Letter from the Chair

Nine weeks to go before we meet in Buenos Aires! They will pass quickly, I’m sure. As usual, we will have two Standing Committee meetings for the Cataloguing Section. We have new times this year, Sunday, 22 August, 11.30-14.20 and Saturday, 28 August, 11.30-14.20. Bring your lunch, if you wish! The draft agenda is included here for your information (without the attachments, they will be mailed to you).

Hopefully, we will be able to distribute written reports from most of our working groups, so we can get some time to discuss future directions. We have had a number of reports to review during this year, and some interesting proposals have come forward in these processes. Is it time to replace the prescribed ISBD punctuation with an XML-schema, e.g.? The ISBD review group is also considering whether to integrate the different ISBDs into one coherent code, primarily by ISBD area rather than by “class of materials”. There should also be important things to discuss concerning the development of the FRBR model. The FRBR/CIDOC CRM harmonization working group has made considerable progress, and the ISBD-FRBR mapping, performed by Tom Delsey (on the initiative of the ISBD review group and with the benevolent support of ICABS) has revealed some interesting discrepancies as well as given ideas for further tasks in this area.

We will have to start a new working group on metadata for digital resources, to follow up on the report Guidance on the Structure, Content, and Application of Metadata Records for Digital Resources and Collections. The proposed metadata framework (as I prefer to view it) labelled the “core of cores”, has been very differently interpreted and should be one topic for discussion.

In this issue of SCATNews, you will find a short introduction by Nadine Boodaert to Anonymous Classics, pt.1. (It has been delivered to IFLANET and will be up before we meet in Buenos Aires!) I take the opportunity to acknowledge the enormous work Nadine Boodaert, Assumpció Estivill and all the national editors, have put into this publication. It has really been a major editorial undertaking. It was planned and started in a time when conditions were very different from now, and we need to discuss the best ways to take this important project forward.

We will also discuss and decide on some formal procedures for electing members for our review groups (remember that Patrick was concerned over the “undemocratic” procedure last year?). The budget is another issue. – I haven’t done the formal, financial report yet, but there have been no other costs, so far, than some small bank charges. That is a new situation, as the section always has paid a considerable amount to produce SCATNews on paper. As we don’t do that anymore, there is some room for creative proposals! (Not too much, our budget is small, and we always have to be prepared to pay for some photocopying.)

There is also a full programme outside our committee meetings. The Division IV- Bibliographic Control Update on international issues and report on the situation in Latin America is on Wednesday (13.45-15.45). We have a new section in the Division, the Knowledge Management Section, which will report in the Division update.

Our open programme is already on Tuesday morning (10.45-12.45), and I hope that you all will be attending. It will go from principles to practicalities, starting with a report from the IME ICC in Buenos Aires, go on to the final report on guidance on the application of metadata for digital resources and finish with a report on how the principles work when implemented in a project dealing with a large amount of digital resources.

I also remind you of the IFLA-CDNL Alliance for Bibliographic Standards (ICBS) programme on Thursday (16.00-18.00). ICABS has given very important support to the work in FRBR as well as in the ISBD review groups this year.

Much work has been done, and is still continuing, by our members to translate all the different documents into other IFLA languages than English. We are very grateful to all of you, but I think everyone will understand that I mention Elena Escolano Rodriguez especially, Spanish being especially important this time!

All the working groups will be busy during the conference week and report back at our second committee meeting. I cannot give you any details about the traditional, “social hour” of the Division yet, but it will take place! The arrangement will probably be similar to the one last year, when we all went together to a nice coffee/tea place and paid our own way.

See you in Buenos Aires!
STANDING COMMITTEE CATALOGUING SECTION


MEETING AGENDA

Standing Committee I, Sunday 22 August 2004, 11:30-14:20

1. Welcome and introductions (All 11:30-11:40)
   1.1. Permission for Observers to attend
2. Agenda (Jonsson 11:40-11:45)
3. Minutes of 2003 meetings in Berlin (attached; Jonsson 11:45-11:50)
4. Announcements (Kuhagen 11:50-11:55)
   4.1. Reminder on Division’s Open Session agenda and time
   4.2. Cataloguing Section’s Open Programme
5. Reports
   5.1. Report from the Coordinating Board of the Division of Bibliographic Control (Jonsson/Kuhagen 11:55-12:05)
   5.2. SCATNews (Le Bœuf 12:05-12:10)
   5.3. ICABS report (Gömpel 12:10-12:20)
   5.4. FRANAR (Functional Requirements and Numbering of Authority Records) (Patton 12:20-12:30)
6. Procedures for review groups (proposal attached; 12.30-12.45)
   Break (12.45-12.55)
7. Current projects – update on activities since Berlin and future directions (reports will be distributed in advance)
   7.1. ISBD Review Group (Byrum 12:55-13:05)
   7.2. FRBR (Le Bœuf 13:05-13:15)
   7.3. Guidelines for OPAC Displays (Howarth 13:15-13:20)
   7.5. Anonymous Classics (Jonsson/Le Bœuf 13:25-13:30)
8. Strategic plan (attached), follow up and New Projects (13.55-14.10)
   8.1. Names of Persons (proposal from Françoise Bourdon)
   8.2. New working group on metadata for digital resources
   8.3. Working group on an international cataloguing code (IME ICC)

Standing Committee II, Saturday 28 August 2004, 11:30-14:20

11. Welcome and introductions (11:30-11:40)
12. Agenda (Jonsson 11:40-11:45)
13. Reports/Announcements (Jonsson 11:45-11:50)
   14.1. ISBD Review Group (Byrum 11:50-12:00)
   14.2. Multilingual Dictionary for Cataloging Terms (Münch 12:00-12:05)
   14.3. Anonymous Classics (Jonsson 12:05-12:10)
   14.4. FRBR (Le Bœuf 12:10-12:20)
   14.5. IME ICC (Tillett 12:20-12:30)
   14.6. FRANAR (Patton 12:30-12:40)
   14.7. ICABS update (Gömpel 12:40-12.50)
   Break (12:50-13:00)
   Theme: Libraries – a voyage for discovery
   17.1. Section programme
   17.2. Section workshop
   17.3. Satellite meeting in Finland
18. 72nd IFLA General Conference in Seoul, South Korea 2006
   Theme: Libraries: Dynamic Engines for the Knowledge and Information Society
   18.1. Section programme
   18.2. Section workshop
   18.3. IME ICC
20. Budget (proposal will be distributed; 13:45-13:55)
21. Conference evaluation – positive and negative aspects, comments (All, 13:55-14:05)
22. Any other business (14:05-14:15)
23. Adjourn (Jonsson 14:15-14:20)
Cataloging of electronic resources in the Library of Congress Cataloging Directorate

The Library of Congress Cataloging Management Team has endorsed two sets of recommendations to expand bibliographic access to digital content, which is Goal IV in the Cataloging Directorate Strategic Plan:

“Recommendations for Modes of Cataloging for Electronic Resources” calls for the Cataloging Directorate to apply three modes of cataloging for digital content: AACR2/MARC 21; MODS; and Web guides. The modes apply to monographs and integrating resources, both digitized and born-digital. A major recommendation calls for specifying an “access level” bibliographic record for electronic resources. The report sets bibliographic access into the context of the Digital Lifecycle Planning Framework, a planning tool to be used jointly by Library Services and the Office of Strategic Initiatives. This report was written by the Processing Rule Analysis Group, chaired by David Reser, senior cataloging policy specialist, Cataloging Policy and Support Office. The full report is available at [http://www.loc.gov/catdir/stratplan/goal4wg2report.pdf] [May 2004].

“Recommended Workflows for Cataloging Electronic Resources” describes a workflow featuring: 1) summaries of content to be supplied by recommending officers; 2) a selection review to ensure that digital content meets Library of Congress collection policy guidelines before it is cataloged; 3) an online traffic manager, TrackER, that will permit tracking and monitoring of all digital content submitted for cataloging. The report was written by the Workflow Analysis Group, chaired by Sharon Tsai, acting chief of the Arts and Sciences Cataloging Division. The full report is available at [http://www.loc.gov/catdir/stratplan/goal4wg4report.pdf] [May 2004].

Automated Web Cataloging

An outgrowth of the Library of Congress’s Web Access to Publications in Series project, sponsored by its Bibliographic Enrichments Advisory Team (BEAT), Web Cataloging evolved from the experiences the team gained in providing access at the individual monograph level for selected series. While effective, the processes utilized heretofore were labor intensive, and BEAT has now started to use a much more automated approach to this work. Using programming developed by team member David Williamson, it has proved possible for a cataloger to examine the abstract page for a particular monograph on the Web, and by using computer and programmed functions, effect the creation of a MARC record that is automatically added to the LC database. This record includes an abstract of the title represented. A cataloger subsequently enhances that cataloging data to ensure that name headings are established and to add subject headings. The capability greatly reduces manual aspects of the project and allows catalogers to concentrate on the intellectual work, thus providing an enriched record through largely automated means. The application is being applied first to selected series issued by the United States Federal Reserve Board.

For further information, visit: [http://www.loc.gov/catdir/beat/crawlweb.html].
Finnish Memory Institutions and ontologies by Jyrki Simovaara

The use of information stored in the knowledge repositories of cultural institutions will radically change in the networked environment. Reuse of information, cross-domain interoperability and semantic web technologies open up new visions for the knowledge management of cultural institutions. Finnish archives, libraries and museums carried out a joint research project to find out the exploitability of their metadata in interoperable solutions.

The research focused on interoperability and better usability of cultural information and came up with three parallel approaches to attain these goals:

1. Classic interoperability between information resources from different databases and metadata schemas is based on the idea of individual information objects that can be found in one place. The methods explored are unified metadata, portals for heterogeneous data repositories and metadata harvesting. Good examples, such as Australian Museums Online, already exist and useful standards can be found both in information exchange issues and metadata issues.

2. Another way to improve interoperability is collection level descriptions where interoperability is based on grouping of information objects into collections that can be used for information retrieval. Metadata standards for collection level descriptions are currently being formulated.

3. Third way is the semantic interoperability where relations between information objects are the constructive element. The core technology is ontologies and semantic markup languages (i.e. XML, RDF) which make it possible to describe semantic content in a computable format. The main issue seems to be the connection between the concepts described in ontology and the data stored in the databases.

Semantic data models present data as a network of information and the user is guided to find new connections between information objects. For example the basic idea behind the CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model (CIDOC CRM) is to present the events that can be extrapolated based on the recorded information, but isn’t traditionally separately documented. An attempt is made to describe these historical facts. The CRM-model is, thus, event-centered, which means that the actors, objects, places and points in time are connected via events.

Applying CIDOC CRM to the description data requires that the metadata used to describe the object be reorganized in a way that makes the events that define the lifespan of the subject, such as production, use or acquisition, the starting point. Places, time periods and actors have to be emphasized, too.

Memory organizations can use ontologies on many different levels:

1. International data models and ontologies (CRM, FRBR, ABC, WordNet, MetaNet) and the general ontologies that connect them. A search service based on CRM can be found at http://culturalmaterials.rlg.org.

2. National ontologies based on, for example, national subject headings, thesauri or linguistic structures (different language versions of WordNet, Finnish Semantic Ontologies, http://www.cs.helsinki.fi/group/seco/ontologies/).

3. Field-specific ontologies, such as the ones developed for museums as a part of the Museum-Finland venture http://www.cs.helsinki.fi/group/seco/museums/.

4. Application-specific ontologies that are used to organize data repositories characteristic for specific organizations or ones used for presenting information to the general public through view-based-search applications, etc.

Integrating and using ontologies on all different levels effectively is a challenge for the future.

Memory Organizations and Digital Resources by Mikael Vakkari

In the future semantics and linguistics will become an increasingly important part of information retrieval alongside the traditional statistical approach. In addition to the identification of character strings, semantic information will be made part of the development of search algorithms. The move from mere identification of entities to identification of the relations between entities is the key idea for the future.
The semantic, i.e. contentual, representation of data means expressing the relation between things in a way that the computer understands. The models for data representation can be divided into weak and strong semantics. Taxonomies and thesauruses represent weak semantic models, while ontologies expressed as topic maps or via RDF-code are models of strong semantics.

Memory organizations have much potential for utilization of strong semantics since the data contained in their repositories is semantically rich, digital and can be represented using ontologies. A system that connects a number of organizations could offer access to the same resources for all users, regardless of physical location of user and individual organizations’ resources. There is, however, no guarantee that museum ontologies won’t end up being too extensive for practical use. Several subject areas which alone could form the basis for ontology can be identified in the library, archive and museum sectors.

**The Progress**

The more digital information becomes, the easier it is for memory institutions to convey their services over networks. Libraries for example, have digitalized into hybrid libraries containing both electronic and printed material. Libraries no longer necessarily organize electronic documents but provide licenses and access to them. Will libraries become mere information brokers and act as portals, and just acquire licenses for access to resources?

The commercial considerations of publisher don’t have an impact on the workings of museums, so their communication differs from that of libraries. If it’s imperative that the users handle the archived objects, the use is then tied to physical objects. In most cases however, the resources can be fairly extensively used over networks, since most users are perfectly satisfied with surrogates. The quality of the offered representations becomes an important issue.

Archives face a situation similar to that of the museums. Most of the materials are text-based, but the original documents are important for researchers. The percentage of users who are researchers is higher than at libraries and museums. Yet again, for most users a digital representation will suffice.

Although museums and archives are under great pressure to change, the societal function of both still exists. In addition to the organization of unique resources and providing interoperability, a new mission for them could be enabling efficient methods for conveying information. Even though a virtual tour through a collection (implemented with ontology for example) can never fully replace the physical experience, it most certainly provides some additional value for users. In the case of libraries, the easiest way of implementing the offered services is not necessarily the point. It’s rather about a new role for the institution. There are several different parties who compete for the place libraries currently occupy (publishers, different libraries, private organizations, etc.).

**Interoperability**

Interoperability has been realistically possible for some time now. Questions concerning data structure or marking don’t really present us with insurmountable problems. In memory organizations the problems relate to the semantic quality of the information systems. Interoperable data systems for the institutions should support the users’ search processes. Since each document has been created and developed in its own unique way, it’s important to present a unified view into the documented electronic resources in order to promote better interpretation of digitized resources and facilitate easier access to them. Describing a mass of pure text is no problem, but the controlled management of other media or combination of mediums may well prove to be.

The realization of universal ontology applications as a part of a global semantic web is unlikely, but smaller local applications are realistically implementable and have much potential in the future. There are enough similarities in the materials stored at most museums for area-specific ontologies. These area-specific ontologies could help the user in solving problems related to information seeking and retrieval. Also, well-organized views into the materials could help in situations where the user only has a non-formulated, vague idea of his information need. With the help of interaction and associative browsing, users could find something new that helps them actualize their information need and move onward. It remains to be seen whether these new applications will be of any use to the everyday museum visitor or whether they will be primarily used by expert users?
Anonymous Classics in vernacular languages by Nadine Boddaert

In 1994, the IFLA Section on Cataloguing included in its projects the publication (or revision, according to the cases) of the lists of “anonymous classics” from various cultural areas. The first part of this work has now been completed, with the augmented and updated edition of Anonymous Classics: a List of Uniform Headings for European Literatures. The 1978 edition, which has been out of print for several years, listed works from 18 European literatures; the present one covers 28 linguistic areas, and includes Breton, Bulgarian, Catalan, Czech, Finnish, Galician, Portuguese, and Slovene literatures. Besides, 8 countries that were represented in the 1978 edition have entirely revised and updated their list, so as to account for further works or to incorporate additional variant titles. For both the new and the revised lists, the content of the document also has been enhanced through brief information notes about the works, and bibliographic references.

Next parts will cover:

• African epics, a field left uncovered so far by currently available tools designed for cataloguers. The list has been checked and it now belongs to the African countries, through IFLA’s Regional Section, to review, improve, and approve the lists that have been established. It would be desirable that the final text be distributed before the end of 2004.

• Asian literatures, which were only partially represented in the 1964 International List of Uniform Headings for Anonymous Classics (out of print for quite a long time) since such significant literatures as the Chinese and the Japanese were totally missing. The work is partially in progress.

• Latino-American (mainly Pre-Colombian) literatures, for which no consistent inventory has ever been attempted for the purpose of title standardization. To date there is only one list, for Quiché works, which has been approved by the Biblioteca nacional de Guatemala.

• Turko-Mongol literatures.

For this task to be successfully achieved, help on behalf of colleagues from the concerned cultural areas is required. We therefore appeal to specialists in those fields. If you are interested, and willing to participate in the task, please contact the Cataloguing Section!

Classiques anonymes en langues vernaculaires par Nadine Boddaert

La section de catalogage de l’IFLA a inscrit à son programme en 1994 la publication ou réédition, selon le cas, des listes de « classiques anonymes » des différentes aires culturelles. Le premier volet de ce travail concernant l’Europe est aujourd’hui achevé avec l’édition amplifiée et mise à jour de Anonymous classics: a list of uniform headings for European literatures. L’édition de 1978, qui était épuisée depuis plusieurs années, recensait les œuvres de 18 littératures européennes, celle qui voit le jour couvre 28 aires linguistiques, avec l’intégration des littératures bretonne, bulgare, catalane, finnoise, galicienne, portugaise, slovène et tchèque. D’autre part, 8 pays présents dans l’édition antérieure ont procédé à la révision complète de leur liste afin de prendre en compte de nouvelles œuvres ou de faire figurer des variantes de titres supplémentaires. Le contenu du document a aussi été enrichi par l’ajout de brèves notes d’information sur les œuvres pour les listes nouvelles ou révisées, ainsi que par des références bibliographiques.

Les volets suivants couvriront :

• Les grandes épopées africaines, domaine non encore couvert par les outils de travail à destination des catalogueurs actuellement disponibles. Le recensement est achevé et il revient aux pays africains, par l’intermédiaire de la section régionale de l’IFLA, de relire les listes établies, de les amender ou de les approuver. Il serait souhaitable que le texte définitif puisse être diffusé avant la fin de l’année 2004.

• Les littératures asiatiques, qui étaient très partiellement représentées dans la Liste internationale de vedettes uniformes pour les classiques anonymes = International list of uniform headings for anonymous classics de 1964 (depuis longtemps épuisée) puisque des littératures aussi riches que celles de la Chine et du Japon en étaient totalement absentes. Le travail est partiellement en cours.

• Les littératures latino-américaines (essentiellement précolombiennes), qui n’ont jamais fait l’objet de recensement systématique dans l’optique d’une normalisation des titres. À ce jour seule la liste des œuvres quiché a été approuvée par la Biblioteca nacional de Guatemala.

• Les littératures turco-mongoles.

Pour que cette entreprise puisse être menée à terme, la collaboration de collègues des aires culturelles concernées est absolument indispensable. Nous lançons donc un appel auprès des spécialistes de ces domaines.
**Downloadable records from BnF** by Patrick Le Bœuf

Bibliothèque nationale de France now makes it possible for libraries to download its records. They can be downloaded either in Unimarc/ISO 2709 format or in Intermarc/ISO 2709 format, through an FTP protocol. Libraries that are interested in this service are kindly asked to subscribe (please contact <coordination-bibliographique@bnf.fr>), as it is necessary to identify oneself under a predefined profile.

While searching the BnF catalogue, users can save a number of records (100 of them until September 2004, then it will be possible to save as many as 500 records); when displaying the saved records, they can click on an icon called “Transférer en ligne les notices sélectionnées” (the English version of the OPAC is not available yet); then they will be asked to identify themselves, the records will be prepared overnight, and ready to be integrated in their catalogue on the next day.

For the time being this service is limited to bibliographic records; from September on, it will also be possible to download authority records.

For more info, see <http://www.bnf.fr/pages/infopro/outibib/pb-produits.htm#transfert> (in French) or contact <coordination-bibliographique@bnf.fr>.

**A special theme issue of Cataloging & Classification Quarterly devoted to the FRBR model** by Patrick Le Bœuf

Around December 2004/January 2005, Cataloging & Classification Quarterly will publish a special theme issue on FRBR.

It will cover both theoretical and practical aspects, and comprise four major sections: 1) Chronological section: why and how FRBR was developed, how it will evolve in the near future; 2) Theoretical aspects: how FRBR analyzes different types of library materials; 3) Practical aspects: how some extant systems actually use FRBR, how it is envisioned in some ongoing projects and prototypes; 4) An alternative: the XOBIS project, showing that other solutions also are possible in order to meet 21st century challenges.

It will feature articles by: Olivia Madison, who chaired the IFLA Study Group on FRBR; Barbara Tillett and Tom Delsey, who acted as consultants when FRBR was being designed; Gunilla Jonsson, who currently chairs the IFLA Cataloguing Section; Glenn Patton, who currently chairs the FRANAR Working Group; Patrick Le Bœuf (as guest editor); Carol van Nuys and K etil Al bert sen, Ed O’Neill and Thom Hickey, Maja Žumer, Stefan Gradmann, David Miller, Dick Miller, Kerry Kilner, Jackie Radebaugh and Corey Keith, Roberto Sturman, and Yann Nicolas. It will also contain an article by our late colleague Zlata Dimec, to whom the entire collection is dedicated. Her article has been edited and augmented by Maja Žumer and Gerhard Riesthuis.
Contributions to SCATNews are welcome at any time. Please send news items, articles, comments to the Editor:

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