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HENRIETTE D. AVRAM, 1919-2006

Henriette D. Avram, retired associate librarian for collections services at the Library of Congress, died in Miami, Fla., on April 22, 2006. She worked at the Library of Congress for more than 25 years in information technology and technical services. During that time, she received the library profession's highest honors: the Margaret Mann Citation for outstanding professional achievement in cataloging or classification in 1971; the ACRL Academic/Research Librarian of the Year Award in 1979; the LITA/Gaylord Award for Achievement in Library and Information Technology in 1980; the Melvil Dewey Medal for creative professional achievement of high order in 1981; election as an Honorary Fellow of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions in 1987; and the Joseph Lippincott Award for distinguished service to the profession of librarianship in 1988.

Avram joined the Library of Congress in 1965, after working from 1952 to 1965 in computer programming and information processing for the Department of Defense and in the private sector. Within a year, she had overseen the issuance of A Proposed Format for a Standardized Machine-Readable Catalog Record, which formed the basis for the MARC formats that are the international standard for the electronic exchange of bibliographic, authority, holdings, community, and classification data. Her first management responsibility at LC was the first MARC Pilot Project beginning in 1966. At the time of her retirement on January 3, 1992, Avram managed more than 1,700 Library of Congress employees. Although she did not hold a college degree, she was the author or co-author of approximately one hundred papers, books, and articles in the fields of bibliographic control, information technology in libraries, and standards.

A memorial service for Henriette Avram and her late husband Herbert, who died January 15, 2006, was held at Arlington National Cemetery on May 1. The Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate extends deepest sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Avram's family, including their daughter, Marcie Avram of New York, N.Y., and their sons, Lloyd Avram of Key West, Fla., and Jay Avram of Arlington, Va.

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PCC PARTICIPANTS' DISCUSSION GROUP SUMMARY, ALA 2006 MIDWINTER  
MEETING

PCC Participants' Discussion Group was presided over by PCC chair Mark Watson (University of Oregon).

In the past fiscal year, the PCC membership surpassed five hundred institutions. Among the new members are the Harvard Yenching Library in the Monographic Bibliographic Record Program (BIBCO), the National Indian Law Library in the Name Authority Cooperative Program (NACO), and a new NACO and Subject Authority Cooperative Program (SACO) funnel centered at the University of the West Indies. Statistics for the past fiscal year were good. For details see <<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/pcc/stats/stats.html>> [June 2006].

Watson introduced the current draft of the PCC Strategic Directions for 2006-2010. A Web site entitled "PCC 2010: Planning for the Future," containing the strategic directions and relevant documents is at <<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/pcc/pcc2010.html>> [June 2006]. Significant among these documents are five vision statements authored by members of the PCC Policy Committee: Andrew MacEwan (British Library), Judith Nadler (University of Chicago), Carlen Ruschoff (University of Maryland, College Park), Roxanne Sellberg (Northwestern University), and Beacher Wiggins (Library of Congress). The final version with tactical goals should be completed at the November Policy Committee meeting.

Featured speaker Karen Calhoun (Cornell University Library) presented an address entitled "On Competition for Catalogers." Her discussion focused on some of the competition faced by catalogers in preserving their profession as well as the competition they will encounter if their profession adapts to what she called the "global infosphere."

The challenges facing catalogers include the affordability and scalability of their services; the competition within libraries for resources to develop library services; changes in information-seeking behavior; the gradual disappearance of catalog librarians; the reduced significance of the catalog in information seeking; and the debatable future of the discrete library catalog. Calhoun reported that eighty-nine percent of college students begin looking for information by using popular search engines while two percent start their searches on library Web pages, with catalog use being a subset of that two percent.

These obstacles to the continuing life of the profession also serve as opportunities for professional development. One of the great contributions of catalogers to researchers is that the cataloger enables the searcher to work independently, without intervention. This great savings in time and effort to the user must be redirected from the integrated library system containing only one institution's holdings to the "global infosphere."

In this redirection some catalogers will find that they can continue much as they do now, in the anticipated expansion of special collections, archives, and other areas that will require familiar workflow. Other catalogers will find that with a little skills training, and perhaps new thinking, they will become the

sought-after metadata specialists of this new information world.

In closing Calhoun reinforced her contention that catalogers must rethink their role and not identify the product (a catalog, a bibliographic record) with the actual service of providing information directly to the user.

In a discussion moderated by Mechael Charbonneau, PCC chair-elect, Calhoun agreed with the assertion of some audience members that it is essential for library management to adapt to these new conditions while allowing staff to do so. Further information from this discussion can be drawn from the draft paper on which it is based at <<http://dspace.library.cornell.edu/handle/1813/2231>> [June 2006]. The presentation is available at <<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/pcc/CalhounPresentationALAMidwinter2006.pps>> [June 2006] as a PowerPoint file.

With the conclusion of the meeting, John D. Byrum, chief of the LC Regional and Cooperative Cataloging Division and PCC secretariat, was honored for his nearly thirty years of service at LC. An appreciative panel of professional colleagues spoke of his many and lasting contributions to the library world. Present and former PCC chairs Mark Watson, Karen Calhoun, Michael Kaplan, Carlen Ruschoff, and Brian Schottlaender (through remarks read by Beacher Wiggins, LC Director for Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access) remembered the lessons learned and wisdom derived from Byrum. Then, Wiggins spoke of Byrum's lasting contributions to LC, and presented a special PCC certificate of appreciation. Watson presented a gift from the entire PCC, a selection of Oregon wines. A reception followed that was attended by PCC participants as well as other members of the information community.

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"CALHOUN REPORT"

The Library of Congress recently issued a report that challenges assumptions about the traditional library catalog and proposes new directions for 21st-century libraries. Prepared by associate university librarian Karen Calhoun of Cornell University, "The Changing Nature of the Catalog and its Integration with Other Discovery Tools" argues that as the amount of information on the World Wide Web increases each day, library users want easy-to-use catalogs that are part of the Web. Calhoun proposes that libraries define the communities they aim to serve; choose a strategic option for their catalogs; enable users to access full electronic content from the catalog; reduce the costs of producing catalogs; enrich the catalog for users by including book reviews, images of book jackets, and related information; and offer troubleshooting services and rush delivery of library materials. The report also presents a concrete planning process to help libraries make good decisions, market their services, introduce change in their organizations, and obtain funding.

LC commissioned Calhoun to prepare "The Changing Nature of the Catalog and its Integration with Other Discovery Tools" as the latest result of the Library of Congress Bicentennial Conference on Bibliographic Control for the New Millennium, held in November 2000. The report is available at

<<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/calhoun-report-final.pdf>> [June 2006].

On April 18, Karen Calhoun spent the day at LC conferring with managers and technology specialists about the implications of her paper "The Changing Nature of the Catalog" for the Library's online public access catalog and other tools for accessing the content of the Library's vast collections. Library of Congress acquisitions and bibliographic access managers were especially interested in Calhoun's recommendations for improving the end user's experience in using the catalog. They plan to explore her ideas for enriching the catalog with book reviews, access to full digital text, images of book jackets, etc. They also hope to involve leaders in the library vendor industry more fully in the development of standards for the catalog.

Calhoun will present an overview of the report at the American Library Association Annual Conference in New Orleans, La., during the final hour of the BIBCO-at-Large meeting on Sunday, June 25, from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, Napoleon Ballroom D3 (limited seating). Beacher Wiggins, director for Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access at the Library of Congress, will follow with a brief summary of how LC intends to follow up on the recommendations in the report.

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#### CIP LIBRARY AND PUBLISHER SURVEYS

Since 1971, the Cataloging in Publication (CIP) program has provided more than a million bibliographic records to libraries, publishers, booksellers, and the information community. While the CIP program has grown significantly over the years, the resources that support it have not. Given limited resources and dramatic changes in information technology, the Library of Congress has begun a reappraisal of the program that will inform its future direction. To do this, the CIP Division is conducting surveys of interested stakeholders in the library and publishing communities. The online, interactive library and publisher surveys are kindly hosted by SurveyMonkey.com and can be accessed at <<http://cip.loc.gov>> [June 2006].

All American libraries are urged to complete the survey, one response per library. Publishers are urged to submit one response per imprint. If there are questions, please email or telephone Patricia Hayward (202-707-3832 or <[phay@loc.gov](mailto:phay@loc.gov)>) or Gene Kinnaly (202-707-1501 or <[gkin@loc.gov](mailto:gkin@loc.gov)>).

The CIP Division plans to report initial findings from these surveys and an earlier survey of MARC Distribution Service subscribers at the CIP Advisory Group meeting during the American Library Association Annual Conference in New Orleans, La. The meeting will be held on Saturday, June 24, 2006, at the W New Orleans, from 10:30 am-12:00 pm, Great Room 1.

The surveys will be open for responses until August 18, 2006. All responses will be confidential. All findings will be reported in the aggregate. Please help determine the future of CIP by completing the online survey.

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