STANDING COMMITTEE ON AUTOMATION

QUARTERLY REPORT
JAN.-MAR. 2006

The committee did not meet at Midwinter. The chair determined that, as its task groups were still working and had no reports or other documents to present for discussion and had reported no need for advice or assistance, there was not sufficient business to require a meeting.

The committee currently has two active task groups:

- Monograph Aggregator Task Group
- Task Group on Normalization

Reports on the work of these two task groups follows below.

Monograph Aggregator Task Group

This task group is charged to "Develop a reference guide that lists the required data elements for machine-derived and machine-generated monographic records. The guide should include practical and detailed guidelines for application."

The task group has previously produced a document entitled "Functional Requirements for Electronic Vendor Records," which served as an interim report to Standing Committee on Automation and is posted on the PCC web site at http://www.loc.gov/catdir/pcc/sca/frevrfinalreport919.pdf. It has written a draft of the actual vendor guide but has been struggling with the question of formatting. It has been wondering how extensive the guide should be and whether or not its current draft should be rewritten in FAQ form. The chair of SCA made some suggestions as to formatting. The task group hopes to come up with a reworked version of the draft prior to the April BIBCO/CONSER meeting.

The task group also had three broader policy questions that need to be brought to the attention of the Policy Committee:

(1) How will the finished guide be publicized by PCC to its intended audience?

(2) The guide will probably contain a passage that recommends that vendors who need further help should come to us for help. Who is "us"? Standing Committee on Automation? A list of volunteer advisors maintained by PCC? How will PCC assure that the advisors are trained and qualified to give advice?

(3) Many libraries have developed in-house programs for automatically generating MARC records from vendor or user data. Should Standing Committee on Automation serve as a clearinghouse for sharing such programs?

The members of the Task Group are: Kate Harcourt, Columbia (chair); Becky Culbertson (UC San Diego); Kit Herlihy (California State San Marcos). Becky Culbertson will be attending the BIBCO/CONSER meeting to represent the group.

Task Group on Normalization

The background and charge to this task group are available at: http://www.loc.gov/catdir/pcc/sca/tg-normalization.html. The task group currently consists of Gary Strawn, Northwestern (chair); Tatiana Barr, University of Florida; Robert Bremer, OCLC; Larry Dixson, Library of Congress; Ed Glazier, RLG.

Chair Gary Strawn reports that the task group have settled the details of the handling of each character, and need only add some introductory text to produce a draft report. According to the charge, this draft is due in May. Gary anticipates no problem in meeting that deadline.

Respectfully submitted
Gary Charbonneau, chair
Apr. 6, 2006