



36th Annual Conference
Grand Hyatt, Denver, Colorado, May 1-5, 2008

ARLIS/NA Cataloging Advisory Committee (CAC) business meeting minutes

Sunday, May 4, 2008, 3-4 p.m.

Recorded by Kay Teel

Attendance: Sarah Quimby (chair), Kay Teel (outgoing chair), Lynda Bunting, Sherman Clarke, Marly Helm, Isidor Justeson, Liz O'Keefe, Maria Oldal, Daniel Starr, Lori van Deman. Also present were seven observers.

Kay Teel, outgoing CAC chair, opened the meeting at 3 p.m. by summarizing the progress on the committee's ongoing project, "Cataloging Exhibition Publications: Best Practices." During the 2007/2008 year, the first section, "Title and Statement of Responsibility," was published on the ARLIS/NA website as a free online publication, thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of Kraig Binkowski from the Communications and Publications Committee. Teel reported that the second section, "Notes," had been completed and the final draft had been sent to Binkowski at the end of April 2008. Teel noted that if there were any minor corrections or formatting adjustments to be made, she would take care of them so the publication could go online in a timely manner.

The next agenda item was news from liaisons. Elizabeth Lilker, ARLIS/NA liaison to the ALA Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA), could not attend the Denver conference, but had sent out an e-mail to committee members urging them to read up on Resource Description and Access (RDA) and Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR). Sherman Clarke reported that he had been confirmed as ARLIS/NA liaison to the ALA Subject Analysis Committee (SAC) following Linda Cuccurullo's departure. Liz O'Keefe will continue as ARLIS/NA liaison to the Machine-Readable Bibliographic Information Committee (MARBI). Teel thanked the liaisons for their service.

There being no other reports on old business, Teel next introduced the new CAC chair, Sarah Quimby, who conducted the remainder of the business meeting.

Quimby began by thanking the departing members of the committee for their service: Linda Cuccurullo, Maria Oldal, and Kay Teel. She then introduced the new members: Marly Helm, Isidor Justeson, and Lori van Deman.

Quimby opened the new business by stating the need for the CAC to have more of a presence on the ARLIS/NA website. She will work with the ARLIS/NA webmaster and follow up on this.

The next agenda topic was the future of "Cataloging Exhibition Publications: Best Practices." Quimby asked the CAC members which sections the committee should develop next. Teel said that there was a section on access points. O'Keefe recalled that the committee had decided to delay work on the access points section because of anticipated changes in cataloging with RDA. Daniel Starr stated that there were enough uncertainties about the development and adoption of RDA that a section on access points would still be useful.

O'Keefe pointed out that the ARLIS/UK & Ireland publication, *Art Exhibition Documentation in Libraries: Cataloguing Guidelines*, did not cover assigning Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH), and a CAC publication about subject analysis could fulfill an unmet need. After some debate, the committee agreed to develop a section about subject analysis.

Starr, Clarke, and O'Keefe asked that the document draft be prepared and edited on a blog or a wiki for easier collaboration and sharing. Quimby said that she would set up a prototype wiki for the CAC. Starr noted that this could open up the committee's work to outside contributions and feedback. There was consensus among the members that the wiki could have moderated comments from anyone, but only committee members should be able to edit the wiki entries.

O'Keefe announced that the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) was revising its guidelines for visual materials. The scope is limited to the kinds of visual resources held by libraries, rather than museums. The CAC may want to comment on their guidelines.

Quimby asked for comments on RDA. O'Keefe reported that she had attended most of the CC:DA meetings at ALA Midwinter and did not

observe much optimism for RDA. Some institutions have hinted that they may not adopt it. O'Keefe mentioned that she was disappointed by RDA in regards to object cataloging. She also felt that because RDA is so closely tied to FRBR, it has become increasingly complex. She stated that one must thoroughly understand FRBR to work with RDA.

There followed a discussion about which institutions may or may not adopt RDA, and some comments about the frustrations some committee members had with the drafts that have been released so far. Some members felt that RDA would be much harder to use than AACR2.

Marly Helm disagreed that RDA would be harder to use. She stated that the prototype of the online product had been much easier to use than AACR2. She also pointed out that all of the major national libraries had vowed to adopt RDA, so other libraries would need to adopt it, too. Starr mentioned that in the Library of Congress's Future of Bibliographic Control report, however, there had been a recommendation not to adopt RDA. Lynda Bunting said that she hoped there would be courses offered after RDA's publication to help catalogers understand it.

The committee then discussed options for coding records if a library chose not to adopt RDA. There could be "mix and match" records, which use some rules from RDA and some rules from AACR2. However, many questions remain, including how OCLC would treat non-RDA records if RDA is the new national standard.

O'Keefe said that RDA allows for more kinds of data in authority records, and there may be a need for new fields in the MARC21 Format for Authority Data. Clarke and Bunting questioned the need for data to be coded at such a granular level, even if the cataloging code allowed it.

Starr asked if libraries were contributing to the Getty vocabularies. He said the CAC could consider preparing guides to help art libraries contribute. Clarke reported that the Visual Resources Association's Data Standards Committee is also looking into this topic. Maria Oldal asked how many libraries use the Art and Architecture Thesaurus (AAT) widely in their records, and explained the frustrations she had with the AAT. She said it was impossible to take advantage of the AAT as a hierarchical thesaurus in MARC21 records, so its full potential is not realized.

Several members reported that they used AAT terms as form/genre headings in the 655 tag. Bunting said that her library uses a limited number of terms to bring out special forms. Starr said that AAT terms could form a canned OPAC search at his library, useful if a searcher was looking for a special form of publication such as a trade catalog. Clarke said that guidelines on using AAT could be part of the CAC's publication about subject analysis. Bunting asked if AAT terms were used often in cataloging exhibition publications. The committee discussed trying to work more closely with AAT editors and creating help for art catalogers using AAT, but did not reach a consensus.

Quimby announced that the complete draft of RDA would be released in August 2008 for a two-month comment period. Clarke said that Elizabeth Lilker, the CC:DA liaison, would welcome any comments on the draft.

Starr asked if the CAC had any contact or formal relationship with the ARLIS/NA Artist Files Working Group. Teel responded that the working group had not contacted the CAC during 2007 or 2008. Starr and Quimby agreed that it would be worthwhile for the CAC to contact the working group.

There were no new agenda items from the committee. Quimby adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.