MARC Formats Subcommittee Annual Report, July 2012-June 2013
Sandy Rodriguez, Chair, with Bruce Evans, Past Chair


Bruce Evans (chair through February 2013) presented three MARBI papers at ALA Midwinter in Seattle, January, 2013 on behalf of the Music Library Association. The first, No. 2013-03 (Making Field 250 Repeatable in the MARC21 Bibliographic Format) was actually a joint effort between MLA and LC and builds on feedback received from No. 2012-05, presented by LC at ALA Annual 2012. The Proposal was approved as written. The second, No. 2013-04 (Defining New Code for Score in Field 008/20 (Format of music) in the MARC21 Bibliographic Format) builds on the precedent set by the successful passage of No. 2012-07, which created a new value k for vocal score in field 008/20 and corresponding values c and d in field 008/20. The proposal passed with the understanding that MLA will work with LC to tweak the wording of the scope for codes a and z. The third, No. 2013-02 (New fields to Accommodate Records for Medium of Performance Vocabulary for Music in the MARC21 Authority Format) is a follow up to 2012-DP02, presented at ALA Annual 2012. The Proposal was approved as written.

At ALA Annual in Chicago, Illinois, June, 2013, the chair, Sandy Rodriguez, participated in the final meeting of MARBI. There were no MLA-sponsored papers at this meeting. At the end of the meeting, it was announced that the MARC Advisory Committee (MAC) will continue to convene in order to maintain MARC and to examine MARC conversion issues relating to BIBFRAME. MLA’s liaison to MARBI will continue to represent MLA to the advisory committee.

Past Goals

Revise subcommittee’s charge in accordance with dissolution of MARBI, and the ALCTS-LITA Metadata Standards Committee that will take its place. This goal has been deferred until after the official dissolution of MARBI at ALA Annual 2013 and the pending reorganization of the BCC subcommittees. Revised goal carried over below.

The subcommittee was successful in the goal of making sure MLA preserves its liaison role with the MARC Advisory Committee. In fact, the MLA liaison’s role was expanded to allow voting privileges for MARC change proposals and discussion on papers related to BIBFRAME.

In addressing the goal of working on MARC RDA-related issues, the following proposals were submitted and approved at MARBI Midwinter (see MARBI comments in Report on Activities section for more details): No. 2013-03: Making Field 250 Repeatable in the MARC21 Bibliographic Format; No. 2013-04: Defining New Code for Score in Field 008/20 (Format of music) in the MARC21 Bibliographic Format; No. 2013-02: New fields to Accommodate Records for Medium of Performance Vocabulary for Music in the MARC21 Authority Format.
As a follow-up to MARBI Proposal 2013-04, clarified definitions for codes a, l, and z in MARC 008/20 Format of Music to accommodate RDA’s broader definition of score. The definitions were accepted.

Goals for 2013-2014

Revise subcommittee’s charge in accordance with dissolution of MARBI, and the MARC Advisory Committee that will take over the maintenance of the MARC Formats.

Redefine “q” in MARC Bibliographic 007/04 for sound recordings to align with the definitions given in video recordings 007/08 and motion pictures 007/08, allowing for surround sound for recordings with more than 4 playback channels.

Work with the Subject Access Subcommittee on MARC changes needed for the development and implementation of the Library of Congress Medium of Performance Thesaurus.

Follow and provide comment on issues relating to MARC and the Library of Congress Genre/Form Thesaurus as these issues arise from the ALA-SAC Subcommittee on Genre/Form Implementation and the MLA Subject Access Subcommittee.

Continue to work on, or lend support to, MARC issues related to RDA.

These goals reflect the MLA Strategic Plan goal area of Value of the Profession, in that the work to revise MARC and make it RDA-compatible are quite relevant to current issues in librarianship. In addition, the goals of working on MARC in relation to the Library of Congress Medium of Performance Thesaurus and the Library of Congress Genre/Form Thesaurus support the goal area of Organizational Excellence, in pursuing professional work with other organizations to make the genre and medium projects a reality.