ALCTS Media Resources Committee Meetings

Business Meeting, ALA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, June 17, 2001

This year, MRC held only one business meeting. The scheduled program – "Digital Audio/Digital Video: Is your Library Digital-Ready?" – was cancelled due to difficulties in finding appropriate speakers.

The meeting began with reports from various liaisons and subcommittees which contained several items of potential interest to MLA members. The Standards Subcommittee reported that they had completed work on a proposal to make the 508 field repeatable, and this was slated for discussion at the MARBI meeting later in the day. The primary reason behind the proposal is to allow for greater clarity in bibliographic records for videos that contain multiple programs; currently all such information is grouped into one 508 field.

The MARBI representative reported that two proposals had passed. The first allows the 260 field to be repeated in bib records, primarily in order to provide information about original, intervening, and current publishers of serials. The second defines a new code in the leader/07 for integrating resources, type "i." Other changes to the 008 field, primarily geared towards electronic serials, are also in the works (008/18 (Frequency), code "k" for continuously updated resources; 008/21 (Type of serial, to be renamed Type of Continuing Resources), codes "l," "d" and "w" for looseleaf, database, and web sites, respectively). Changes under discussion of particular import for music catalogers include:

- "unstacking" language codes in the 041 field and allowing subfields $a-$h to be repeatable in an effort to facilitate the use of non-MARC language codes;
- a new code "v" for DVDs in the 007/04 (Videorecording Format) field (the current code "g" would be redefined specifically for 12" laser optical discs);
- expanding the set of allowable codes for 007/10 (Kind of Material) field for music recordings, primarily geared toward archival sound materials (e.g., codes for glass with lacquer, aluminum with lacquer, etc.);

Finally, there is a proposal to create a new 887 field for "non-MARC" information, e.g., information from metadata records translated into MARC that does not fit readily elsewhere.

The CC:DA representative reported that, as most are probably aware, AACR chapter 9 is slated for revision in summer 2001; chapters 3 and 12 are scheduled to follow in summer 2002. It was also announced that updates to AACR will now be issued annually. CC:DA is considering holding a program at 2002 ALA dealing with an overview of the revised chapter 12. Finally, CC:DA formed a new task force to review a document by the Australian Committee on Cataloguing proposing that the rule of 3 be made optional; there seems to be fairly wide support for allowing more than three people/bodies to be included in the bibliographic record, but several details remain to be worked through.

The liaison from the Association of Moving Image Archivists reported that the AMIA Compendium of Moving Image Cataloging Practice will be published the Society of American Archivists (SAA) in June 2001 (http://www.archivists.org/catalog/catalog/description.html#137), with an appendix of cataloging examples and institutional guidelines to be published simultaneously on the AMIA website (http://www.amianet.org/05_Committees/Compendium.html).

The remainder of the meeting was devoting to examining the issues involved with the cancellation of this year’s scheduled program. Several factors were mentioned: it was difficult to find speakers for the topic given the scheduling time frame; the program topic was perhaps a bit ahead of its time – there seemed to be a dearth of literature available, especially on digital video applications in library. Suggestions for avoiding similar missteps in the future included changing the schedule to give the Committee more time to line up speakers and topics and broadening literature searches to search for speakers who haven’t yet published (e.g., articles in preparation). Suggestions for topics for future programs included a "PCC Clearinghouse for Standards and Best Practices" and a primer on DVDs.

Submitted by Terry Simpkins
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