Oliver Leonard Kapsner, O.S.B.
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RDA Update: Open Letter from Deanna Marcum, and Joint Statement of LC, NLM and NAL on RDA*

> "The three institutions agreed that …if there is a decision to implement RDA, that the implementation would not occur before the end of 2009."

*May 1, 2008

Dear Colleagues,

The Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control submitted its final report, On the Record , to me on January 9, 2008. I have distributed the document to three groups within the Library of Congress for analysis and comment. I expect to respond formally to the report in early June.

On the Record contains more than one hundred recommendations aimed at the Library of Congress, other specific organizations and entities, and to the broader library community. In the words of the members of the Working Group, they envision "a future for bibliographic control that will be collaborative, decentralized, international in scope, and Web-based*change will happen quickly, and bibliographic control will be dynamic, not static." The group urged the readers of the report to view it as a " 'call to action' that informs and broadens participation in discussion and debate, conveys a sense of urgency, stimulates collaboration, and catalyzes thoughtful and deliberative action." The many recommendations suggest ways in which the necessary systemic change can take place.

When the Library of Congress issues its response, we will be focusing on how it will position itself to work in this new, networked, and collaborative environment, not simply on single recommendations. We recognize that any cataloging code (AACR2 or the proposed Resource Description and Access--RDA) is but a part of this environment.

It may seem counterintuitive that we issue a joint statement with our colleagues from the National Agricultural Library and the National Library of Medicine on RDA before we issue a full response to On the

Record , but we do so because the international Joint Steering Committee and the Committee of Principals continue their work, and because so many librarians are asking about the national libraries' plans to implement the proposed code.

We are pleased to report that we three libraries have worked together to establish an approach to the consideration of RDA in the attached joint statement.

We ask that you bear in mind that it is the entire bibliographic system that needs to be considered and reworked, and the cataloging code is only one small piece of the work that lies ahead.

Sincerely,

Deanna B. Marcum
Associate Librarian for Library Services
The Library of Congress

Joint Statement of the Library of Congress, the National Library of Medicine, and the National Agricultural Library on Resource Description and Access*

*May 1, 2008

Leaders of the Library of Congress (LC), the National Library of Medicine (NLM), and the National Agricultural Library (NAL) met on March 10, 2008 to discuss the recommendation from On the Record: the Report of the Library of Congress Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control to suspend work on RDA.

The group agreed that the Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA's work on Resource Description and Access (RDA) is an important international initiative that has been underway for several years and is one that requires continued collaboration with our international partners who have joined with the United States in a global initiative to update bibliographic practices to make the library resources more accessible and useful to users. The participants also agreed that their decisions whether or not to implement this new standard must be made jointly. Further, participants agreed that LC, NLM, and NAL have collective leadership responsibilities to assist the U.S. library and information community to remain relevant and vital in an increasingly digital future. Key to this role is providing a broad assessment and commitment to RDA if they believe this standard will further national strategic goals for improved bibliographic control and access.

Colleagues from NLM and NAL are most concerned that a systematic review of RDA has not yet been possible and, given the potential magnitude and broad impact of the changes, such a review is essential. While draft chapters of RDA have been available, a clear, concise, and cohesive understanding of the overall impact of the entire standard is needed. Until the completion of the rules and the availability of the RDA online tool, reviewers will not be able fully to assess their impact on:

--Description, access, and navigation practices for a broad array of users and types of materials

--Current and future electronic carriers and information management systems to support RDA goals

--Estimated costs for implementation and maintenance during a time of flat, even reduced, budgets

The three national libraries agreed on the following approach: First, we jointly commit to further development and completion of RDA. Second, following its completion, a decision to implement the rules will be based upon the positive evaluation of RDA's utility within the library and information environment, and criteria reflecting the technical, operational, and financial implications of the new code. This will include an articulation of the business case for RDA, including benefits to libraries and end users and cost analyses for retraining staff and re-engineering cataloging processes.

Together, we will:

--Jointly develop milestones for evaluating how we will implement RDA

--Conduct tests of RDA that determine if each milestone has been reached; paying particular attention to the benefits and costs of implementation

--Widely distribute analyses of benefits and costs for review by the U.S. library community

--Consult with the vendor and bibliographic utility communities to address their concerns about RDA

Included among the tests that will be developed to assist in formulating implementation decisions:

--Usability testing with cataloging staff, i.e. librarians and technicians, experienced and newer staff from the three national

libraries in consultation with representatives from the U.S. library community (including OCLC and library vendors) about its participation in the process

--Testing of records for a broad array of materials created during usability studies to determine compatibility with existing record sets and ensuring records are usable and understandable for our end users

--Testing the feasibility of integrating this new cataloging standard into all relevant technology systems

The three institutions agreed that these steps will be followed and, if there is a decision to implement RDA, that the implementation would not occur before the end of 2009.

The collective resolve is to complete the development of RDA, to conduct appropriate tests that will inform and involve the broader U.S. library community as to the utility of the code, and to ensure a product that is useful, usable, and cost effective. The Library of Congress will continue to work with its international colleagues on the Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA and the Committee of Principals and keep them apprised of the evaluation progress and outcomes as the three national libraries, representing their constituents, undertake the tests outlined above.

§ **SUBJECT CATALOGING NEWS** §

Selected LC subject heading additions and changes taken from the Library of Congress Subject Headings Weekly Lists **11 (March 12, 2008)-23 (June 4, 2008)**

KEY   UF = Used for
             BT = Broader term
             RT = Related term
             SA = See also
             *   = lines or paragraphs that are CHANGES

"Changes to existing headings are indicated by an asterisk. (A) indicates proposals that were approved before the editorial meeting. (C) indicates proposals submitted by cooperating libraries.

Diacritics and most special characters are not displayed."

N.B. You may wish to confirm the current state of the authority record by consulting LC's authority file (http://authorities.loc.gov/) or the OCLC authority file—editor.

(C)   150 African American women in church work   [May Subd Geog]   [sp2008000933]

    550   BT Church work

(C)   150 Biotechnology--Religious aspects--Buddhism, [Christianity, etc.]   [sp2008001023]

    155 Christian radio programs [sp2007025568]

    555   BT Religious radio programs

    155 Christmas radio programs [sp2007025570]

    150 Creationism   [May Subd Geog]   [sp 85033830]

    * 550   RT Intelligent design (Teleology)

    150 Cultural fusion in church music   [May Subd Geog]   [sp2008001515]

    550   BT Church music

(C)   130 Dead Sea scrolls-Relation to the Old Testament   [sp2007006117]

    430   UF Bible. O.T.-Relation to the Dead Sea scrolls

(C)   150 Divination in the Bible   [sp2008000721]

(C)   150 Ecotheology   [May Subd Geog]   [sp2008002852]

    680   Here are entered works on the movement that views ecological themes,
          including ecological crises, from a theological perspective. Works on the
          relationship of humans to the natural environment viewed from a religious
          standpoint are entered under Human ecology--Religious aspects.

    450   UF Eco-theology

    550   BT Ecology

    550   BT Theology

    550   RT Human ecology—Religious aspects

    681   Note under Human ecology--Religious aspects

(C)   150 Hispanic American clergy   [May Subd Geog]   [sp2008001431]

    450   UF Clergy, Hispanic American

550   BT Clergy—United States

155 Inspirational radio programs [sp2007025616]

    680   Here are entered radio programs that are designed to uplift, inspire, or
motivate listeners and are often of a religious nature.

    455   UF Motivational radio programs

    555   RT Religious radio programs

150 Intelligent design (Teleology)   [sp2002009988]

   * 550   RT Creationism

150 Marriage—Annulment (Canon law)—Oriental Catholic churches   [May Subd Geog]

                                                    [sp2008000087]
    450   UF Marriage—Annulment (Canon law, Oriental)

155 Radio sermons [sp2007025561]

    455   UF Sermons, Radio

    555   BT Religious radio programs

150 Religious poetry, Galician   [May Subd Geog]   [sp2008002236]

    450   UF Galician religious poetry

    550   BT Galician poetry

155 Religious radio programs [sp2007025542]

    555   RT Inspirational radio programs

(C)   150 Sadomasochism—Religious aspects   [sp2008003146]

(C)   150 Success—Religious aspects—Baptists, [Catholic Church, etc.]   [sp2008001286]

150 Trance—Religious aspects—Christianity [sp2008003784]

Selected LCC to Dewey classification correlations for subject headings with 053 entries

N.B. DDC numbers may prescribe extensions from tables. Please consult the Dewey schedule
as needed.

TOPIC	LCC	DDC
Equality (topic in Old Test.)	BS1199.E72	221.832
Ethnicity (topic in New Test.)	BS2545.E815	225.95
Trials: Joan of Arc	KJV130.J625	262.92

**Additions and changes from LC Classification Weekly Lists
11 (March 12, 2008)-24 (June 11, 2008**

Psychology
    Applied psychology
        Counseling psychology. Counseling
            Religious aspects. Spirituality   BF636.68

Ethics
    Religious ethics
        Christian ethics
            Special, A-Z
                Liberty   BJ1278.L53

Judaism
    Sources
        Rabbinical literature
            Special topics, A-Z
                Noah (Biblical figure)   BM496.9.N63

Christianity
    History
        By period
            Modern period
                Reformation and Counter-Reformation, 1517-1648
                    Biography
                        Individual
                          Luther, Martin, 1483-1546
                            Luther's theology
                              Special topics, A-Z
                                Faith   BR333.5.F33

The Bible
    Old Testament
        Works about the New Testament
            Topics (not otherwise provided for), A-Z
                Earth   BS1199.E27
                Equality   BS1199.E72

New Testament
    Works about the New Testament
        Topics (not otherwise provided for), A-Z
            Compassion   BS2545.C567
            Ethnicity   BS2545.E815

Doctrinal theology
    History of specific doctrines and movements. Heresies and schisms
        By period
            Early to the Reformation, 1517
                Gnosticism (Christian)
                    Nag Hammadi Codices
                        Individual tractates, A-Z
                            Marsanes TABLE BS8
                                        BT1392.M37-.M372

Christian denominations
    Catholic Church
        Other special topics, A-Z
            Man-woman relationships   BX1795.M34
            Unemployment   BX1795.U54
            Woman-man relationships see BX1795.M34   [BX1795.W652]

Religious law in general. Comparative religious law. Jurisprudence
    Legal systems compared
        Interdisciplinary comparative studies. Religious legal systems compared with
        other legal systems
            Canon law, Roman law, and civil law
                Canon law (Occidental) and Roman law
                    Other authors or titles, A-Z
                        Tractatus universi iuris, duce, & auspice Gregorio
                        XIII   KB240.T73

History of canon law - Sources
    Collections. Compilations. Selections
        Canonical collections of councils and synods
            Apostolic councils. Councils of the ancient church. 1st to 3rd
            centuries [KBR199.8-.9]
                General works   KBR199.8
                Council of Jerusalem, 45 (48?) TABLE KB9   KBR199.82
                Council of Jerusalem, 56 (55?) TABLE KB9   KBR199.83
                Council of Rome, 155 TABLE KB9   KBR199.84
                Council of Rome, 193 TABLE KB9   KBR199.86
                Council of Ephesus, 193 TABLE KB9   KBR199.87
                Council of Carthage, 255 TABLE KB9   KBR199.9

Councils (Concilia) and synods from the 4th century to 1054 (Great Schism)

Provincial and national councils and synods - Individual

Council of Carthage, 299	KBR244
Council of Elvira, between 300? and 309?	KBR244.3
Council of Carthage, 311	KBR244.5
Council of Arles, 314	KBR245
Council of Ancyra (Ankara), 314	KBR245.3
Council of Neocaesarea (Niksar), 315	KBR245.5
Council of Antioch (Antakya), 341	KBR246
Council of Serdica (Sofia), 343 or 347?	KBR246.3
Council of Gangra (Cankiri), 340? or 343	KBR246.5
Council of Constantinople, 394	KBR247
Council of Carthage, 398	KBR247.2
Council of Carthage, 419	KBR247.5
Council of Frankfurt, 794	KBR248
Other	[KBR249-260.29]

Council of Tyre, 335	KBR249 335
Council of Sargossa, 380	KBR249 380
Council of Aquileia, 381	KBR249 381
Council of Turin, 401	KBR249 401
Council of Aquileia, 553	KBR249 553
Council of Carthage, 553	KBR249 553a
4th Council of Toledo, 633	KBR249 633

Councils of the late 9th and 10th centuries   [KBR261-266]

General (Collective)	KBR261
Individual	[KBR262-264]

4th Council of Constantinople (Ignatian Council), 869 TABLE KB9

Contested by Eastern bishops	KBR262

Council of Union (Photian Council), 879 TABLE KB9

Contested by Western bishops	KBR263

Other councils and synods. By date of opening	KBR264 [date]
Provincial and national councils and synods	[KBR265-266]
Council of Aachen, 809	KBR265
Council of Worms, 868	KBR266

History of canon law

Trials

Criminal trials

[KBR128.5.A-Z]

Joan of Arc. Jeanne d'Arc	see KJV130.J625

Law of France

Trials

Criminal trials and judicial investigations

Individual trials - By best known (popular) name, A-Z
           Joan of Arc. Jeanne d'Arc   KJV130.J625

Illuminating of manuscripts and books
        Histories and reproductions of special illuminated works
                Special works
                        Other service books. Prayer books (other than above)
                                Special, A-Z
                                      Rulle Gradual of Gisela von Kerssenbrock
                                                      ND3380.4.R85

Literature (General)
        Authorship
                Other special topics, A-Z
                        Religious aspects   PN171.R45

Collections of English literature
        Drama
                By period
                        Medieval: Mysteries, miracle plays, moralities
                              Individual plays and cycles, A-Z
                                  Pride of life   PR1261.P75

§ THE CATALOGER'S TOOLCHEST §

Establishing geographic names…

The work of the cataloger in establishing authorized forms of geographic names begins by searching the OCLC and/or LC name authorities databases. If an authority record for the geographic entity in question does not exist, the OCLC bibliographic database—or, if the library where you work is not a member of OCLC, the WorldCat bibliographic database—can be searched for the best preponderant form of the name as a basis for establishing the heading. OK, fine—but what if there are also no instances of the heading having been used before? At this point there are two freely available web databases that can serve as a resource:

one for domestic names: Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) located at
      http://geonames.usgs.gov

one for foreign names: GEOnet Names Server (GNS) located at
      http://earth-info.nga.mil/gns/html/index.html

The Library of Congress has provided instructions for the best use of both of these tools at the following location: http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/geogname.html

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Please consider submitting a contribution to the *Oliver Leonard Kapsner, O.S.B. Cataloging Bulletin*. This could be a theoretical essay relating to cataloging, a practical piece discussing specific cataloging challenges and how they are being met within your library, or even questions posed to which our readers would be invited to respond. Send letters, questions, or possible contributions to the editor, Rob Kusmer. Contact information is found below.

††

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