Annual Report 2015
Cataloging Advisory Committee

Submitted by: Marie-Chantal L’Ecuyer-Coelho
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Members:
Bronwen Bitetti (new member)
Sherman Clarke (ALA Subject Analysis Committee (SAC) liaison and MARC Advisory Committee (MAC) liaison)
Tamara Fultz
Marie-Chantal L’Ecuyer-Coelho (chair)
Dan Lipcan (departing member)
Elizabeth O’Keefe (departing member; ALA Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access liaison for 2015)
Maria Oldal
Karen Stafford (new member; new ALA Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access liaison for 2016)

A. Membership changes:
Marie-Chantal L’Ecuyer-Coelho accepted to serve as chair of the CAC for the year 2016. Marie-Chantal will keep her position until ARLIS/NA’s Annual Conference in New Orleans, after which she will step down, having served as chair for the maximum of two consecutive years.

Elizabeth O’Keefe retired in January 2016 from her position as Director of Collection Information Systems at the Morgan Library & Museum. She also informed the CAC she wished to step down from her position as CC:DA liaison for the year 2016, though she will attend the VRA + ARLIS/NA Joint Conference in Seattle as well as ALA’s Annual Conference in Orlando. The CAC contacted Karen Stafford, who works as cataloging and reference librarian at the Art Institute of Chicago; Karen accepted to join the CAC and to become our new CC:DA liaison. Elizabeth will act as her mentor and will introduce her to procedural matters relative to CC:DA.

In January 2016, Dan Lipcan informed the CAC that he will be stepping off the committee as of the Seattle conference. He accepted the appointment of program co-chair for the 2018 ARLIS/NA Conference, to be held in New York, and will invest his energies into that role for the next few years. The CAC contacted Bronwen Bitetti, librarian at the Center for Curatorial Studies of the Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, and she accepted to serve on the Committee for the year 2016.
The CAC wishes to thank both Karen and Bronwen—two active ARLIS/NA members with a keen interest for cataloging—for generously agreeing to partake in the success of our projects.

Finally, the CAC is currently looking for a candidate for the MAC liaison position. Last year, Sherman Clarke accepted to serve temporarily as both liaison to the Subject Analysis Committee (SAC) and liaison to the MARC Advisory Committee (MAC). For 2016, the CAC is seeking a candidate who is familiar with MARC 21, but also with the development of BIBFRAME and, ideally, with other XML-based formats for descriptive data.

B. Hereunder is a summary of the CAC’s activities since our last meeting in Fort Worth, TX:

1. Use of conventional collective titles for art catalogs

   In August 2015, the British Library submitted a discussion paper on the use of conventional collective titles in RDA (6JSC/BL/Discussion/1), arguing that CCTs “no longer perform any useful purpose and should be deprecated from RDA”. The CAC has similarly maintained, over the past few years, that the use of CCTs is an ineffective and cumbersome means to provide access to art catalogues, and we clearly expressed our opinion on the CC:DA blog. In the end, the response from ALA stated that “ALA respondents continue to disagree about the value and purpose of recording collective conventional titles (CCTs)” and suggested that this issue be considered more closely by the JSC/RSC Aggregates Working Group.

   At the JSC November Meeting, no consensus was reached. Hence, the RSC Aggregates Working Group and EURIG were mandated to develop a paper in order to evaluate how specific use cases of CCTs might be supported by their continued use, and determine if there are other means of supporting these use cases. The CAC intends to provide feedback on this paper.

2. Transcription issues associated with the Production Statement

   In 2014, CAC member Elizabeth O'Keefe helped to spearhead a proposal with Francis Lapka from the RBMS Committee to update the production statement (RDA 2.7) for unpublished material so that it is more in line with other types of unpublished materials (primarily found in archives and museums). The JSC reviewed the paper in November 2014 and noticed that 6JSC/ALA/Discussion/4 and 6JSC/BL rep/1 addressed similar issues. As a result, ALA asked the British Library to include 2.7 in its broader review of Production/Publication/Distribution/Manufacture statements. In the meantime, Alan Danskin from the British Library, in collaboration with the CAC of ARLIS/NA, put forward 6JSC/BL/26, a proposal which aims at solving the most pressing issues related to production information. In the end, the JSC rejected the paper as too narrow. The issues raised by 6JSC/BL/26 will be addressed, instead, in the course of a general reevaluation of all transcribed elements for self-describing versus non-self-describing resources. Hence, changes to 2.7 should not be expected before the anticipated redesign of RDA.

3. Transcription of punctuation and symbols

   The Canadian Committee on Cataloguing (CCC) submitted, last August, a paper recommending the addition of alternatives under the RDA instructions for transcription of punctuation and symbols (1.7.3 and 1.7.3) in order to “allow some flexibility to omit or to replace punctuation or symbols to improve clarity”
As the CCC paper outlined, those alternatives would be particularly helpful to catalogers dealing with certain types of resources, such as publications with visual or artistic content, resources issued by noncommercial entities and non-book publications. RBMS and CAC expressed their agreement with the CCC proposal on the CC:DA blog; the CAC liaison’s comments played a decisive role in convincing ALA to support, at least in part, the Canadian proposal. In the end, the JSC accepted the proposed modifications to RDA 1.7.3 and 1.7.5 with some modifications.

4. Task Force on Machine Actionable Data in RDA Chapter 3

CAC member Elizabeth O’Keefe was a member of the Machine-Actionable Data Task Force, a task force commissioned by the JSC. The Task Force has submitted several papers to ALA’s Committee on Cataloging: Description & Access (CC:DA) for review by the JSC. CAC members reviewed the papers and submitted feedback. One of the comments we made regarded RDA instruction 3.5.3 (Dimensions of still images) which has been left unchanged by the Task Force. Two years ago, the CAC had drawn attention to the fact that RDA instructions for recording dimensions of still images were problematic. To solve this problem, we had planned to collaborate with RBMS to write an addendum to 6JSC/ALA/Discussion/5, a proposal dealing with machine-actionable data elements for measurements, extent of the carrier, dimensions, etc. However, after its November meeting, the JSC announced that a RSC Working Group will replace the ALA Task Force in order to continue developing the proposal. Consequently, no modifications to instructions from RDA Chapter 3 will be introduced until the new RSC Working Group takes over.

In the meantime, Francis Lapka suggested that RBMS develop, with the collaboration of CAC members, a RBMS policy statement for extent of still images. Eventually, the RBMS PS might be forwarded to the RSC Working Group.

5. Proposal to define a subfield in MARC 340 for color content

To follow up on the discussions we had in Fort Worth, we wrote a draft proposal defining a subfield for color content in MARC field 340. We had originally planned to submit it as a MAC proposal at ALA Midwinter Conference; however, since, all institutional requests to MAC must go first to the Network Development and MARC Standards Office of the Library of Congress, we finally decided to send our proposal directly to LC. The MARC 21 proposed change form was submitted on January 12th, along with all supporting documents.

6. Art Genre/Form Terms Project

Work on the art genre/form terms project is currently underway. At the moment, we are compiling the terms to be proposed for inclusion in LCGFT. We are also talking with Janis Young about the required level of specificity, since the project’s objective is not to recreate the existing vocabularies in art, e.g. the Art and Architecture Thesaurus, the Thesaurus for Graphic Materials or the RBMS controlled vocabularies. Unlike those specialized vocabularies, developed to meet the specific needs of art libraries, the LC art G/F terms is intended for general collections which includes art documents and/or visual materials. That said, we are trying to harmonize with vocabulary in LCSH and the art-focused vocabularies as much as possible.

CAC members agreed that style terms should not be included, albeit in certain cases, it is difficult to distinguish style terms from genre terms.

We are sending the list of proposed terms out to the wider ARLIS/NA community in the US and Canada to see if there are other terms that people feel should be
included. The list of terms is available on the wiki at:
http://arliscac.pbworks.com/w/page/52144973/art%20genre-form%20headings%3A
notes.

C. ALA Midwinter 2016

Elizabeth O’Keefe and Sherman Clarke attended the ALA Midwinter Conference,
held in Boston in early January this year. They will report from the MAC, SAC and
CC:DA meetings at the CAC Annual Meeting in Seattle. Their accounts will be
posted on the CAC wiki.

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