**Cataloging and Metadata Town Hall**

**MLA Annual Meeting 2016, Cincinnati, OH**

*Summary written by Amy Strickland, University of Miami*

*Session presenters: Beth Iseminger, CMC Chair (Harvard University); Casey Mullin, Vocabularies Chair (New York Public Library/BookOps); Kathy Glennan, ALA representative to the RDA Steering Committee (University of Maryland); Kevin Kishimoto, member of the Vocabularies Subcommittee (University of Chicago); Tracey Snyder, Content Standards Chair (Cornell University); Jim Soe Nyun, Encoding Standards Chair (University of California, San Diego); and Linda Blair, BIBCO Music Funnel Coordinator (Eastman School of Music).*

The Cataloging and Metadata Town Hall was held on Friday, March 4th at the annual MLA Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. The full session can be viewed at <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/84081035>.

Beth Iseminger, outgoing chair of the Cataloging and Metadata Committee, opened the Town Hall by thanking the BIBFRAME Task Force (2014-2016) and the Genre/Form Task Force (2009-2016) for their efforts over the past few years. She then announced that Mary Huismann will be the chair of the Content Standards Subcommittee for the 2016-2020 term, while Tracey Snyder will be the chair of the Cataloging and Metadata Committee for the same term.

Casey Mullin introduced the audience to the new LC Demographic Group Terms Thesaurus. This thesaurus was created to address the need to separate information on creators, contributors, and intended audiences from LC Subject Headings, just as medium of performance, genre/form, and geographical terms have been liberated from LCSH. Two of three pilot phases have been completed, and there are currently 800 terms in the thesaurus. The thesaurus is available both in Classification Web and through the Library of Congress’s Linked Data Service. Terms can be used in both bibliographic and authority records, although they are limited to MARC field 374 (occupation) in authority records for persons. A draft of the LCDGT manual is available at <https://www.loc.gov/aba/publications/FreeLCDGT/freelcdgt.html>. Catalogers are encouraged to try out the thesaurus, and they may propose new terms—if they are required for current cataloging—via the normal SACO process or via a temporary survey (<http://surveymonkey.com/r/LCDGTproposals>), which will be available through the end of May.

Kathy Glennan gave an update on two major new influences on the continuing development of RDA. First, the Joint Steering Committee (JSC), which has been renamed the “RDA Steering Committee” (RSC), is moving toward a more international membership. The RSC will consist of six regional representatives, loosely based on the United Nations regional groups. North America will have only one representative, instead of the current three, so there are plans for a North American RSC-equivalent to consolidate North American interests. The work of the RSC will rely more heavily on working groups, including the Technical Working Group and the Translations Working Group.

Second is the development of the FRBR-Library Reference Model (FRBR-LRM), which is a combination of FRBR (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records), FRAD (Functional Requirements for Authority Data), and FRSAD (Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Data). Kathy described FRBR-LRM as a high-level conceptual model that focuses on user tasks instead of library operations. Eleven entities have been defined and organized into a hierarchy: the remaining entities from the previous versions of FRBR, FRAD, and FRSAD have been repurposed or subsumed under these eleven. Other changes include a revised list of attributes, the treatment of aggregate works, and the notion of a “representative expression” that may be used as a basis for describing a work. FRBR-LRM will serve as a guide for further RDA development, and expansions and other changes will likely be needed in the future. More information about FRBR-LRM may be found at the RSC website and the IFLA website; Kathy also encouraged attendees to contact her directly if they have questions.

Kevin Kishimoto and Tracey Snyder presented “RDA Gold: Popular Music Edition.” Kevin and Tracey stated the need to reform the current practice of creating authorized access points for popular music: in RDA, a bibliographic record for a popular song or album cannot have the performer as the creator *unless* he or she also wrote the song or all of the songs on the album. While this practice follows strict RDA guidelines, Kevin and Tracey suggested that it does not meet the needs of users. They also noted that many performances of popular music entail decisions by the performers that lead to wildly variant works; these decisions could be viewed as the performer acting in a “creator” role (the same argument is made for jazz performances).

Kevin and Tracey proposed a possible solution: allow the cataloger to consider a popular music recording as a work itself, and to credit the most prominently named musical artist as the creator. A “based on” relationship can be established between the recording and the original work:

Big Brother & the Holding Company (Musical Group). Summertime

Based on (work): Gershwin, George, 1898-1937. Porgy and Bess. Summertime.

Yankovic, Al, 1959- Fat.

Based on (work): Jackson, Michael, 1958-2009. Bad.

Their presentation ended with Kevin and Tracey performing a highly entertaining medley of cataloging parody tunes, presented as if they had been written by MLA members. They included “Why, RDA?” (Damian Iseminger; “YMCA” by the Village People); “Bibs” (Jay and the Cooperative; “Kiss” by Prince and the Revolution); and “Under BIBFRAME” (Sandy Rodriguez & Jim Soe Nyun; “Under Pressure” by Queen and David Bowie).

Kevin and Tracey’s full discussion of this issue, “Popular Music in FRBR and RDA: Toward User-Friendly and Cataloger-Friendly Identification of Works,” was published in *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly* (Volume 54, Issue 1, 2016). They also did related presentations at MOUG 2014 (<http://musicoclcusers.org/wp-content/uploads/KishimotoSnyderLightning2014.pptx>) and at IAML 2015 ([http://www.iaml.info/sites/default/files/pdf/iaml\_2015\_presentation\_slides\_snyder\_kishimoto.pdf](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.iaml.info_sites_default_files_pdf_iaml-5F2015-5Fpresentation-5Fslides-5Fsnyder-5Fkishimoto.pdf&d=CwMF-g&c=y2w-uYmhgFWijp_IQN0DhA&r=e85XbAcnsHEZ5NIkRWGtIr_z8mZKkbn_LtVA1aV4Mkg&m=SiVL6PFvWiDAHbelhaRvcHmlPz5aZa9nYQxRi8HfuF4&s=_aQScGaRA4scyPK86zmYN8fKOS8YSwQrUd1aT0KtjEk&e=)).

Jim Soe Nyun introduced the new “Metadata for Music Resources” website. The site focuses on music metadata, but also includes more general metadata resources. It consists of six sections: Issues & Trends, Sample Metadata, Training, Workflow & Documentation, Management Tools, and Bibliography. Jim added that future development for the site may include more BIBFRAME resources, MLA ontology work, and perhaps resources for traditional cataloging. The site is available on the MLA website under the Cataloging and Metadata Committee section (<http://www.musiclibraryassoc.org/mpage/cmc_meta_resources>).

Linda Blair discussed the BIBCO Music Funnel, which is part of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC). The standards for bibliographic records created by all BIBCO Funnels are set forth by the PCC’s RDA BIBCO Standard Record (BSR) document, and include RDA Core, Core if, PCC Core, and PCC Recommended elements. Goals of the BIBCO Music Funnel include increasing the number of music catalogers participating in the BIBCO program and the number of BIBCO records created for scores and sound recordings, as well as collaborating with the NACO Music Project, the Cataloging and Metadata Committee, and other music catalogers who participate in BIBCO to facilitate information sharing and problem solving in the music cataloging community. The BIBCO Music Funnel is looking for new members, especially NACO contributors who are independent in both names and name-titles, and any music catalogers who are or have been BIBCO contributors either independently under AACR2 or as part of a BIBCO member institution. More information can be found at the BIBCO Music Funnel website (<http://www.musiclibraryassoc.org/mpage/cmc_bibco>), and anyone interested is welcome to contact Linda directly.