records, and the specific tools used to create and manage non-MARC metadata. Issue the survey and begin compiling results before the MLA 2011 Annual Meeting.
  2. Begin developing a general structure for the online music metadata clearinghouse, including articulating a vision for what it will look like in one year, two years, and five years.
  3. Continue to explore partnership with groups outside of MLA, to bring knowledge of music metadata issues to relevant groups, and to inform MLA of initiatives relevant to our work going on in other areas.
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