ALA Annual Conference Report
Report from LITA/ALCTS-CaMMS Authority Control Interest Group (ACIG)
Anaheim, California, June 24, 2012
Submitted by Damian Iseminger

Open Meeting

The theme of the open meeting was *Re-purposing Authority Data in Preparation for RDA*, and consisted of three presentations, plus a report from the Library of Congress

1. LC Update to the Authority Control Interest Group – by Janis L. Young from the Policy and Standards Division (PSD), Library of Congress (LC)

Bibliographic Framework Transition Initiative: LC has contracted with Zepheira, led by Eric Miller, and it will provide a model or multiple models to serve as starting points for discussion. Further information about the initiative, including ways for the wider library community to be involved, will be posted at the initiative Web site, located at http://www.loc.gov/marc/transition/.

Romanization Tables: Several tables are new or revised: Moroccan, Tamazight, Shan, Syriac, Bulgarian, Khmer, and Russian. New tables for Cherokee and Manchu are currently under constituent review, as are the revisions to the Arabic, Japanese, and Belarusian tables. Tables that will be posted shortly for review are Kazakh in Arabic script, which is new, and revisions to the table for Lepcha.

Taiwanese Place Names: There has been a change in policy for Taiwanese place names. Names and subject headings for geographic places in Taiwan should now be established using the Pinyin Romanization scheme. This includes all jurisdictions, quasi-jurisdictions, and features. Instruction sheet H 690 in the *Subject Headings Manual* (SHM) will be revised. Staff at LC will examine the existing headings and adjust them as necessary.

Library of Congress Classification (LCC), Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH), Genre/Form Terms: See ALA report on subjects/genres.

2. RDA and the LC/NACO Authority File – by Gary Strawn, Authorities Librarian, Northwestern University Libraries

For all of the relevant documentation concerning this project, go to Facebook and search for the PCC Acceptable Headings Implementation Task Force. There are over a dozen documents that go into great detail about the project.

There have been two PCC task groups that have examined the authority file and its suitability for RDA. The original task group, the *PCC Task Group on AACR2 & RDA Acceptable Headings*, worked on how the authority file should be prepared for RDA implementation. The current task group, *PCC Acceptable Headings Implementation Task Group,* is responsible for making the necessary changes to the authority file.

The original implementation scheme devised by the earlier group envisioned it taking place in 3 phases. Phase 1 would identify all records that could not be used under RDA and would be marked with an applicable 667 field. After this phase, the file would be re-issued. Phase 2 would have made mechanical changes where possible, with any changes made resulting in a re-code of the authority record from an AACR2 authority record to a RDA authority record. These records would also be re-issued. Phase 3 would re-code any remaining records as suitable for use with RDA. In essence, the entire authority file of ca. 7.6 million records would eventually be re-issued.

In order to facilitate the working of the original plan, the current task group wrote a series of detailed documents that were made available for comment. Test programs were also written. While more participation in the form of commenting was desired, it became apparent that the original scheme envisioned was not favored by many of the commenters. Because of this, 5 alternate scenarios were proposed and discussed. Alternate 3, which would only re-issue records where a change was made to a heading or a 667 field added and which would remove the re-coding of the entire file in Phase 3, was recommended to the PCC and approved.

The new Phase 1 will mark records that are unacceptable for use under RDA and that will require some kind of human intervention (ca. 420,000 records). New Phase 2 will do any mechanical changes necessary to bring an authority record into RDA compliance, and will involve ca. 350,000 records. The state of an authority record will not necessarily be explicit until the end of Phase 2, so authority file users will have to be careful in their use of the record. After RDA day 1 in March 2013, there will be three types of records in the file: RDA records coded as such (code z in the 008/10; rda in the 040 $e); records needing human review that will have a 667; and finally AACR2 coded records that can be re-used in RDA.

Those records marked with the 667 will include pre-AACR1 and AACR2 records, AACR2 compatible records, and any AACR2 records that include elements that are non-RDA. The last group will include those headings that have text in $c considered unacceptable, headings representing ongoing conferences, headings with $l that include the strings Polyglot or &, and headings representing treaties, librettos and texts.

Mechanical changes will take place for the following situations: converting "b." and "d." in X00 $d subfields to hyphens; replacing music abbreviations with spelled out forms; the removal of testament designations from Bible headings; replacing the word Koran with Qur'an; and parentheses around approved $c terms; and changing violoncello to cello.

Changes to records in any of the phases will also result in the creation of 046, 378, and 382-384 fields, where applicable. Any undefined indicators will be set to blank. The record will also be re-coded as an RDA record. Finally, any 7XX fields remaining from the national RDA test will be removed.

In order to perform this work a conversion program will be run at the Library of Congress against their copy of the authority file. 30,000 records will be changed per day for 5 days week, until the conversion is done. The weekly distribution lists will contain 150,000 more

headings than usual. Work will start in July and will likely run a month for Phase 1. Phase 2 changes will start on March 1, 2013 and will be completed in time by the implementation date of March 31. A list of 7XX fields will also be generated for review. Any changes to an authority record based on the harvested 7XX fields will have to be operator-initiated. Once phase 2 is completed, cleanup will take place on those headings that should have been changed, but were not for various reasons. Conversion conditions may change based on decisions that will be reached over the next 6 months on certain outstanding issues, but the conversion program has been written to allow for this possibility.

There are other things that will need attention, but which fall outside the scope of the project. These things might include changes to LCSH authority records, local authority records, and changes to bibliographic records.

For those that are interested, the programs developed for this project will be made available after all the heavy lifting is done to the general public.

Name Authorities—What's New? – by Ana Lupe Cristán, **Policy and Standards Division, Library of Congress**

March 31, 2013 is Day 1 of LC and PCC implementation of RDA. LC will issue no more AACR2 records. Training has already started at LC, with modules available on the ABA portion of the Web site (www.loc.gov/aba/rda). RDA in NACO training is also being offered online. One does not need to be a NACO member to use them. These modules are available on the Catalogers Learning Workshop Web site (http://www.loc.gov/catworkshop/courses/rda_naco/index.html).

Much of the activity surrounding the implementation of RDA involves the updating of cataloging manuals and in determining policy. On the policy front, it is now acceptable for an AACR2 record to be re-coded as suitable for use with RDA in the course of normal authority work. Any records that are dependent on the re-coded record may also be re-coded. However, catalogers are encouraged to not make any unnecessary changes to the 1XX field in authority records. If the field is fine under RDA, leave it as is. For example, RDA may allow for the addition of elements to an access point. However it does not follow that these additions must be made to the 1XX field.

The *Descriptive Cataloging Manual* Z1 (NACO guidelines) has been updated to include all the new MARC fields available in the authorities format along with guidance on when to use them. It will more than likely be updated again to reflect PCC Task Group decisions. The Library of Congress Policy Statements (LCPS) will now be called the Library of Congress-PCC Policy Statements (LC-PCC PS).

Under RDA the agreement with Library and Archives Canada (LAC) to align names between each country's authority file will be null and void. Instead the Virtual International Authority File (VIAF) will be used for the clustering of matching identities. If one is creating a RDA authority record, there is no need to consult with LAC.

Planning for RDA Authority Conversion – by Karen Anderson, Backstage Library Works

The presentation detailed the work Backstage Library Works currently does in maintaining its clients bibliographic and authority records and the options it can provide to clients in preparing and updating their bibliographic and authority files for use with RDA. For those who wish further information on the services that Backstage can provide in the upcoming transition to RDA, visit the Backstage Web site at http://www.bslw.com.

Business Meeting

Christina Hennessey, Cataloging Librarian, Loyola Marymount University, was elected as the new Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect for 2012-2013. The terms for the current members-at-large for Local Systems and Uniform Titles were extended for two years, as was the position of ACIG Web Coordinator. The positions are currently filled by Richard Guinn, University of Texas, Elaine Winske, Florida International University, and Suzhen Chen, Case Western Reserve University, respectively. At the conclusion of the business meeting, Caroline Miller, UCLA, will be the new ACIG Chair, with Melanie McGurr, Ohio State University, becoming the Past Chair.

The total number of attendees for the open session was approximately 115-120. It was felt that the meeting went well.

Ideas for the Midwinter meeting in Seattle were discussed and the group settled on a theme of the development of RDA best practices for authority records in communities of practice and at individual institutions.

The business meeting adjourned at 4:56 PM.