Date: January 11, 2022
To: Board of Directors, Music Library Association
From: Hermine Vermeij, Chair, Cataloging and Metadata Committee
Subject: CMC Quarterly Report to MLA Board of Directors, October 2021-January 2022

I. Report date: January 11, 2022

II. Name of Committee: Cataloging and Metadata Committee

III. Members:
   • CMC
     Hermine Vermeij (Chair), Keith Knop (Content Standards Subcommittee Chair), Karen Peters (Encoding Standards Subcommittee Chair), Rebecca Belford (Vocabularies Subcommittee Chair), Casey Mullin (BIBCO Music Funnel Coordinator), Mark Scharff (NACO-Music Project Coordinator), Beth Iseminger (SACO Music Funnel Coordinator), Joshua Henry (CMC Secretary/Webmaster), Kristi Bergland (Incoming Secretary/Webmaster), Kirk-Evan Billet (MCB Editor), Susan Vita (LC Representative), Jay Weitz (OCLC Representative)
   • Content Standards Subcommittee
     Keith Knop (Chair), Linda Bagley, Benjamin Barba, Janice Bunker, Reed David, Sarah Holmes, Ivan Kaproth-Joslin, Chuck Peters, Jacob Schaub, Hannah Spence, Amanda Scott, Casey Mullin (BIBCO Music Funnel Coordinator), Christopher Holden (LC Representative), Jay Weitz (OCLC Representative)
   • Encoding Standards Subcommittee
     Karen Peters (Chair), Jim Alberts, Ethan D'Ver, Chelsea Hoover, Rahni Kennedy, Anna Alfeld LoPrete, Jeff Lyon, Tomoko Shibuya, Amy Strickland, Damian Iseminger (LC Representative), Jay Weitz (OCLC Representative)
   • Vocabularies Subcommittee
     Rebecca Belford (Chair), Josh Aldorisio, Anne Adams, Kristi Bergland, Anne Churukian, Patty Falk, Mary Huismann, Leonard Martin, Allison McClanahan, Jennifer Olson, Tracey Snyder, Clare Spitzer, Beth Iseminger (SACO Music Funnel Coordinator), Mark Scharff (NACO-Music Project Coordinator), Maarja Vigorito (LC Representative), Jay Weitz (OCLC Representative)

IV. Board Action Required
   • Request for GitHub Repository for CMC and Subcommittee Projects
     ○ Both the Content Standards and Vocabularies subcommittees have a near- or medium-term need for hosting files that will likely need frequent updates and cannot feasibly be presented as HTML or PDF documents.
     ○ GitHub is a web-based host for repositories of code and code-adjacent projects that has been used by the Library of Congress, the RDA Steering Committee, and other library
groups. Basic Organization accounts are free in GitHub and allow access to both public
and private repositories
  ■ Organizations may have any number of subordinate teams and projects
  ■ Project sites may be configured to use a custom domain name (e.g.,
someproject.musiclibraryassoc.org instead of
github.com/accountname/someproject/)
  ■ Sites for public repos are free for all accounts
    ○ Additional background information, including use cases, here: CMC - BAR Background
      information
    ○ BAR: May MLA groups establish and manage their own organization accounts under the
      auspices of MLA? Or, should a central MLA organization account be created, to be
      managed by the Board?
  ● Content Standards has a need for stable, permanent URLs to support granular linking to
documentation from the RDA Toolkit, preferably before PCC implements the new RDA text in
October 2022
    ○ The structure of the new RDA Toolkit makes external documentation much more
      important than in the old Toolkit and link maintenance much more complex
    ○ Currently, the MLA website does not support permanent, stable URLs easily, and we’re
      unclear on what impact the website migration will have on this issue.
    ○ Changes made to the Toolkit content do not take effect until a new release is published,
      which happens quarterly at best, meaning any links that break will remain broken for
      months at a time
    ○ BAR: In the event that the MLA website is unable to support permanent, stable URLs
      and support direct upload of HTML files in addition to web-based CMS editing by
      October 2022, we request that CSS may pursue alternate hosting options for RDA
      documentation such as GitHub Pages.

V. Brief Summary of Activities
  ● Cataloging and Metadata Committee (Hermine Vermeij)
    ○ Membership
      ■ Beth Iseminger will step down as SACO Music Funnel Coordinator in March; a
        search for her successor is underway.
    ○ Involvement with other groups
      ■ In October, the Chair, along with the CSS Chair, met with the PCC Policy
        Committee to discuss MLA’s response to a proposal from the PCC Aggregates
        Task Group particularly affecting recorded compilations of popular music.
      ■ CMC contributed some talking points to the Advocacy Committee making the
        argument for subject expertise in music cataloging.
      ■ Several members met as part of the MLA Electronic Scores Working Group
        cataloging subgroup.
    ○ Resources and communication
The CMC liaisons attended or are planning to attend various virtual meetings in lieu of the in-person ALA midwinter conference; reports will be available on the CMC Website and the MCB.

- **Programming**
  - CMC is heavily involved in developing an e-course series to be offered in 2022 in collaboration with ALA Editions: Keith Knop will teach an introduction to music cataloging; Leo Martin will teach a new course on Library of Congress Classification; and Kirk-Evan Billet will teach a course on music vocabularies. In addition, Keith Knop will offer three webinars on new RDA and music cataloging.

- **MLA Linked Data Working Group**
  - Since May 2021, the Linked Data Working Group has held monthly meetings, during which we discuss linked data concepts, BIBFRAME, and the Performed Music Ontology, as well as familiarize ourselves with Sinopia and other linked data tools. The Working Group has created native music linked data using the Sinopia editor using several different linked data templates for the same data model. I've been guiding the linked data creation project through the use of small modules. For the last couple months of 2021, template creation (and thus data creation) has slowed. During the planned Sinopia development cycle, new useful features and functionality were added to the Sinopia editor, but due to the instability of the tool itself (changing fairly often), little progress was made in improving or creating new templates.
  - The Chair (Kevin Kishimoto) has been meeting with Nancy Lorimer and Damian Iseminger to revise the Performed Music Ontology to allow for better and more practical data creation, and to align with BIBFRAME practices of the Library of Congress. So far this small group has revised the parts of the ontology related to medium of performance, contribution, and aggregates. We've devised a new model for aggregates that should allow for better and more accurate description of music resources.
  - LDWG will be meeting one final time in mid-January to discuss its plans for the 2022-2023 year.

- **Content Standards Subcommittee (Keith Knop)**
  - Subcommittee members have participated in various conferences and meetings.
  - In October, the Chair, along with the CMC Chair, met with the PCC Policy Committee to discuss MLA's response to a proposal from the PCC Aggregates Task Group particularly affecting recorded compilations of popular music.
    - The Chair drafted an additional response to a request for comment from LC based on this meeting, with additional input from the CMC Chair, BIBCO Music Funnel Coordinator, NACO Music Funnel Coordinator, and NACO Music Project Advisory Committee Chair.
The Chair and members Linda Bagley, Reed David, Chuck Peters, and Hannah Spence met as part of the MLA Electronic Scores Working Group cataloging subgroup.

The Chair filled in as substitute for the Encoding Standards Subcommittee Chair at a meeting of the MARC/RDA Working Group.

- **RDA Best Practices and updates**
  - All Best Practices content for elements in the original Toolkit, save those pertaining to authorized access points and preferred titles for works and expressions, have been released for subcommittee review. Some introductory content has been tentatively moved to external guidance documentation.
  - No publicly visible additions have been made to the Best Practices in the RDA Toolkit since the July update; the release originally scheduled for October 2021 was delayed first to December, then to March 2022 due to difficulties with ALA Publishing’s server migration.
  - A draft MLA application profile for RDA is out for subcommittee review, for release before the March Toolkit update.
  - External guidance documentation is currently being drafted, for preliminary release before the March Toolkit update.
    - This will be released initially as a PDF. In the long term, it would be preferable to host this as a native web document (or set of documents) with permanent, stable URLs to allow detailed linking between the Best Practices in the RDA Toolkit and relevant sections of the guidance documentation.

- **The MLA liaisons to NISO asked the subcommittee for comments on suggested revisions to ISO 5127, Information and documentation—Foundation and vocabulary.**

- **Encoding Standards Subcommittee (Karen Peters)**
  - In early October, the Chair solicited comments from ESS/CMC members on a MARC/RDA Working Group (MRWG)-drafted proposal that followed on the earlier MARC Discussion Paper No. 2021-DP12, “Recording Representative Expressions in the MARC 21 Authority and Bibliographic Formats.” She used the comments to present MLA’s viewpoints at the MRWG meeting that was held on October 14.
  - In late October-early November, as the MRWG draft proposal continued to be discussed and revised, CSS Chair Keith Knop represented MLA’s interests at two MRWG meetings while the ESS Chair was unavailable. Following the October 28 meeting, Keith created some examples created at the MRWG’s request, and passed these along with related points for discussion to ESS member Chelsea Hoover, who gathered comments from ESS/CMC members in the Chair’s absence and reported them back to Keith. The comments were subsequently used to represent MLA’s viewpoint at the November 4 MRWG meeting.
In the past quarter, the Metadata for Music Resources (MMR) Task Group (Ethan D’Ver (Leader), Chelsea Hoover, Amy Strickland, Tomoko Shibuya) came up with a new structure for the MMR site based on the results of the usability test that they administered last year, and re-sorted all of the resources into the new structure’s categories and subcategories. In the process of doing so, they identified further resources that need better links, edited descriptions, or complete removal. The TG communicated these changes to the Web Editor, who will work on making the actual edits to the webpage to conform with the new structure. In the coming quarter, the TG members plan to evaluate how the changes look and to work out any issues that may arise with the newly-restructured site. If all goes well, they hope to unveil the new site at MLA 2022.

The MARC Cataloging Inefficiency (MCI) Task Group (Jim Alberts, Anna Alfeld LoPrete, Jeff Lyon (Leader), Karen Peters, Laura Thompson, Janice Bunker (Content Standards Subcommittee representative), Leo Martin (Vocabularies Subcommittee representative)) reviewed in detail and discussed the responses to its survey of 7 MARC cataloging inefficiencies, determining which recommendations for additions to MLA’s Best Practices for Music Cataloging document should be made at this time. The results will be circulated to CMC/ESS for comment prior to passing them on to the Content Standards Subcommittee for possible incorporation into our cataloging best practices.

- Vocabularies Subcommittee (Rebecca Belford)
  - Types of Composition List task group (P. Falk, TG coordinator):
    - New types terms added: Diferencia/Diferencias; Ballada/Ballady (Polish); Balada/Baladi (Bulgarian); Remix/Remixes (English)
    - Added to list as distinctive: Pastorello
  - LC Vocabularies Maintenance task group (A. Adams, TG coordinator, in collaboration with B. Iseminger, Saco Music Funnel Coordinator):
    - Continue monthly review of LC SACO Tentative Lists, sending comments to LC when appropriate. Responses sent on multiple terms each month. Of note: Response in support of cancellation for LCGFT Opera adaptations on list 2110, further discussed and vetted by CMC.
    - Develop or submit LC medium and genre/form proposals (LCMPT/LCGFT) gleaned from LC’s new LCSH proposals or MLA-based sources. Of note: group received a set of proposals/ideas for LCSH and LCGFT revisions related to minstrelsy and will conduct discussion January 2022
  - Thematic Indexes List [MLATI] task group (A. Churukian, coordinator):
    - Three open proposals and two at LC (Composer (Index)). Open: Binder (Fleischer); Galuppi (Burde); Lupo (Dodd-Lupo). At LC for review: Senfl (Gasch), Jongen (Whiteley, revision)
  - Deriving Faceted Music Terms task group (R. Belford, TG coordinator, in collaboration with Gary Strawn, programmer, Northwestern University):
- Compiling feedback as received; begin discussion on pros/cons of mappings from MARC 048 to MARC 382 for medium of performance
  - MLA Best Practices for LCMPT and LCGFT task group (M. Huismann, TG coordinator)
    - Compiling feedback as received
    - Internal workspaces for 2021 (i.e., 2022) revisions set up; task group discussion to begin in 2022
  - Administrative/Chair (R. Belford)
    - Solicited, complied, and forwarded CMC response to proposed cancellation of LCGFT “adaptations” terms; attended SACO Editorial meeting October 20, 2021 to represent CMC position (outcome: “Opera adaptations” canceled per MLA request; remaining similar headings retained)
    - Transition planning with incoming subcommittee chair