NEWS FROM LC
March 4, 1994

During the past year there has been considerable examination of the process of music cataloging at the Library of Congress and preparation for major changes in the near and long-term future. The process formally began with the creation of the Music Cataloging Task Force in March 1993, chaired by Mark Ziomek of the Cataloging Policy and Support Office. The charge to the group was (1) to recommend strategies for reducing the cataloging arrearages of sound recordings, scores, and other music materials; (2) to present options for how the responsibility for reducing the arrearage might be more evenly distributed over the arrearage reduction staff in the four areas responsible for cataloging music; (3) to review Library of Congress policy for cataloging music and recommend policy changes that will enable the library to use records generated outside the library more efficiently; (4) and to clarify the role of the Cataloging Policy and Support Office in establishing policy and responding to inquiries about cataloging practice. Other members of the task force were Catherine Garland of the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division, Ray White of the Music Division, Bill Palmer of the Enhanced Cataloging Division, and Ken Valdes and Deta Davis representing the Special Materials Cataloging Division.

After a few meetings of this group, four participants with excellent credentials representing the music world outside the Library of Congress were invited to join them for a two day meeting on April 29-30. The outside participants were Linda Barnhart of University of California, San Diego, Ralph Papakhian of Indiana University, Joan Swanekamp of Columbia University, and Ross Wood of Wellesley College. Topics explored by the Task Force included automation and the increased use of technology, and LC's use of OCLC, cataloging simplification, and cooperative projects.

The "Recommendations of the Music Cataloging Task Force" included the recommendation originally offered by Ralph Papakhian that LC perform its music cataloging on OCLC. This recommendation was implemented in the Enhanced Cataloging Division in November 1993, and will soon be implemented in the Music and Sound Recordings Teams in the Special Materials Cataloging Division. Many people at LC are contributing to the effort, with coordination from John Graves of the Automation Planning and Liaison Office. Significant obstacles have had to be overcome, such as creating communication links with OCLC, developing software that would work with both OCLC and LC's systems, and providing adequate hardware for each staff member. Planning for the conversion is continuing for the Music and Sound Recordings Teams. Remaining tasks include receiving the last of our hardware and negotiating the change in work procedures with the unions.

Several issues brought up in the Task Force report will be addressed with the arrival of Barbara Tillett, the new chief of the Cataloging Policy and Support Office, who is coming to us from the University of California, San Diego. She is scheduled to begin work at the Library of Congress on March 7. Her reputation as an expert in bibliographic description and authority control will be a great asset as we examine music cataloging simplification issues brought up in the report, together with the responses you have sent us. Other issues we are holding for her arrival include transferring the responsibility for music policy questions to the Cataloging Policy and Support Office. Until final details are worked out, you can continue to send your queries to the music specialists in the Cataloging Policy and Support Office, Geraldine Ostrove or Mark Ziomek (cpso@mail.loc.gov), or to the team leaders of the Music and Sound Recordings Teams, Bill Palmer (palmer@mail.loc.gov) and Deta Davis (davis@mail.loc.gov). The final issue awaiting Ms. Tillett's arrival is developing the Library of Congress' official position on the Music Thesaurus. With her input, we will examine the impact of the Music Thesaurus on cataloging policy and decide how we will proceed with this issue.

Paralleling the library's cooperation within the book community, we are pursuing several examples of cooperation with the music library community. The issuance of the Music Cataloging Task Force Final Report for comment to MLA is an example of this outreach and a starting point for dialogue with the music cataloging community. We realize that we do not work in an ivory tower at the top of a hill and that we cannot ignore the contributions to music cataloging that you are making. We seek your comments and input on the issues raised in the report. With the enormous arrearages we confront we cannot afford to continue business as usual, but must reevaluate all aspects of our music cataloging. In
reality, we will not be able to please every interest, but we are working toward intelligent and considered solutions to the costs of music cataloging.

Under the auspices of the Cooperative Cataloging Council, the Core Bibliographic Record for Music Task Group is currently being formed. Joan Schuitema, from Northwestern, will be the chair. Deta Davis will be the Library of Congress representative. Other members of the group will be named by Joan after the MLA meeting. The charge to this group is to develop standards for core bibliographic records for scores and sound recordings which can be accepted without modification or which can be dynamically enhanced by program participants.

Last year we reported on the major reorganization of the Cataloging Directorate and several resulting staff changes. The changes are almost continuous and it's hard to know what is business as usual. Since the reorganization, Special Materials Cataloging Division has not had a permanent chief appointed. Our seventh and current acting chief is Susan Vita, who is attending the MOUG and MLA meetings. This is the first time that a chief from the Special Materials Cataloging Division has attended the MOUG and Music Library Association Meetings. We hope that you see her presence here as a clear statement that we are serious about getting your input and comments about music cataloging issues. The vacancy announcement for our chief position is ready for posting and we hope that a permanent chief will be in place before the end of the year.

In the area of retirements, Ken Valdes, Team Leader of the Music and Sound Recordings Team II, left the library in October. His successor, William Palmer, began in January. Bill was the Head of the Special Cataloging Section in the Enhanced Cataloging Division and was a member of the Music Section when it was in the Descriptive Cataloging Division about twelve years ago. We welcome his return. Pat Hines, the Assistant Chief of the Special Materials Cataloging Division, also retired in October. The current Acting Assistant Chief is John Graves, who will be in this position until the middle of March. Music and Sound Recordings Team I will be gaining a new cataloger, Lucas Graves, by transfer. Yet another reorganization is currently in progress which involves the abolishment of the Enhanced Cataloging Division. As a result of this latest reorganization, the Special Cataloging Section from Enhanced will be moved virtually intact to the Special Materials Cataloging Division to become the Music and Sound Recordings Team III. Frank Seidlinger will be their Team Leader. Their work will remain the same.

In the Music and Sound Recordings Teams, with the use of consultative management, we have almost doubled our productivity since the reorganization. We have also achieved one of our major goals in arrearage control, clearing the arrearage of scores requiring full cataloging. When the Special Materials Cataloging Division was first given the mandate for clearing this arrearage, it had peaked at 4500 items. This arrearage was eliminated in December 1993 by the two Music and Sound Recording Teams while we kept current with receipts. At present no arrearage of scores requiring full cataloging exists! Our next goals are to clear the Production Level Cataloging (PLC) score arrearage and significantly increase our sound recording cataloging. We expect the PLC score arrearage to be eliminated by the end of 1997.

Our other focus, sound recording cataloging, will involve significant procedural changes. We currently face an arrearage of 1.3 million published sound recordings and 1 million archival sound recordings. The library has pledged itself to have 80% of this arrearage cleared by the year 2000 while keeping current with receipts. It is clear that with an arrearage of this size we cannot afford to perform traditional cataloging for each item and we must look for innovative solutions for this problem. We are working cooperatively with the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division to find a mutually acceptable way of managing this arrearage. One likely option would be to accept all OCLC sound recording cataloging with minimal, if any, editing. These OCLC records, along with inventory-level records, could be placed in a resource file at the Library of Congress. Overall, we are pleased with the improvements in cooperation and technology within the Library that will make possible this change. In addition, the music catalogers in the Music and Sound Recordings Teams I and II have committed to at least double their sound recording cataloging output. Other ways we are exploring of managing this arrearage include collection-level, accession-level, and brief cataloging, as well as contract cataloging.

A new program was begun last year to allow the exchange of catalogers from outside libraries into the Library of Congress and vice versa. One of the original participants was Michi Hoban, Assistant Catalog Librarian, Dartmouth College Library. She participated in the Library of Congress Catalogers Exchange Program from September 7 to
December 3, 1993, reporting to the Music and Sound Recordings Team I team leader and working with Harry Price in Music and Sound Recordings Team II. She concentrated on examining the process of cataloging as it is actually carried out by the catalog librarians in the Library of Congress. Her visit resulted in a report with several recommendations which included improving automation and bringing our cataloging documentation up to date.

Enhanced Cataloging Division

Significant strides were made in the reduction of popular music sound recordings arrearages during fiscal 1993 in the Special Cataloging Section of the Enhanced Cataloging Division. A total of 22,861 sound recordings were cataloged representing a 33% increase in overall production.

On November 16, the cataloging staff began creating new records and updating exact match records for popular music sound recordings directly on OCLC. The advantage of not having to re-key exact match records became evident immediately as the cataloging production continued despite a period of training and time needed to get new printers functional. By the end of the calendar year, an additional 3,533 sound recordings were cataloged. The majority of records handled by the Enhanced Cataloging Division have copy on OCLC, but some original brief music cataloging is also being input directly into OCLC. All LC music records created on OCLC using copy cataloging will continue to contain field 042 code "lccopycat."

The Cataloging Distribution Service is not yet able to distribute the sound recording records created by the Enhanced Cataloging Division on OCLC, but will do so as soon as appropriate software is ready. The current target for this is June 1994. In the short term, there will be fewer sound recording records on the MDS Complete monthly music files. However, when the retrospective file of these records is received and processed by LC, MDS Complete subscribers can expect a one time release of a relatively large volume of sound recording records. Special notification will be included with that distribution file.

Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division Processing Section

The Processing Section's sound recordings processing staff--Section Head Catherine Garland, four catalogers and four technicians--undertook a variety of activities during 1993. Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound receives about 2700 new sound recordings each month through Copyright and a blanket order with Theodore Front. Among the retrospective sound recordings received last year were 350,000 jazz 78s from a New York collector and dealer; a Jelly Roll Morton collection; and sound recordings from collections such as those belonging to Danny Kaye, Aaron Copland, Jascha Heifetz, and Leonard Bernstein. To control these receipts, the division began planning for an in-house inventory control system which will use Caudra Star software.

Cataloging of the World Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape was completed, as was cataloging of the Brander-Matthews Oral History Collection. The radio program One Night Stand, broadcast over the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service, was inventoried and cataloged, as was another radio broadcast series, The Greatest Story Ever Told. The NAACP collection was also cataloged. Work is progressing on a comprehensive finding aid to the library's holdings of Meet the Press.

Cooperative Cataloging

Presently NACO-Music includes 14 libraries which contributed 4,663 NARs in fiscal 1993 and 1,768 to date in fiscal 1994. In addition, 1,026 NARs were changed in both FY93 and to date in FY94. The LC liaisons you have worked with were Steve Yusko from October 1992 to June 1993, Valerie Weinberg from June through November 1993, and June Gifford from December 1993 to the present. Quality control by the Library of Congress ended in late 1992. The liaisons continued answering questions, performing bibliographic file maintenance, and clearing up problems such as duplicate name authorities. A change in policy will be implemented in the next release of the Descriptive Cataloging Manual Z1 this spring. It will allow libraries to add name/title authority records when they are needed as part of a project. The NACO-Music Project is recognized as a project for the purpose of this DCM. When this DCM is issued, NACO-Music libraries will no longer be restricted to the Library of Congress practice requiring cross-references or recording of research in making name-title name authority records.
We are now discussing the possible expansion of the NACO- Music Project. The Library of Congress has suggested to the NACO Music Project Advisory Committee some possible options for expanding NACO Music participation. For example, we could be willing to work with the advisory committee in forming a second NACO music project. LC could train a second coordinator. We would need someone who would have strong institutional support for the project and a aptitude for creating and reviewing name authority records. There may be many qualified candidates among the current NACO Music Project participants who could take on this responsibility.

Library of Congress Cataloging Products

The Library of Congress is well along in its conversion of the Library of Congress classification to the MARC format. LC Classification online has significant potential for assisting catalogers and improving bibliographic access. The development was begun as part of a foundation supported project to improve access to business materials. Gerry Ostrove will be converting Class M and investigating the addition of subject access terminology to classification records as well as to the index.

The Library of Congress' Cataloging Distribution Service is announcing the release of the Music Catalog on CD-ROM. The Music Catalog is a single CD-ROM disk containing over 200,000 music-related US MARC records. Included are over 160,000 LC MARC records, 11,400 records describing the Albert Schatz collection of opera librettos, and over 30,000 opera-related LC Pre-MARC records. Fully functional demo diskettes are available from Morgan Cundiff in the Cataloging Distribution Service.

Closing Remarks

The budget situation for the Library of Congress continues to be a major factor in all aspects of the library's operation. So that it could fund mandatory pay increases, LC offered an incentive buy out program for 250 staff who were eligible for retirement. 245 staff members took advantage of this program. While some areas of the library may have additional staff cuts forthcoming, arrearage-reduction staff are generally protected from Reductions in Force because of the importance of our mission. However, it also looks as if we will be unable to hire any new staff for at least two years if not more. Dr. Billington has asked Congress for a $385 million budget for fiscal 1995, representing a 7.9 percent increase ($26.1 million) over fiscal 1994. This amount is needed to finance mandatory pay and price level increases and to prevent further reductions in service. Following Dr. Billington's presentation and request, Rep. Vic Fazio and other subcommittee members lamented that the LC budget is lumped in with that of the rest of the legislative branch, which is under heavy political pressure for reduction. Increases which are requested are unlikely to be approved. However, in the Cataloging Directorate and the Special Materials Cataloging Division we are optimistic that with our present staff, we can continue our high level of arrearage reduction and achieve the goals we have set forth for ourselves thus benefitting the greater music library community as well.