Report from Boston: Authorities Subcommittee Meeting

The Business Meeting of the Authorities Subcommittee took place on Thursday February 12, 1998 in Boston. It was noted that Marilyn Craig had resigned from the Subcommittee, having retired from her job at the University of Houston. Subsequent to the conference, Ann Churukian (Vassar College) was appointed to fill this vacancy. Issues for discussion included the proposed BCC procedure document, the subcommittee's contributions to the BCC Web site, and a draft of a position statement on the importance of authority control.

The subcommittee also settled on procedures for adding to and maintaining the Types of Composition document both as a Web document and in print. It was decided that all additions and changes to the Types of composition document be funneled through Michelle Koth, who will make changes to the Web version, no more frequently than quarterly. The updates will also appear in the Music Cataloging Bulletin. A new paper edition will be available on an annual basis through the MLA clearinghouse, containing a note specifying the changes. The changes will also be announced on appropriate listservs.

Approximately 80 guests attended the open meeting of the Authorities Subcommittee, held on Friday, Feb. 13, 1998 in the Plaza Room of the Park Plaza Hotel. Mark Scharff, chair, opened the meeting with a report on the ACIG meeting in New Orleans and on some of the trends and discussion points in authority control. Subcommittee members reported on activities in which they were involved. The subcommittee was pleased to offer a program by Deta S. Davis (Team Leader. Music and Sound Recordings Team I, Special Materials Cataloging Division, Library of Congress), who spoke on "Machine-Derived Authorities, A Reality: The Library of Congress Experience." Since these records had begun to appear in the bibliographic utilities only recently, her talk was timely indeed. Davis gave background as to what the records were, why they were created, the collaboration with OCLC that produced the software that made the project possible, and possibilities for future applications. She emphasized that they are coded as preliminary records, and that LC welcomes the willingness of NACO libraries to upgrade the status on the records as they use them. She also outlined the avenues to call LC's attention to incorrect, inappropriate, or duplicate records. After the presentation and followup questions, a brief open forum took place.

Submitted by Mark Scharff

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