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Oliver Leonard Kapsner, O.S.B.
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Congratulations to Rob Kusmer on this fine premier issue of the Oliver Leonard Kapsner, O.S.B. Cataloging Bulletin, the first e-newsletter on cataloging of the Catholic Library Association. It is very timely to have this information at one's fingertips as the cataloging world is going through many major changes. It is also a great addition to the publications associated with the Catholic Library Association. I truly enjoyed the content found on these pages even as a non-cataloger. My hat is off to Rob and to Tom Duszak for taking up the challenge of keeping librarians, especially those doing cataloging and classification, up to date and informed. Thank you and I look forward to the next issue.

Cathy Fennell, MLS

President, Catholic Library Association

A word from the editor

Welcome to the premier issue of the Oliver Leonard Kapsner, O.S.B. Cataloging Bulletin! My name is Robert (Rob) Kusmer, and I have been asked to take on the editorship of this publication. It is my hope that you will find it interesting and useful. Let me tell you a bit about myself. I am a cataloging librarian for German, theology and humanities at the University of Notre Dame. Additionally, I serve as the subject liaison for German literature responsible for collection development in that field. I invite your comments and suggestions as you read through this newsletter, as well as your participation in the content of future issues. Feel free to contact me (see contact information at the end). Fittingly, Sister Dorothy opens this first issue with a tribute to Father Kapsner, in whose honor the newsletter is named. Happy reading!

Oliver L. Kapsner, O.S.B.
by **Sister M. Dorothy Neuhofer, O.S.B.**

Oliver L. Kapsner, Benedictine monk and priest of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, contributed significantly to librarianship through the Catholic Library Association and other professional associations from the 1930s to the 1980s.

Through Father Oliver's leadership and initiative in the late 1920s and early 1930s, St. John's re-cataloged its library holdings to serve both the abbey and the university. As head librarian and as a further step forward, Father Oliver developed subject headings to accurately describe Catholic literature. Since St. John's had an exceptionally large religion collection its library was an ideal testing ground for the specialized subject headings.

Father Oliver was actively involved in the Cataloging and Classification Round Table of the Catholic Library Association (CLA), serving several times as chair. Because other libraries needed assistance with subject headings for Catholic literature, in 1938 CLA asked Father Oliver to be the editor for its proposed list of religious subject headings. The first edition, published in 1942, was entitled *List of Catholic Subject Headings*, while subsequent editions were entitled *Catholic Subject Headings: A List for Use with Library of Congress Subject Headings or the Sears List of Subject Headings*. A fifth edition was published in 1963 and a modification of the fifth edition in 1981 reflecting the changes in terminology following Vatican II.

From 1948-1954, Father Oliver edited a column in the *Catholic Library World* entitled “Contact for Catalogers; a Clearing-House Page for Catholic Catalogers.” He continued the column from 1956-62 under the title “From One Cataloger to Another.” The columns provided continuing education for catalogers, giving explanations on cataloging practices and responding to requests for cataloging assistance. Father Oliver also wrote a number of articles on librarianship for *Catholic Library World*. Among them was a survey he conducted, while serving as an Army chaplain in Europe, on the devastating effects of World War II upon European libraries, books and publishers.

Besides his work with the Catholic Library Association, Father Oliver was a Research Cataloger at the Catholic University of America (1957-58) and at St. Vincent Archabbey and College (1957-1962). In the 1950s he was the CLA coordinator for cataloging Catholic literature at the Library of Congress. He also compiled a number of manuals and other reference tools helpful especially to catalogers and reference librarians, of which *A Benedictine Bibliography* is without question the most notable. An author-subject union list, the second edition of the *Bibliography* was published in 1962 and the first supplement in 1981, covering works written from 1962-1981 as well as manuscript material written before the invention of printing.

In the 1960s Father Oliver was sent by St. John’s Abbey and University to serve as the first field director for an extensive program of photographing manuscripts preserved in European monasteries. The Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, created at St. John’s in 1965, houses these materials and today numbers more than 90,000 manuscripts on microfilm originating in monasteries in Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean. ■

RDA and Bible uniform titles: the LC decision

One of the ramifications of the impending transition from AACR2 to its successor, RDA (Resource Description and Access) is the way in which uniform titles for the Bible will be constructed. In a memorandum to the Joint Steering Committee for the Revision of AACR dated August 2, 2007, Barbara Tillett, the Library of Congress representative to the Committee, announced the Library’s decision to adopt the proposal which was originally made in April.

The [text of the decision](#) reads as follows:

The Library of Congress confirms its agreement with the decisions made at the April 2007 meeting as noted below (from the Chair follow-up document) and confirms that the expense of database maintenance is justified.

- The Old and New Testaments will be referred to by their spelled out forms, not the existing AACR2 abbreviations “O.T.” and “N.T.”
- Access points for individual books of the Bible will use the name of the book immediately following “Bible” rather than interposing the name of the appropriate Testament.
- Access points in the form “Bible. Old Testament”, “Bible. New Testament”, and “Bible. Apocrypha” will be used to identify those parts of the Bible as aggregate works.

LC also agrees with the recommendations about joint implementation, etc., made by the British Library in its response. Alan Danskin, the British Library representative to the JSC, wrote in a memorandum to the Committee also dated August 2, 2007, the British Library’s [concurring viewpoint](#) as follows:

The British Library accepts the proposed revisions. We recommend that the revisions be accepted or rejected as a package. Acceptance of the revisions implies retrospective alignment of authority data and headings in bibliographic records. The national libraries should agree an implementation plan. Ideally the implementation plan will be part of the announcement on the outcome of LC8, but if schedules don’t allow this, the commitment to deliver an implementation plan should be stated publicly.

Danskin then identically repeats the three points about the changes in Bible uniform titles as noted in Tillett’s memorandum above.

For more information on RDA, see <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/rda.html> ■

Catholic subject headings and LCSH by Chiyono Sata, Leonard Katusz, and Leszek Czubik

At the Catholic University of America, we still use some subject headings developed to describe Catholic materials more particularly. When such subject terms are used, they are tagged to display in the OPAC as “Catholic Subject Headings.” In some cases we insert extensive explanatory notes and cross references in an LC authority record. We decided long ago not to use Catholic subject headings extensively, but instead to follow Library of Congress practice as much as possible. This decision was made for economic reasons. As many research papers have documented, it is too expensive to maintain multiple thesauri in one library system. Many other Catholic institutions have probably made similar decisions in order to cope with the rising costs of processing library materials. Some may have resorted to using only the LC subject headings without separate Catholic terms. Others may be doing what we, at CUA, are doing. We wonder

how many of us wish that the Library of Congress would include Catholic terms as valid headings instead of as cross references. From time to time we face a conundrum about what to do with LC subject terms, both main headings and topical subdivisions. They convey a similar concept but are often not sufficient to describe Catholic materials. The following are some of the examples of terms with which we differ from LC.

Example 1: Lord's Supper

The authority record of the Library of Congress for this heading has cross references:

Eucharist → Lord's Supper

Communion → Lord's Supper

Holy Communion → Lord's Supper

Sacrament of the Altar → Lord's Supper

The Library of Congress enters works on the Eucharist under "Lord's Supper." CUA uses both "Eucharist" (mainly for Catholic works) and "Lord's Supper" (generally for Protestant works).

Example 2: Monasticism and religious orders

The Library of Congress uses this heading for works on groups of Christians who live together under religious vows. The term "Religious orders" as used by LC (in the heading "Monasticism and religious orders") is equivalent to "Religious institutes" in the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*. This includes religious orders in the strictest sense (solemn public vows) and "Religious congregations" (simple public vows).

But the heading is often used even more broadly (also by LC) to include (as in popular usage of the term "religious orders") what the 1983 *Code of Canon Law* calls "Societies of apostolic life," characterized by life in common without public vows. (Examples are: Sulpicians; Paulist Fathers.) For works limited to, or emphasizing, discussion of such societies CUA uses the heading "Societies of apostolic life." The Library of Congress uses an earlier term, "Societies living in common without vows," and in practice uses it more broadly. In the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*, religious institutes and secular institutes are grouped together under the term "Institutes of consecrated life." Works treating these societies from this general viewpoint are entered by CUA under that heading. Works about other groups of Christians who live and/or work together to achieve common spiritual and social objectives are entered under the term "Christian communities."

In our local authority database we have added to the record for "Monasticism and religious orders" the 450 "Religious institutes" and 550 "Monastic and religious life." "Monasticism and religious orders" in turn is added as a 550 under "Christian communities--Catholic Church."

There are other examples we could describe, but for the present purpose limit the discussion to only two examples of subject headings in which we differ from LC. It is our hope that this short essay will inspire others to contribute to this discussion forum. We are very much interested in knowing how other Catholic libraries handle subject terms. ■

SUBJECT CATALOGING NEWS

Selected LC subject heading additions and changes taken from the Library of Congress Subject Headings [Weekly Lists](#) 15-28 (April 11-July 11, 2007)

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

150 Church work with youth with social disabilities--Baptists, [Catholic Church, etc.]
[sp2007003869]

150 Disappointment--Religious aspects--Baptists, [Catholic Church, etc.] [sp2007003436]

150 Exercise--Religious aspects--Baptists, [Catholic Church, etc.] [sp2007002600]

150 Individual differences--Religious aspects--Baptists, [Catholic Church, etc.]
[sp2007001410]

150 Life--Religious aspects--Baptists, [Catholic Church, etc.] [sp2007002121]

100 Mary, Blessed Virgin, Saint--Apparitions and miracles--Spain [sp2007001995]

150 Mercy, Our Lady of [Not Subd Geog] [sp2007001988]

053 BT660.M47

450 UF Merced, Virgen de la

450 UF Mercedes, Virgen de las

450 UF Our Lady of Mercy

450 UF Our Lady of Ransom

450 UF Ransom, Our Lady of

450 UF Virgen de la Merced

450 UF Virgen de las Mercedes

500 BT Mary, Blessed Virgin, Saint--Apparitions and miracles—Spain

150 Miracles [May Subd Geog] [sp 85085930]

* 360 SA subdivision Miracles under names of persons to whom miracles are
attributed, e.g. Francis, of Assisi, Saint, 1182-1226-- Miracles; Muhammad,
Prophet, d. 632—Miracles

150 Monasteries [May Subd Geog] [sp 85086690]

* 550 RT Scriptoria

150 Rosaries (Prayer books) [May Subd Geog] [sp2007003879]

680 Here are entered prayer books in which the mysteries of the rosary appear
in conjunction with psalms or other scriptural passages, meditations, or
illustrations. Works on the Catholic devotion to the Virgin Mary that

- BT1392.T47-.T472** 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--**Testimony of truth**
- Table BS8**
- BV3680.F8-.F82** Practical theology--Missions--Missions in individual countries--Oceania--Pacific islands. South Sea islands--By individual island, A-Z--**French Polynesia**
- Table BV5**
- CANCEL BV5095.A8** Practical theology--Practical religion. The Christian life--Mysticism--Biography--Individual, A-Z--Avila, Juan de
- BV5095.A8 SEE BX4700.J5686
- BX830 0809** Christian denominations--Catholic Church--Councils--General and Ecumenical councils--Special. By date of opening--Council of Aachen
- Table BX8**
- BX4700.J5686** Christian denominations--Catholic Church--Biography and portraits--Individual--Saints, A-Z--John of Avila

SERIALS NEWS

CONSER (Cooperative Online Serials)

Serials catalogers take note of the updates to the [CONSER webpage](#). Of particular interest is the [CONSER standard record](#).

The standard record was formally implemented on June 1, 2007. The introduction to the [standard record documentation](#) states in part:

The CONSER standard record to which this documentation pertains is the result of a year-long effort that involved over 150 people, including a working group of catalogers, cataloging managers, and users of serial catalog records who developed the proposed record; catalogers at fourteen institutions who piloted the record; and a group of diverse reviewers from the fourteen pilot institutions who evaluated the record. The elements and cataloging guidelines used for the pilot projects have been adjusted as a result of pilot project outcomes and subsequent input.

†††

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