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                            CONTENTS

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              JOHN BYRUM TO RECEIVE MELVIL DEWEY MEDAL

     John Byrum, former chief of the Regional and Cooperative
Cataloging Division (RCCD) at the Library of Congress and the
founder of _LC Cataloging Newaline_, will receive the 2006 Melvil
Dewey Medal and Citation for recent creative professional
achievement of a high order at the American Library Association
(ALA) Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, this month.
Byrum is recognized for "extraordinary leadership in the fields of
cataloging and bibliographic standards, both nationally and
internationally, during a distinguished career spanning four
decades," said Melvil Dewey Jury Chair Winston Tabb, dean of the
University Libraries and director of the Sheridan Libraries at
Johns Hopkins University. Other members of the Dewey Jury were
Lizbeth Bishoff, University of Colorado at Boulder; Dottie Hiebing,
Metropolitan New York Library Council; Shirley Loo, Congressional
Research Service, Library of Congress; and Monecia T. Samuel, Duke
University, Durham, North Carolina.

     Byrum demonstrated creative leadership of the highest order in
the areas of librarianship that were of special importance to
Melvil Dewey: library management, training, cataloging and
classification, and the tools and techniques of librarianship.
Byrum has managed very large and complex library operations, guided
the establishment of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging and its
extensive training program, promoted innovations in cataloging, and
led in the creation and maintenance of a wide variety of tools that
are essential to contemporary librarianship.

     Byrum, who retired from the Library of Congress on January 3,
2006, holds a bachelor's degree from Harvard University and a
master's degree from the Graduate School of Library Service,
Rutgers--The State University of New Jersey. He began his
library career as a cataloger at Princeton University Library,
where he was promoted to head cataloger in 1968, only two years
after being hired. He joined the Library of Congress in 1976 as
chief of the former Descriptive Cataloging Division and also
managed the former Subject Cataloging Division. He became chief of
RCCD in June 1992, overseeing the Library's cataloging of Asian and
Middle Eastern monographs as well as several international
cooperative cataloging efforts. For more than twenty years, Byrum
worked closely with RLG (Research Libraries Group) to implement and
improve the online cataloging of Japanese, Arabic, Chinese, Korean,
Persian, Hebrew, Yiddish, and related languages. He chaired the
Foreign MARC Coalition sponsored by RLG, which fostered the
international exchange of machine-readable records, especially the

vendor records on which research libraries largely rely for initial bibliographic control of foreign materials. While chair of the US/UK/CAN/MARC Harmonization Coordinating Committee, he led the harmonization of the MARC 21 formats, which are now used by the American, British, and Canadian national libraries. This greatly facilitates the exchange of cataloging data at a lower cost than was ever possible with three separate national formats. As secretariat of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging, Byrum established and managed the infrastructure of this program that now has more than five hundred member institutions in sixty countries and supports production of monographic, serial, and authority records that can be available to all libraries.

Byrum is also recognized for his contributions to the theory of bibliographic control. While at Princeton and later at the Library of Congress, he was ALA's representative to the Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR and chair of the ALA Resources and Technical Services Division Catalog Code Revision Committee. He was a founding member of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Study Group on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records, which resulted in FRBR, the _Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records_. As chair of IFLA's ISBD Review Group since 1986, Byrum has led the continuing revision and maintenance of the family of International Standard Bibliographic Descriptions for the full range of materials in library collections. He was the keynote speaker at the IFLA Bibliography Section's Open Program at the World Library and Information Congress in Oslo, Norway, in August 2005.

Byrum was the first chairman of the Library of Congress Bibliographic Enrichment Advisory Team, which has enriched more than 300,000 Library of Congress catalog records with tables of contents and links to online scholarly reviews and to bibliographies. In the past year, this team began providing users with access through the catalog to the full online text of publications in series available on the Web and developed software to generate metadata automatically from the publications. Byrum also chaired the Library of Congress Portals Applications Issues Group from 2000 through 2005. This group, in the course of specifying functionality for a desired Library of Congress Web portal, compiled an array of information about Web portal products, which is shared with the library and vendor communities on the group's Web site at URL <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/lcpaig/> [June 2006].

Byrum has received many accolades for his contributions to librarianship. In 1975 he was awarded the Esther J. Piercy Award, given to an outstanding librarian with not more than ten years of professional experience. He received the Margaret Mann Citation for outstanding professional achievement in cataloging in 1998. He is a member of Beta Phi Mu, ALA, and ALCTS (the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services, an ALA division) and has served on numerous ALA groups including the ALCTS Subject Analysis Committee, Committee on Cataloging: Asian & African Materials, and GODORT (Government Documents Round Table) Committee on Cataloging. He was also the ALCTS representative to the ALA 2003 Conference

Organizing Committee in 2002-2003 and to the ALA Chapters Relations
Committee in 2003-2005. For nearly two decades beginning in 1985,
he was a member of the IFLA Standing Committee on Bibliography or
the Standing Committee on Cataloguing.

     Byrum will accept the engraved Dewey Medal and a citation of
achievement at the ALA Award Reception and Ceremony on Tuesday,
June 27, at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel.
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                     LC SERIES DECISION

     On June 1, 2006, the Library of Congress ceased to create and
update series authority records and ceased to provide controlled
series access points in the original bibliographic records that it
produces. The Library will continue to record series statements,
as found on the items being cataloged, in its new original
bibliographic records; controlled series access points will not be
added or modified when existing bibliographic records are updated
for other reasons.

     The LC series decision and related new LC policy concerning
its implementation are available on the Library of Congress Web
site at <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/series.html> [June 2006],
<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/delay.html> [June 2006], and
<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/series.html> [June 2006].

     Director for Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Beacher
Wiggins announced this decision on April 20. The Library
originally intended to implement the decision on May 1, but
postponed implementation until June 1 in response to concerns
expressed by other organizations that needed time to plan for the
impact of the decision on their own operations. In his
announcement Wiggings noted that the Library considered taking this
step more than a decade ago, but decided against it at that time
because of some of the concerns raised about the impact of such a
decision. The environment has changed considerably since the
1990s, as indexing and keyword searching in integrated library
systems have grown more powerful and can provide adequate access
through series statements provided only in the 490 field of the
MARC 21 bibliographic record.

     The Library of Congress intends to work with its cataloging
partner organizations and the larger library community to mitigate
the impact of its decision. Managers at LC have already worked
with OCLC, Inc., to help ensure that OCLC members can maintain
controlled series access in their own catalogs if they consider
this an important service to their users. Library of Congress
staff members plan to attend many events at the upcoming American
Library Association Annual Conference in New Orleans, La., where
the impact of the series decision will be discussed. A list of
such events is presented in an accompanying article.
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               LC SERIES DECISION AT ALA ANNUAL

     The recent LC decision to cease providing series authority
control in its original cataloging has been placed on the agenda at
the following events during the American Library Association Annual

Conference in New Orleans, Lousiana, June 23-26, 2006. The list is
believed to be complete as of June 10, 2006.

Friday June 23
ALCTS Technical Services Directors of Large Research Libraries
("Big Heads"). June 23, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, Marriott New Orleans at
the Convention Center, Crescent A/B. LC representative: Beacher
Wiggins. Recorder: Angela Kinney.

ALCTS Forum on the LC Series Authority Record Decision. June 23,
4:00-6:00 pm, Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, Rooms 386-387.
Panelist from LC: Beacher Wiggins. Also: Mark Watson, Chair of the
Program for Cooperative Cataloging; and Glenn Patton, OCLC Director
of WorldCat Quality Management. Moderator: Cynthia Whitacre, chair
of the ALCTS Cataloging and Classification Section (CCS).

Saturday June 24
Joint Workshop on Series in Bibliographic Records Pilot. June 24,
1:30-3:30 pm, New Orleans Marriott, Mardi Gras A-C. (Closed
meeting.)

ALCTS CCS Catalog Management Discussion Group. June 24, 1:30-3:30
pm, Hilton New Orleans Riverside, Grand Salon 4.

Sunday June 25
Joint ALCTS CCS/PCC Series Authority Workshop Pilot, "The Process
of Series Authority Control." June 25, 8:00-10:00 am, Ernest N.
Morial Convention Center, Rooms 333-334. (Closed meeting.)

ALCTS CCS MAGERT Map Cataloging Discussion Group. June 25, 8:00-
10:00 am, Loews New Orleans Hotel, St. Tammany Room. Speakers from
LC: Seanna Tsung, Rod Pollock.

CONSER-at-Large. June 25, 8:00-9:30 am, Sheraton New Orleans,
Napoleon Ballroom D3.   Chair: Les Hawkins.

Joint CONSER/BIBCO Session. June 25, 9:30-10:00 am, Sheraton New
Orleans, Napoleon Ballroom D3.

BIBCO-at-Large. June 25, 10:00-10:30 am, Sheraton New Orleans,
Napoleon Ballroom D3. Chair: Carolyn Sturtevant.

GODORT (Government Documents Round Table) Cataloging Committee.
June 25, 10:30 am-12:00 p.m. June 25, Sheraton New Orleans Hotel--
Maurepas Room. LC member: Sara Striner.

ACRL Rare Book and Manuscript Section MARC for Special Collections
Discussion Group. June 25, 10:30 am-12:00 pm, Hilton New Orleans
Riverside, Belle Chasse Room.

LITA/ALCTS ACIG (Authority Control in the Online Environment
Interest Group). Program on "Questioning Authorities: Adapting
Authority Control to the Changing Needs of Library Users." June 25,
1:30-3:30 pm, Hilton New Orleans Riverside, Grand Ballroom C.
Speaker from LC: Beacher Wiggins.

ALCTS Creative Ideas in Technical Services Discussion Group.

Sunday, June 25, 4:00-5:30 pm, Hotel Monteleone--Vieux Carre.
Breakout topic no. 1: Library of Congress' decisions on series
titles.

ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries) WESS (Western
European Studies Section) Catalogers' Discussion Group. June 25,
4:00-5:30 pm, Astor Crowne Plaza, Bienville Room. "Rethinking Tech
Services Form and Function at the Library of Congress: Donald
Panzera.

PCC Participants' Discussion Group. June 25, 4:00-6:00 pm, Ernest
N. Morial Convention Center, Rooms 338-339. Chair: Mark Watson.
Moderated panel discussion on "The Future of Bibliographic Control
in the Cooperative Environment:"   Panel members will include
Deanna Marcum, Library of Congress, Associate Librarian for Library
Services; Beacher Wiggins, Library of Congress, Director,
Acquisitions & Bibliographic Access; Mark Watson, PCC Chair and
University of Oregon, Associate University Librarian for
Collections & Access; and Bob Wolven, Past PCC Chair and Director
of Library Systems and Bibliographic Control, Columbia University.

Monday June 26
ALCTS CCS Heads of Cataloging Discussion Group. June 26, 8:00-
10:00 am, Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, Rooms 398-399.

ALCTS CCS Policy & Planning Committee. June 26, 8:00-10:00 am,
Hilton Riverside, Burgundy Room. LC report: Beacher Wiggins.

ALCTS CCS Copy Cataloging Discussion Group. June 26, 10:30 am-
12:00 pm, Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, Rooms 398-399. LC
report: Judith Mansfield.

Wednesday June 28
ALA Executive Board. June 28, 2:00-5:20 pm, Hilton New Orleans
Riverside, Marlborough Room. LC report: Deanna Marcum.
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