

Library of Congress Report
ALA/ALCTS/CaMMS Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access
American Library Association 2017 Annual Conference
Chicago, Illinois

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This document covers only selected initiatives undertaken at the Library of Congress since the ALA 2017 Midwinter Meeting in Atlanta, with a focus on descriptive cataloging activities. A full document covering all LC activities (including cataloging topics related to subject analysis and classification) is available on the “LC at ALA” Website, URL <http://www.loc.gov/ala/>.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS EXHIBIT BOOTH

The Library of Congress Exhibit booth is no. 1819 at the McCormick Place Convention Center.

Significant Library-wide Personnel Changes

David S. Mao resigned as Deputy Librarian of Congress. *Robert R. Newlen* continues to serve as Deputy Librarian of Congress.

Jane Sánchez was appointed Law Librarian of Congress, effective Feb. 5, 2017.

Sandra Lawson, Deputy Associate Librarian for Library Services, retired on April 28, 2017. *Al Banks*, Director for Technology Policy in Library Services, is serving as acting Deputy Associate Librarian.

Awards to Library of Congress Staff at ALA

Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress, is the recipient of the 2017 Melvil Dewey Medal.

Jeanne Drewes, chief of the Binding and Collections Care Division, is the recipient of the 2017 Ross Atkinson Lifetime Achievement Award from ALCTS, the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services, a division of ALA.

Anne Harrison, FEDLINK network program specialist, is the recipient of the 2017 Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table Achievement Award.

Federal Budget

Although Fiscal year 2017 began on October 1, 2016, most of the federal government, including the Library of Congress, had been operating under a succession of continuing resolutions (CRs) until an omnibus appropriations bill was passed in early May. The final bill provided \$32 million above the fiscal 2016 budget; most of the increases were aimed at technology projects, including the migration of the Library’s Primary Computing Facility to an alternate facility, IT security enhancements, and for digital collection management. The Fiscal 2018 appropriations process is only beginning; the Library has requested a 7.8% increase that primarily supports mandatory pay and price-level increases and critical IT investments.

Other Staffing and Personnel Changes

Stacey Devine was appointed program manager for Literature and CYAC (Children’s and Young Adults’ Cataloging Program) in the US Programs, Law, and Literature Division (USPRLL) of ABA, effective June 9, 2017.

Rick Fitzgerald is a temporary serials section head in the US Arts, Sciences, and Humanities Division (USASH) during summer 2017.

Monique Graham was appointed permanent head of the Benelux, France, and Italy Section (BFI) of the African, Latin American, and Western European Division (ALAWWE) after serving as interim section head since Jan. 19, 2017.

Policy and Standards

Merger of PSD and COIN divisions. The work begun in July 2016 to merge the Policy & Standards Division and the Cooperative and Instructional Programs Division continues. These divisions are prime candidates for merging because of the overlap, intersection, and related tasks carried out by the staff of both divisions. These include the focus on standards; sharing cataloging policy decisions; responding to queries from the cataloging community; interacting with internal and external constituents as LC experts; providing training and briefings; and producing/maintaining documentation. A new organizational structure is under consideration for completion by the close of 2017.

Library of Congress-Program for Cooperative Cataloging Policy Statements (LC-PCC PSs). The *RDA Toolkit* release in February 2017 contained 30 revised LC-PCC PSs developed by PSD staff in conjunction with the PCC Standing Committee on Standards. There were 68 new, revised, or deleted statements in the April 2017 *Toolkit* release. Summaries for each LC-PCC PS release are available at URL <http://www.loc.gov/aba/rda/lcps_access.html>. The next release will be in August 2017.

RDA 2017 Update. The 6th annual update to *RDA: Resource Description & Access* (RDA) was published in April 2017, containing the changes based on constituency proposals discussed at the 2016 meeting of the RDA Steering Committee. To assist catalogers applying the new and revised instructions, PSD provided a summary table that highlights changes to RDA, available on the PSD website, URL <http://www.loc.gov/aba/rda/pdf/summary_rda_changes_2017.pdf>. Note that the English version of the *RDA Toolkit* is frozen until April of 2018 in order to incorporate changes resulting from the RDA Restructure and Redesign (3R) project.

LC Guidelines Supplement to the MARC 21 Format for Authority Data. In April 2017, the LC Guidelines were expanded to include fields and subfields for which no implementation decision has been made yet. These fields and subfields contain instructions not to use them with the additional text “implementation decision not yet made.” They will be updated to reflect implementation decisions when appropriate.

Headings for Bulgarian jurisdictions. LC has completed a project to update geographic name headings for Bulgarian oblasts and okrugs so that the relationships between earlier/later entities and subject usage are correct.

Before 1987, Bulgaria was divided into okrugs. These okrugs were combined into large oblasts in 1987. In 1999, these large oblasts were split into smaller oblasts and renamed. In addition, some oblasts have experienced linear name changes since 1987. The history of each okrug and oblast was individually examined and each authority record now accurately indicates the subject usage for the name heading, based on policies in *Subject Headings Manual* instruction sheets H 708 and H 710.

In keeping with standard policy, all the headings for Bulgarian okrugs and oblasts are valid for descriptive usage.

Cataloger’s Desktop. Over the past six months, the focus on *Cataloger’s Desktop* development has been on enhancing search and retrieval through two major projects. The first project, called “Related searches,” enables *Desktop* to provide the searcher with suggested searches that may more precisely reflect the information they are seeking without reference to the search keywords. This service is based on a machine analysis of all successful searches performed over the past three years. For example, if the searcher types in “uniform title,” suggested related searches include “6.2.2” and “130.” A search for “part” suggests “LC-PCC PS 2.1” and “multipart.”

The second project, called “*Classification Web* integration,” enables subscribers to both *Cataloger’s Desktop* and *Classification Web* to search both resources simultaneously within the *Desktop* search environment. A search for “music biography” will provide hits in the *Subject Headings Manual*, LCSH, and the LC Classification schedule. Additionally, links in *Classification Web* to *Subject Headings*

Manual instruction sheets will be live hyperlinks instead of merely text references. As of late May 2017, it is projected that this important enhancement will be available in late June or early July.

Suggestions for improving *Cataloger's Desktop* should be sent to Bruce Johnson (Policy & Standards Division) at bjoh@loc.gov. Subscribe to the free *Cataloger's Desktop* discussion list at URL www.loc.gov/cds/desktop/ugroup.html.

ALA-LC Romanization Tables. A proposed new Uzbek table was developed by Library of Congress staff and has been sent to the constituent community for comment. All current ALA-LC romanization tables are available on the Web at URL www.loc.gov/catdir/cps/roman.html, as well as in *Cataloger's Desktop*. Any questions about romanization table development should be directed to Bruce Johnson (Policy & Standards Division) at bjoh@loc.gov.

Cataloging Distribution Service

The Cataloging Distribution Service (CDS) worked with Library Services and OCIO to make 25 million records in the Library's online catalog available for free bulk download at URL loc.gov/cds/products/marcDist.php. This is the largest release of records in the Library's history. Produced from 1968 through 2014, the records will also be easily accessible at URL data.gov, the open-government website hosted by the General Services Administration (GSA). Until now, these bibliographic records have only been available individually or through a paid subscription. The new, free MDSCONnect service will operate in parallel with the Library's fee-based MARC Distribution Service, which is used extensively by large commercial customers and libraries. In addition to their traditional value to libraries, the rich data included in these records can be used for a wide range of cultural, historical and literary research.

The Card Catalog: Books, Cards, and Literary Treasures

A new history of the card catalog from the Library of Congress Publishing Office puts the spotlight on the central role of librarians in organizing and sharing mass quantities of information. Lauded by *Booklist* as "an irresistible treasury for book and library lovers," [*The Card Catalog: Books, Cards, and Literary Treasures*](#) features a forward by Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. Dr. Hayden and Publishing Office writer-editor Pete Deveraux were interviewed by NPR's Andrew Limbong for [Morning Edition](#) and they will participate in a book signing at ALA Annual Conference.

Bibliographic Framework Initiative

This initiative is an investigation of the emerging Linked Open Data environment for sharing of bibliographic descriptions that currently use the MARC Format. Documentation of the project is available from the BIBFRAME web site, URL <http://www.loc.gov/bibframe>. Based on findings of the 2016 BIBFRAME pilot at LC and feedback from the linked open data community, NDMSO revised BIBFRAME extensively and published BIBFRAME 2.0 in March-April 2017. An upgrade to the MarkLogic datastore server software to MarkLogic Version 8 was installed and data conversion to BIBFRAME 2.0 began. This upgrade enables the inclusion of native handling of RDF triples in the database and security updates. In June 2017, ABA began training the 40 former pilot participants in BIBFRAME 2.0. In July, an additional 27 cataloging staff will be trained in BIBFRAME 2.0. By August, the BIBFRAME Pilot will resume with approximately 65 catalogers and copy catalogers using BIBFRAME 2.0. In contrast to the 2016 pilot, the BIBFRAME 2.0 phase will feature a simulated dynamic BIBFRAME environment, achieved by converting all bibliographic and authority records in the Library of Congress Online Catalog to BIBFRAME 2.0. The new phase of the BIBFRAME Pilot will test: input of bibliographic data using BIBFRAME 2.0 vocabulary; name authority work (using RDA as the cataloging standard) with MODS vocabulary; and non-Latin bibliographic description in native scripts. Participants will create descriptions of each resource in both MARC 21 and BIBFRAME 2.0. To encourage experimentation with BIBFRAME by the community, BIBFRAME 2.0 and all BIBFRAME tools developed at LC are made available for download on the software sharing site, GitHub.