MARC Formats Subcommittee Annual Report, July 2013-June 2014
Sandy Rodriguez, Chair


In January 2014 at ALA Midwinter in Philadelphia, PA, the subcommittee chair, Sandy Rodriguez participated as a voting member in the first meeting of the MARC Advisory Committee. MAC it is the successor to MARBI (the Machine-Readable Bibliographic Committee), and it is now the primary body responsible for updating, maintaining, and recommending MARC 21 format changes to the MARC Steering Group. The chair also participated in the MAC meeting, held June 2014 at ALA Annual in Las Vegas, NV. There were no MLA-sponsored papers at the January and June meetings; however, reports of interest to MLA have been published in the Music Cataloging Bulletin and are available on the BCC website.

The chair worked with subcommittee members in revising its charge to reflect the changing role of MAC, MLA’s increased responsibility as a voting member, and inclusion of activities surrounding MARC conversion issues related to BIBFRAME. The revision was accepted by the MLA Board in December 2013 and the subcommittee charge has been updated in the MLA Administrative Handbook and on the MLA and BCC websites.

The chair worked with subcommittee members on the following MARC Format documentation change requests: (1) Revising MARC Bibliographic 008/20 “j” performer-conductor part definition to conform to the RDA definition, and (2) Redefining “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. Both change requests were accepted by the Network Development and MARC Standards Office (NDMSO) at the Library of Congress in October and November, 2013, respectively.

After much discussion at the joint business meeting of the MARC Formats and Metadata Subcommittees during the MLA conference in Atlanta, GA, subcommittee members began a draft proposal for coding number of ensembles in MARC Bibliographic and Authority field 382 to be presented at Midwinter 2015.

Past Goals

The subcommittee met its goal of revising its charge in response to the dissolution of MARBI and the expanded role of the MARC Advisory Committee.

The subcommittee met its goal of redefining “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. The change was accepted by NDMSO in November 2013.
The goal to work with the Subject Access Subcommittee on MARC changes needed for the development and implementation of the *Library of Congress Medium of Performance Thesaurus* is ongoing.

The subcommittee continues to 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.

The subcommittee met its goal of continuing to work on, or lend support to, MARC issues related to RDA, as evidenced by the successful MARC documentation change to utilize the RDA definition for MARC Bibliographic 008/20 "j" performer-conductor part. The change was accepted by NDMSO in October 2013.

**Goals for FY 2015**

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.

Be involved with MARC conversion issues related to BIBFRAME.

These goals reflect the MLA strategic plan goal 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* are evidence of organizational excellence, in pursuing professional work with other organizations to make the genre and medium projects a reality.

In the upcoming year, the MARC Formats Subcommittee may be merged with the Metadata Subcommittee as part of the BCC reorganization review. If this is the case, the merged subcommittee will plan to work on the goals specified by the previous subcommittees.