

## LC CONFERENCE 2000 ACTION PLAN FORUM

The third LC Conference 2000 Action Plan Forum took place on Sunday, January 26, during the 2003 Midwinter Meeting of the American Library Association (ALA) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Chaired by Beacher Wiggins, the Library of Congress's acting associate librarian for Library Services, the forum featured brief updates on all work items in "Bibliographic Control of Web Resources: A Library of Congress Action Plan" and fuller reports on five selected items in the areas of library education, portal applications, metadata enrichment, and electronic archiving.

Wiggins reported progress on a number of work items. For work item 1.1 (increased availability of standard records for electronic resources), he said that the Library had commissioned Ardith Bausenbach, a senior automation planning specialist in the Library's Automation Planning and Liaison Office, to conduct an environmental scan of existing projects to identify, organize, and provide access to electronic resources. This work would probably commence in April. Work item 2.2 (international sharing of authority records), led by Barbara Tillett, chief of LC's Cataloging Policy and Support Office, is being fulfilled through the Virtual International Authority File project, a proof-of-concept collaboration among LC, OCLC, and the Deutsche Bibliothek. The three institutions were about to sign a collaborative agreement for a multi-stage test to link personal name authority records and make them available and maintained through an OAI-protocol (Open Archives Initiative) system. Tillett was also leading work items 3.3 (showing provisions in AACR2 and MARC 21 for explicit links from record to resource and record to record) and 3.5 (guidelines on separate vs. single records for manifestations). Wiggins explained that work item 3.3 was intended to package work that had already been done into a form that could be readily understood and used by the library vendor community. He noted that from the perspective of the Cataloging Policy and Support Office, work item 3.5 had also been completed, but he expected that other organizations and programs, such as CONSER, would carry on with refinements or formulations tailored to their constituencies. For work item 3.6 (development of AACR2 to provide for bibliographic control of full range of electronic resources), Wiggins had communicated with the chair of the Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR, Ann Huthwaite (Acting Manager, Kelvin Grove Branch, Queensland University of Technology Library), urging that JSC consider the Bicentennial Conference's recommendations on making AACR2 more responsive to the cataloging of Web resources. Huthwaite had replied that the JSC had considered how the Conference recommendations could fit into the strategic plan it was developing. Wiggins therefore considered work item 3.6 complete but looked forward to the issuance of the JSC strategic plan.

Wiggins said that LC was seeking a principal investigator or lead organization for work item 4.2 (metadata extraction tool), which had generated much interest during the Bicentennial Conference. Acting Director for Cataloging Judith A. Mansfield had described this work item to the industry group AVIAC, the Automation Vendors Information Advisory Committee, which met in conjunction with Midwinter. Work item 6.5 (incorporating "event awareness" into AACR2) was also on hold pending appointment of a leader. Work item 6.1 (LC research on digital initiatives) was being fulfilled by means of LC's regular reports to the Digital Library Federation. Work was also progressing on work items 2.5 (LCC and LCSH for the Web developer community, led by Kathryn Mendenhall, acting chief, LC Cataloging Distribution

Service, and 3.1 (library principles paper for use by the metadata community), with principal investigator/author Sherry Vellucci, dean of the School of Library and Information Science, St. John's University. Work items 4.4 (resource selection/user feedback tool) and 6.4 (research and development on changing nature of the catalog) were on hold pending completion of related work items.

Seven speakers gave brief administrative updates on their work items. John Celli, chief of the Cataloging in Publication Division, LC, reviewed progress on work item 1.2 (repurposing of metadata). There have been several successful repurposing projects at LC, including the ONIX TOC project, which repurposes publishers' ONIX files to make table of contents data and publisher summaries available on the Web, and projects to link certain catalog records to full electronic texts. David Seaman of the Digital Library Federation had joined the work group for this item, which also included Mary Levering (United States Copyright Office, LC), and Regina Reynolds (National Serials Data Program, LC). Celli welcomed nominations for a principal investigator; he can be contacted at <jcel@loc.gov>.

John Byrum, chief of the Regional and Cooperative Cataloging Division, LC, spoke on 2.1 (common user interfaces ... across a range of discovery tools). He predicted that the advent and refinement of such common interfaces, or library portals, would likely assume importance in the coming years, on a par with the impact of integrated library systems in the past decade. The work item, which had evolved considerably since the ALA 2002 Annual Conference in Atlanta, Ga., was now being led by the LC Portals Applications Issues Group (LCPAIG). The issues group had identified numerous portal products and a bibliography of selected resources, both listed on the LCPAIG Web page at URL <<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/lcpaig/>>. Byrum said that LCPAIG would consult closely with the Association of Research Libraries Scholars Portal Project and with the Internet Portals Interest Group of LITA, the Library and Information Technology Association, a division of ALA.

Rebecca Guenther, senior network development and MARC standards specialist, LC Network Development and MARC Standards Office (NDMSO), reported on work item 3.2 (identification, mapping, etc., of key metadata schemes). She said that the IFLA Metadata Working Group had produced a draft report that was reviewed at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Conference in Glasgow, Scotland, in August 2002. As METS, the Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard, has developed, a registry of extension schemata for use with METS-encoded documents had also been developed. Guenther mentioned other metadata mappings that were available: MARC 21 to MODS, the Metadata Object Description Schema; MARC 21 to Dublin Core; the Dublin Core/MARC/GILS Crosswalk (GILS is the Government Information Locator Service); MARC 21, Dublin Core, and Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) metadata. Guenther and Alan Danskin of the British Library represent the MARC 21 community in the CORES Interoperability Forum, part of the CORES Project funded by the European Union to encourage interoperability of metadata standards in support of the "semantic Web."

Sally McCallum, chief of NDMSO, is the leader for work items 3.4 (supporting FRBR displays for multiple versions), 3.7 (guidelines for persistent identifier system, shared resolving

system), and 4.5 (convergence of standards for harvesting metadata). She said that NDMSO, as the lead organization for these items, would assure that work was progressing on each, but would not necessarily carry out the work itself. She summarized ongoing work to support end-user catalog displays that are cognizant of FRBR, the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records issued by an IFLA working group in 1998 using an entity-relationship model for cataloging. The OCLC Office of Research expected to have a demonstration site for FRBR-cognizant displays of catalog records for fiction (the Fiction Finder project) available by February. The vendor VTLIS, Inc., has used FRBR in a new release of its integrated library system, which has been installed at the Université catholique de Louvain. At LC, staff have identified all FRBR-related data elements in the MARC 21 formats. The JSC Format Variation Working Group has submitted several reports on using FRBR concepts for expression-level records; the JSC had also received a report from Pat Riva, McGill University, on possibilities for incorporating FRBR terminology into AACR. The IFLA Working Group on Functional Requirements of Authority Numbering and Records (FRANAR), now chaired by Glenn Patton of OCLC, was considering FRBR elements in authority records. During the next ALA Annual Conference to be held in Toronto, Canada, the Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA) and MARBI (Machine-Readable Bibliographic Information) would sponsor a joint program on FRBR on the morning of Sunday, June 22.

McCallum said that work item 3.7 was moving forward, but the work was difficult and would be carried out over the long term. Persistent identifiers include the DOI (Digital Object Identifier); in addition, Internet namespaces had now been assigned for the ISSN, ISBN, and ISMN (International Standard Music Number), a step that could permit those numbers to function as persistent identifiers for digital resources. The PURL and Handle systems were well-known examples of resolver systems. McCallum mentioned the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative experiment underway to assign persistent identifiers to Dublin Core roles and relators.

McCallum reported that work item 4.5 was essentially complete with the release of OAI (Open Archives Initiative) version 2.0. The Library of Congress exposes metadata for its digital collections in MARC 21, Dublin Core, and XML, and was considering exposing metadata in MODS.

Adolfo Tarango (University of California, San Diego) reported on work item 4.1 (specifications for records for titles in aggregator databases). He was also chair of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) Third Task Force on Journals in Aggregations and was leading this work item for the lead organization, the PCC Standing Committee on Automation (SCA). The CONSER-At-Large meeting at ALA Midwinter had considered the wording of the work item and confirmed that libraries will continue to need record sets for serials in aggregator databases; creators of record sets need access to base records that can be customized; the base records should be CONSER records; and vendors and CONSER should work together to customize the records for titles in aggregations. Tarango would present a report to the SCA.

Glenn Patton summarized progress on three work items being carried out by OCLC personnel. Work item 4.3 (specifications for embedded metadata) is being led by Stuart Weibel of the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative; Patton said a consultant had been hired to work with vendors that produce Web authoring tools. Lorcan Dempsey, OCLC Office of Research, was the

leader for work item 6.2 (catalog user tools) and was considering user tools and customizable user interfaces. Work item 6.3 (simplified LCSH) was being carried out by the FAST (Faceted Application of Subject Terminology) project, led by Ed O'Neill, also of the Office of Research.

Carol Tobin, past president of the ALA Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), is the leader for work item 5.2 (sponsor a series of open forums on metadata needs to support reference service). With LC, RUSA was co-sponsor of a forum at Midwinter featuring Professor Marcia Bates (Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles), the principal investigator for work item 2.3 (metadata enrichment).

The Conference 2000 Action Plan Forum also featured detailed reports on work items 1.3 (selection criteria for electronic resources), 1.4 (archiving and accessing electronic government publications), 2.3 (metadata enrichment), 5.1 (library/information school curricula for technical services), and 5.3 (continuing education needs for technical services). Amy Tracy Wells, leader for work item 1.3, reported on the work of the Selection Criteria Task Force (SCTF), which has members with expertise in different kinds of data or objects: cultural heritage (images, physical objects), sound, instructional objects, text, bibliographic, geospatial, and government data. The task force was planning environmental scans of selection criteria for traditional resources and of those selection criteria that currently exist for electronic resources, considering both free (or freely accessible) and commercial-sector resources. Other members of the SCTF are Carolyn Larson (Library of Congress), Pat Ann Loghry (University of Notre Dame; CMDS liaison); Gene Major (NASA), Lyle Minter (LC), Karen Schneider (Librarian's Index to the Internet), and Mary Woodley (California State University, Northridge), with Susan Morris as the LC Cataloging Management Team liaison. Successive drafts of the SCTF report would be available on the World Wide Web at URL: <http://www.msu.edu/~wellsat/sctf.doc>

Wells mentioned some "subtle issues" that the task force had uncovered in its work so far. They had found that the traditional criteria of currency and accessibility were not always applicable in selecting digital resources, or were applicable in ways that differed from traditional criteria. They had also acknowledged that bias, in selection and in content, could not be eliminated totally. Selection criteria for electronic content must be applied within the context of an institution's overarching collection policies. The relationship between selection and deselection was different in the digital realm, and selection of a digital object might not be a one-time decision. The task force saw a need for operational definitions as such concepts as "authority," "scope," and "treatment" apply to electronic content, because such concepts did not map one-to-one between analog and digital materials. The environmental scan of selection criteria in traditional libraries seemed to indicate that the literature didn't address types of material holistically.

Meg Bellinger, vice president for digital and preservation resources, OCLC, led work item 1.4, Design mechanisms to harvest, archive, and provide access to selected electronic government publications through partnerships .... She reported that the principal investigators for this item were her OCLC colleagues Taylor Surface, Dawn Larson, and Pam Kirchner; the LC liaison is Judy Mansfield. The OCLC Digital and Preservation Resources Division partnered with the U.S. Government Printing Office, the state libraries of Connecticut, Arizona, and Michigan, the University of Edinburgh, and a consortium of libraries in Ohio, the Joint

Electronic Records Repository Initiative, to develop the Web Document Digital Archive (WDDA), a sustainable service to provide long-term access to documents on the World Wide Web. The WDDA achieved its first release of a single-object Web harvester in September 2002; a batch ingestion capability was expected by early spring 2003. As of the end of January 2003, the WDDA contained about one thousand digital documents and metadata from the Preservation Metadata element set. The WDDA implemented METS best practices and the National Information Standards Organization technical schema for XML. An automated process validates the digital object, ingests it into the repository, and creates a report.

Over the next three to five years, Bellinger said, the WDDA would develop the tools, procedures, and processes needed for ingesting whole Web sites and for standardized digital archiving of electronic journals.

Judy Ahronheim, leader for work item 2.3, Explore ways to enrich metadata records, reported for the Metadata Enrichment Task Force (METF), which she chairs. (Like work items 5.1 and 5.3, described below, work item 2.3 is being carried out under the auspices of the ALCTS Task Force for the LC Action Plan.) Principal investigator Prof. Marcia Bates (University of California, Los Angeles) had submitted a draft of her report, "Improving User Access to Library Catalog and Portal Information." She considered three tasks: improving user access, linkages among "bibliographic families," and staging access to resources in the catalog interface. Bates' report recommended the creation of cluster vocabulary that can serve as a front-end thesaurus, external to the catalog; beginning work on linking bibliographic families by gaining agreement on what constitutes a bibliographic family; and aiming for a 1:30 ratio in staging access to resources in the user interface.

Ahronheim said that the METF hoped to develop a list of speakers, including Bates, and would work to arrange appearances for them at American Library Association conferences and other venues. The METF was working now on functional requirements for front-end searching aids, which could be used to compare various searching aids. The METF intended to share the functional requirements with AVIAC, the Automation Vendors Information Advisory Committee. Over the longer term, the METF wanted to encourage other bodies to create a vocabulary clustering tool that could be used transparently in the course of a search; METF was identifying possible developers and funding sources.

Beth Picknally Camden (University of Virginia), chair of the ALCTS/ALISE LIS Task Force, reported on the work her task force was doing to execute work item 5.1, Improve and enhance curricula in library and information science schools .... ALCTS had charged this task force jointly with ALISE, the Association for Library and Information Science Education. Other members were Diane Baden (NELINET), Judith Cannan (LC Technical Processing and Automation Instruction Office), Allyson Carlyle (University of Washington), C. Olivia Frost (University of Michigan), Andrea Stamm (Northwestern University), and Helena VanDeroef (Lucent Technologies); the LC Cataloging Management Team liaison was Linda Stubbs.

Camden said that on January 25, the LIS Task Force had approved the report submitted by the work item's principal investigator, Dr. Ingrid Hsieh-Yee (School of Library and Information Science, Catholic University of America). The report found that there was very

little systematic teaching of metadata theory or practice in North American library and information science schools. It proposed sets of core competencies, which would translate to elements of curricula, at three levels: for all library school students; for those intending to be metadata practitioners; and for all library administrators. The report is available at URL <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/bibcontrol/CatalogingandMetadataEducation.pdf>

Camden said that in addition to an electronic discussion list for educators and a Web clearinghouse for syllabi, the task force hoped to have an educators' workshop at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in 2004 to present the ideas in Hsieh-Yee's report.

Carol Hixson reported on work item 5.3, Address continuing education needs for library technical services practitioners .... She chairs the Continuing Education Task Force (CETF), which has been charged by the ALCTS Task Force on the LC Action Plan to carry out this work item. The CETF intended to have a final proposal for the work item ready by the middle of May 2003. The task force intended to survey practitioners and managers of cataloging units on what they perceive as their needs for continuing education.

Wiggins noted that the reports at this Action Plan Forum showed that all the work groups were expending great time and energy on their work items, and said that the Library of Congress was very grateful for their efforts.