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Before you Attend the Workshop: FRBR and the Future

*By Margaret Beecher Maurer
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Almost every national conference this year seems to have a session on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR). Also thanks to FRBR, all sorts of new terms are popping up in the literature as well. Works? Manifestations? What is this FRBR thing anyway, and why does it matter?

FRBR matters. A basic understanding of what FRBR is and how it relates to upcoming cataloging developments will help you in your work. It's a good idea to attend a workshop on the topic. An informative two-day Pre-Conference Workshop on FRBR is planned at ALA 2004 in Orlando. There is also a great deal of freely available web-based material on FRBR, some of which is referenced at the end of this article.

But before going to that conference, it would probably be helpful to gain a basic understanding of FRBR. That's the aim here, to provide a framework and not to try to fully explain all of the concepts and their ramifications. Read this first and then go to the conference.

In its simplest sense FRBR (pronounced "fur-bur") is the final report published in 1998 by the IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) Study Group on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records. This group was charged in 1992 with no less than providing a clearly structured framework for relating the data that are recorded in bibliographic records to the needs of the users of those records and to recommend a basic level of functionality for records created by national bibliographic agencies. The document produced by this group deli-

FRBR Glossary

ATTRIBUTE A characteristic of an entity

ENTITY A principle data object that information is collected about or created about.

ENTITY-RELATIONSHIP MODEL A conceptual data model that views the real world as entities and relationships between entities.

EXPRESSION The intellectual or artistic realization of a work.

FRBR Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records

IFLA International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

ITEM A single exemplar of a manifestation

MANIFESTATION The physical embodiment of an expression of a work.

RELATIONSHIP An association between two or more entities.

WORK A distinct intellectual or artistic creation

vered on all this and will probably guide the development of cataloging standards for decades, having at least the impact that the Paris Principles have had since their publication in 1961. If you want to predict the directions that cataloging and cataloging database design will take in the next few decades then look to FRBR. Translation: this is huge.

FRBR is not yet a data model. According to IFLA's FRBR web page it is "too abstract and generic" to be a data model. Instead, it is a reference model. It is a framework for "relating the data that are recorded in bibliographic records to the needs of those records." It is a vocabulary for specifying levels of representation for bibliographic data. It has potential for aiding the redesign of OPAC displays to a more user-centered model and it therefore is also a set of guidelines for creating data models for bibliographic data.

FRBR is not intended as a replacement for AACR2, MARC21 or any other MARC format. An extension to FRBR to the realm of name authority control is the on-going work of the *Functional Requirements of and Numbering of Authority Records Working Group* (FRANAR). A third group will be formed within IFLA to further expand the FRBR model of subject data. Before a truly complete data model for bibliographic data can be finalized the work of these 3 groups must be merged and further defined.

Organizations create data models to design databases. When creating a data model decisions are made about what kinds of data to include (author, title, etc.) and what kinds of relationships exist between those kinds of data in order to meet the needs of the data users. A MARC 21-based online library catalog (OPAC) is a database. It happens to be a very old style of database design.

Early on, MARC records were used to print paper catalog cards. Today's OPACs are still modeled on that card framework, however unconsciously this happened. Before FRBR no international effort had been made to think about all kinds of bibliographic data in a way that was quite so integrated with database design, mostly because the last time such a large-scale examination was made databases weren't really a factor. The work was also consciously done independently of any currently existing data structure or

system. The group wanted to think about what was needed, not how they would go about doing it.

The FRBR working group examined the structure of bibliographic data using a data modeling technique called the *entity-relationship model*. This is a conceptual data model that views the real world as comprised of *entities* and of *relationships* between those entities.

An entity can be defined as a data object that information is collected about or created about. For example, an entity might be an item to be cataloged or a person who created something. Each entity has characteristics, or *attributes*. These are similar to what we know of as data elements or metadata, such as the date of publication or a form of carrier. There are also many kinds of *relationships* that may exist between entities. For example, a creator [an entity] creates a manifestation [another entity] and *creates* expresses the relationship.

Chris Oliver laid out this chart in his excellent FRBR presentation. The FRBR model defines 3 groups of entities within the bibliographic record:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Products of intellectual or artistic endeavor	Those responsible for creating producing, etc., the entities in Group 1	Subjects of works
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work • Expression • Manifestation • Item 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person • Corporate Body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept • Object • Event • Place <p>*Group 1 and 2 entities can also be subjects.</p>

Let's look at the entities in Group 1 starting at the top of what is actually a hierarchy. (The elements in Group 2 and 3 are for another day and another paper.) A *work* is defined within FRBR as a "distinct intellectual or artistic creation." A work is an abstract entity. It does not represent a physical object. Think about Hamlet, just the idea of Hamlet as a story. There are many versions of Hamlet, many editions, many formats, but they are all Hamlet. Currently our best bibliographic description of what FRBR calls a work is our use of uniform titles, particularly Name/Title Authority Records for those titles. Music librarians in particular are way ahead of the curve in the use of these headings to collocate works.

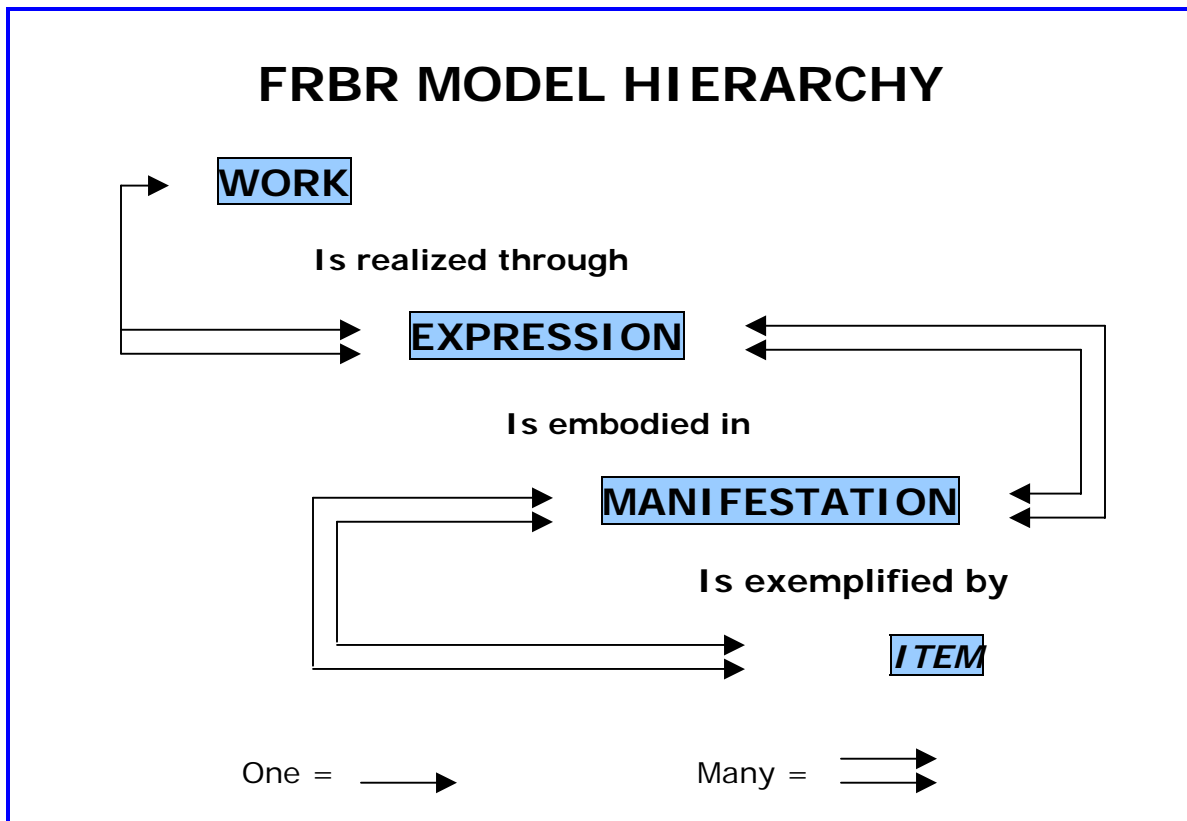
An *expression* is the "specific intellectual or artistic form that a *work* takes each time it is realized." Again it is an abstract entity and does not represent a physical object. Following our example above, think about a particular edition of the play Hamlet, or a specific motion picture production with a specific director. Currently we don't create headings for expressions. In fact

one of the problems researchers are having is that expressions information is buried within our bibliographic records. Some expression information now appears in our extensions to uniform titles, for example, with translations, where we add the language of the translation to the author/title uniform title for the work.

The *manifestation* is "the physical embodiment of the *expression of a work.*" Here we finally have a physical object. For example, all of the copies of a specific edition of the *Riverside Shakespeare* comprise the manifestation of that expression of the work Hamlet. Currently information about manifestation is stored in our bibliographic records as we catalog the manifestation of the work and the record can serve to identify any copy held anywhere.

An *item* is a single exemplar of a manifestation – the piece we have in hand. To follow our example, an item would be the specific volume of the *Riverside Shakespeare* that you add to your library. We store item level information in our item or holding records and occasionally we include a note about our specific copy in bibliographic records, such as for an autographed copy.

The relationships between these different entities may be clarified by looking at the FRBR Hierarchy.



Based on Patrick Le Boeuf's depiction of the FRBR model.

Works and expressions are abstract concepts that express content. Manifestations and items are used to describe the physical recording of the content. Every item contains a work, and an expression and is an example (a copy) of a manifestation, even if it is unique, so all the entities are represented in any item.

Next the FRBR report describes the various attributes associated with each entity, and discusses the relationships between the entities. This is the true meat of the document. Chris Oliver pointed out in a presentation that it is the relationships between the entities that provide the links between them and their collocation. They also, in his opinion, help users navigate through the catalog or database. In a recent article in *Technicalities* Barbara Tillett commented that within the FRBR model "...there are many ... rich content relationships that enable collocation of related items and navigation through the sometimes complex network of the bibliographic universe." This will be one of the real benefits of integrating FRBR into our bibliographic systems.

A mapping of user tasks to attributes and relationships, and lists of basic functionality requirements for national bibliographic records complete the document.

The process of creating the FRBR document has provided us with a better understanding of "the components of the bibliographic record and their function and value to the user," according to Chris Oliver. Patrick LeBoeuf, in a paper delivered at a FRBR seminar in Norway in 2002, pointed out that if you define a data model for bibliographic data you might then use that model to help eliminate inconsistencies, redundancies and deficiencies. Another benefit might be broadening the focus of bibliographic description beyond the level of the manifestation by "advancing the primacy of intellectual content over physical format" (Le Boeuf). All of this will drive many AACR2R revisions. Already the Joint Steering Committee is looking to FRBR to improve the traditional linking devices of uniform titles (Tillett).

Possible MARC 21 Changes

In 2001 the Library of Congress commissioned a functional analysis of the MARC 21 Bibliographic and Holdings Formats, partially to examine MARC 21 from the perspective of the FRBR model. Part of the analysis included a mapping of MARC elements to FRBR. Core difficulties that emerged from this work included the links between the records. Where links exist they are unexploited by many automation systems, and in other instances no links exist.

One idea that has been studied is the creation of 4 separate MARC formats to allow the expression of all of the data relationships: records for works, expressions, manifestations and items. The works records, for example, could contain subject information that is common to all manifestations. However researchers are having difficulties defining exactly where expression

data can be reliably extracted, particularly from older records. Remember that sometimes expression information may be part of a uniform title extension or may be embedded in an edition statement or may be missing entirely. OCLC in particular has had difficulties with this.

And not every kind of document needs the full FRBR treatment. According to IFLA "Many works are available in only one version and are issued only once in only one format. The FRBR tree structure would not prove very useful in such cases and would result on the contrary in much redundancy. The whole range of documents from Hamlet to self-published holidays recollections represents a continuum from maximal helpfulness of FRBR to no helpfulness at all." OCLC reported that over 80% of the records in their WorldCat reflect a single manifestation per work. This may mean less effort needed to catalog in the future.

I am unaware of any research on the percentage of public library materials that arrive in multiple manifestations, and therefore can't speak to whether or not overall WorldCat statistics are representative of the situation in public libraries. Anecdotal evidence suggests that more multiple-manifestation items would be purchased by public libraries than by other types of libraries. For example, best sellers are often simultaneously issued in print, in large print and in audio-format. Another example are movie tie-in books, or books that are made into movies. Children's materials also tend to reflect multiple age manifestations since publishers have discovered new markets by reselling the same stories at different reading levels. Public library materials tend to be format intensive.

Library Systems Design

A FRBRized catalog would have improved indexing, sorting and displays of information, according to Oliver. It could exhibit improved navigation because in theory it would collocate entities in a more user-centered manner, and the relationships between items would be more explicit. For example, if the user needed only a particular work, regardless of manifestation, they could search at that level, and perhaps place holds or reserves at that level.

To test some of these possibilities, OCLC has created FictionFinder, a FRBR-based prototype for fiction in WorldCat. In August 2003 OCLC announced the availability of a free algorithm for converting bibliographic databases to the FRBR model. The FictionFinder database is based on this algorithm. In this prototype records are indexed at the work level (based on normalized author/title key) and displays are organized by work and expression (primarily by language). These works level displays allow for result sets that are easier to navigate because they are shorter. Michael Crichton has authored 395 manifestation-based bibliographic records in WorldCat, which in Fiction Finder are presented as 17 entries in the works search results list. Information from the bibliographic record (summaries, subject headings,

genre terms, etc.) are also “extracted from individual bibliographic records, filtered, and presented at the work level.”

VTLS has also incorporated FRBR into its Virtua OPAC. They have created separate records at the works, expressions and manifestations levels and present their records in a tree structure hierarchy. Patrons have the ability to place and satisfy requests and holds at the works and expressions level.

Conclusions and Future Directions

Researchers will face significant challenges in implementing the FRBR model in cataloging, many of which deal with workflow. For example, the types of records that are the most likely to benefit include some of the oldest records in our databases, records that are least likely to be coded to future standards. Currently the manifestation is cataloged as a whole. Claudia Conrad pointed out at the 2004 IMUG conference that the point when the works or expressions level information would be recorded is often long after the manifestations level records are entered into the system, and routines would need to be created to identify candidates for works level cataloging – hopefully automated ones.

FRBR will make a difference in how we catalog. As Patrick Le Boeuf has pointed out “FRBR is not an end but a beginning, and it is only one element in cataloguers’ future landscape.” It will, however, be easier to understand future changes by understanding what is meant by FRBR.

Dr. Barbara B. Tillett, Chief, Cataloging Policy and Support Office, was kind enough to review this article prior to publication. Her comments and suggestions were extremely helpful. You may also want to look at her recent article in “Technicalities” that will soon be available on the web through the Library of Congress Cataloging Distribution Service. Free color reprints of the “Technicalities” article are also available.

FRBR Resources

Baden, Diane. *Is FRBR in our future?* NELINET, ILL Spring meeting, June 16, 20003. <http://www.nelinet.net/conf/ill/rsac03/baden.ppt>.

Beacom, Matthew. *The once & future catalog: the FRBR model, users and catalogs*. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Library, October 23, 2003. <http://www.library.yale.edu/~mbeacom/talk/Once%20and%20Future%20Catalog2.ppt>.

FictionFinder Database. (An OCLC project to cluster records at the works level.) <http://fictionfinder.oclc.org/>

FRBR Bibliography. <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/wgfrbr/bibliography.htm>

Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records, Final Report. (Munich: K.G. Saur, 1998). Also at <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/frbr.frbr.pdf>.

Joint Steering Committee for Revision of Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules Current Activities. <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/jsc/current.html>

IFLA Cataloguing Section's Working Group on FRBR online discussion list and web site. This site includes presentations, a FRBR FAQ, a bibliography, and more. <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/wgfrbr/wgfrbr.htm>

Le Boeuf, Patrick. *The Future of FRBR: An exercise in soothsaying.* A paper delivered at the FRBR Seminar organized by Den Norske Katalogkomité at Stavanger, Norway, on April 26th, 2002. Available at http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/wgfrbr/papers/stavanger_sooth.pdf.

MARC and FRBR (Library of Congress) <http://www.loc.gov/marc/marc-functional-analysis/frbr.html>

OCLC open-source FRBR algorithm for converting bibliographic databases to FRBR model. <http://www.oclc.org/research/software/frbr>

Oliver, Chris. *FRBR: Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records: What is FRBR and Why is it important?*. Presentation given at the Canadian Metadata Forum, Ottawa, September 2003. Available at <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/obj/n11/f2/n11-228.2-e.pdf>

Tillett, Barbara B. "FRBR (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records) *Technicalities* 23(5) [September/October 2003] p. 1,11-13.

VTLS Virtua Integrated Library System (a FRBRized catalog). <http://www.vtls.com/Products/virtua.shtml>

NOTSL Scholarships

Each spring the Northern Ohio Technical Services Librarians organization awards scholarships to persons currently working in a professional, para-professional or support position in a technical services area in an Ohio library or to students taking coursework in technical services librarianship. One or more scholarships, for a maximum total of \$1,000, are awarded. If you are interested in applying for a NOTSL Scholarship this spring, visit the website at <http://www.otsl.org> and/or monitor local discussion lists such as OPLIN and TSLIBRARIAN for application information, which will soon be available.

TechKNOW is published on the Internet by the Technical Services Division of the Ohio Library Council. For more information, or to submit articles, please contact Margaret Maurer at Kent State University Libraries and Media Services at 330.672.1702, at home at 330.628.0313, or via the Internet at mmaurer@lms.kent.edu.

Coordinator's Corner: OLC Technical Services - Today and Tomorrow

In October 2003, the Technical Services Division officers and Action Council met at the OLC Leadership Conference to plan the Division's work for 2004 and to begin planning for the Division's offerings at the Annual Conference in September 2004. Yes, we really do work on the Annual Conference that far in advance. We will meet again in July 2004 to begin planning for the Chapter Conferences that will be held in the spring of 2005.

So, what's my point? The Technical Services Division just finished a very successful year. But the work for 2003 didn't begin in January last year. The success of the Mohican Conference and the meaningful programs offered at chapter conferences and at Annual were based as much on work accomplished in previous years as on the work of 2003. This is probably easy for all members of the Technical Services Division to understand. In many ways our daily operations involve the policies, decisions and work of our predecessors. This is a powerful reminder that our own work today will have a significant impact on others tomorrow.

We are starting a new year. I would like to begin my year as Coordinator with sincere appreciation for all of the talented and hard working people who have served the OLC Technical Services Division in past years. I would like to say a special thank you to Joanne Gilliam, last year's Coordinator. I am looking forward to working with Joanne and other members of the Action Council this year as we try to build on last year's success.

I would also like to begin this year with an invitation to all TS Division members. Please work with us. We will need your help. Feel free to contact me, or any member of the Action Council, if you would like to help us this year. We need your ideas for programs and newsletter articles. We need writers, presenters, and attendees. In a few months we will need candidates for leadership positions in the division. In other words, we need you today *and* tomorrow.

**-- Bonnie Doepker, Assistant Director for
Technical Services, Dayton Metro Library**

Janet Swan Hill to keynote OVGTSL Annual Meeting

This year's Ohio Valley Group of Technical Services Librarians (OVGTSL) Annual Meeting will feature Janet Swan Hill as the keynote speaker. A featured speaker at OLC's *Technical Services 2003: Inspiration, Example, Synthesis*, Hill is Associate Director for Technical Services at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Her presentation will focus on technical services as user services. The OVGTSL Annual Meeting is May 12-14 at the Galt House Hotel, Louisville, KY. Registration information will be available at the OVGTSL website at <http://www.wku.edu/Library/ovgtsl/Home.html>.

Cataloging Errors, Efficiency and Professional Judgment - With Tips for Reporting Errors to LC and OCLC

*Ian Fairclough, Catalog Librarian
Marion Public Library*

Today I noticed an authority record that had an error, an omitted letter, in field 670, in which source data are recorded. "Should I bother to report it?" I thought briefly - while initiating the process. After all, few people will know or care - certainly not in this trivial case. Half an hour later, an LC staff member kindly sent a thank-you note by e-mail.

Many would say that very few people (except this writer!) care about a minor typographical error in an obscure field in authority record. Anyone concerned can tell what the word was intended to be. If anyone really wants to know, they can (as I did) consult the LC online catalog for the title of the work referenced in field 670. Why take up the valuable resources of your employer and the cataloging agency in so insignificant a task? We've more important things to do with our time, haven't we?

An efficient approach, however, also considers that it's better for one person to correct an error than for thousands of people to do so. Incidentally, a one-second task performed a thousand times consumes approximately twenty minutes FTE!

Perhaps no one will notice this error and correct it. If you decline to report an error because the error itself is "minor," then you have exercised a value judgment - one that reflects your own opinion. And unbeknownst to you, another person may have a different opinion, based on different needs. Perhaps an automated search programmed to retrieve the word containing the error will fail. One person's minor typo is another's failed search. To evaluate the importance of a very minor error is a step that distorts the worth of the task of error reporting.

At a professional level, the question of the appropriateness of reporting errors has already resolved. Numerous agencies such as OCLC and the Library of Congress (LC) have provided guidelines for doing so, and clearly encourage the contribution of reports. None of these agencies has, to my



**Be sure to check out Ian Fairclough's Southwest Chapter
Conference Program:**

To Err is Human, To Report is Humane

March 30, 2004, Dayton

knowledge, issued any qualifications that they might require of those who contribute error reports. Therefore, anyone can report an error. And furthermore, any level of error may be reported.

This is not to say, of course, that catalogers shouldn't use discretion when doing their job. Perhaps your supervisor has told you not to report errors - in which case, doing so is not in your own best interests. Some agencies require one person, and only that person, to serve as the contact between them and another agency - a step necessary for major administrative concerns, but rarely so for error reporting.

One approach would be to inform supervisors of the value of error reporting. Perhaps a discussion about how following standards, exercising quality control, communicating with our suppliers and assisting the nation's libraries in reducing errors is in everyone's best interests. Doing so is efficient, and represents sound professional judgment.

For those of you who are willing and able to report errors but aren't already doing so, both the Library of Congress and OCLC have provided automated error reporting facilities. To send a report to LC, fill out the form at <http://www.loc.gov/help/contact-libarch-report.html>. A form for changes to OCLC's WorldCat bibliographic records is at <https://www3.oclc.org/app/bibchg/>. Or if you prefer, you can write an e-mail message to LC at cpso@loc.gov or to OCLC at bibchange@oclc.org. Be sure to provide contact information in case follow-up is needed.

Finally, two tips:

- (1) It's more efficient to report errors in Library of Congress records to them as well as to OCLC, since other agencies receiving LC records also benefit.
- (2) Before reporting to LC an error in an LC record found in WorldCat or elsewhere, consult LC's catalog at <http://catalog.loc.gov>. The records can differ, and sometimes LC's record is still in process and should NOT be reported to them (although OCLC will welcome a report).

NOTSL is *Approved* as a CE Provider for Professional Certification in Ohio

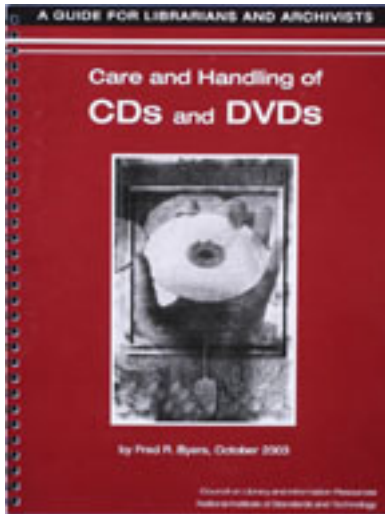
*By Laura Casey, NOTSL Chairperson
Assistant Director, McKinley Memorial Library*

The Northern Ohio Technical Services Librarians (NOTSL) are pleased to announce that our organization is now listed as an Approved Continuing Professional Development Provider for the OLC Ohio Public Librarian Certification Program. Therefore, attendance at educational programs

sponsored by NOTSL may be submitted as Noncredit Continuing Education Activities in full confidence by application for certification or for certification renewal.

We will be providing documentation to attendees of all future NOTSL programs to confirm their attendance. Information regarding the dates, topics, and contact hours of past programs will be forthcoming on the NOTSL website.

NOTSL is very pleased to be a part of the OLC Certification program as we strive to provide quality continuing education opportunities for technical services personnel at our biannual programs. For more information about NOTSL please see our website at: <http://www.notsl.org>. For more information about the Certification Program, please see the OLC website at: <http://www.ocl.org/certification.asp>.



Byers, Fred R. *Care and Handling of CDs and DVDs: A Guide for Librarians and Archivists.* Council on Library and Information Resources, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 2003. 42 p. 1-932326-04-9, \$15.00. [<http://www.clir.org>]

Care and Handling of CDs and DVDs is a must-have for anyone responsible for the storage, preservation and physical processing of CDs and DVDs. We all know that optical discs are not really indestructible, and their longevity is highly de-pendent on physical treatment and storage conditions. This book

will help you optimize both.

This slim, spiral-bound book was co-published by two prestigious organizations that specialize in technical standards and data. The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) is an independent, nonprofit organization that is "dedicated to improving the management of information for research, teaching and learning." The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) was founded in 1901 as a non-regulatory federal agency that develops and promotes measurement, standards and technology.

The author, Fred R. Byers, was a good choice to write this book, not just because he works at NIST, and not just because his research has focused on optical disc reliability and on the localization of defects in

optical discs. Byers is also one of those rare people that can present highly technical information clearly, readably and understandably

The book begins with a detailed description of disc structures for a wide variety of optical disc formats. You really leave this section understanding how these media work. After a brief section on disc longevity, the author discusses the storage and treatment conditions that affect CDs and DVD. There is also a section on cleaning methods. The appendices include lists of commercially available disc types, a list of optical media drive types with an explanation of how they handle different disc types, a glossary and a bibliography.

Available in spiral-bound from CLIR it is also available on the web at <http://www.clir.org/pubs/abstract/pub121abst.html>.

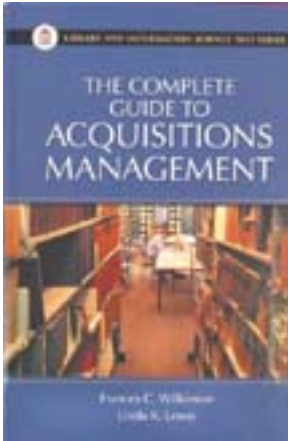
Cataloging Mentors Wanted

The ALCTS/CCS Committee on Education Training and Recruitment for Cataloging's Mentoring Program Subcommittee is debuting their new *Cataloger Mentoring Program*. This program is based on the idea that "more contact between practicing catalog librarians and library graduate students would provide the students with a realistic view of the work and responsibilities of catalog librarians."

Within this program, mentors are matched with mentees by liaisons based on mutual interests, with the mentor making the initial contact. The mentor and mentee then determine the shape of their mentoring relationship, with the mentor aiming to introduce the mentee "to the social, political and professional requirements of the cataloging specialty." A program liaison is available for assistance, and program guidelines and a mentoring bibliography are available on the Mentoring Program Website.

This program fills an important niche in the work to attract and retain high quality catalogers for the future. Studies have shown that the best recruiters to any profession are the practitioners themselves. We who love cataloging are therefore great advertisements for cataloging careers. Please consider volunteering for this important program.

For more information, or to register as a mentor, just visit <http://library.ucsc.edu/mentoring/>.



Wilkinson, Frances C. and Linda K. Lewis. *The Complete Guide to Acquisitions Management*. Libraries Unlimited, 2003. 297 p. 1-56308-890-8, \$ 60.00 (hardback); 1-56308-892-4, \$45 (paperback).

Part of Libraries Unlimited's Library and Information Science Text series, *The Complete Guide to Acquisitions Management* intends to provide information on both "the procedural and philosophical approaches to acquisitions." As such it fills a gap in the professional literature, providing up-to-date information in an easy to read format.

Both authors of this text have extensive experience in library acquisitions and both have written long lists of publications and books, and the depth of their professional experience is obvious in this book. Frances C. Wilkinson is the Associate Dean of Library Services at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. She was chosen as a 2003 UCLA Senior Fellow and is also a recipient of the 2000 ALCTS Leadership in Library Acquisitions Award. Linda K. Lewis is the Director of Collection Management and Resource Acquisitions at The University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

This book includes discussions of departmental organization and processes, automation systems, and vendor selection and evaluation. A sizable portion of the book is devoted to the acquisitions of materials by various formats. The sections on serials and electronic resources are extensive, as is the information provided on acquiring books. Unfortunately the section on acquiring media is less extensive. The information is current and accurate. The authors also chose to include an entire chapter on professional ethics.

There is an excellent appendix that includes lists of automated acquisitions systems, conferences and seminars, Internet sites, electronic discussion lists, journals, professional organizations, and reference tools. The glossary is extensive and includes detailed definitions. These are all tools that managers in acquisitions really need to know about. There is also an index.

Yes this textbook will be used by library science courses. But managers that are new to the acquisitions process will also find it useful precisely because it provides them with an accurate mental picture of the terrain that is the acquisitions.

A Chance to Serve and to Lead

The Technical Services Division is once again looking for candidates to run for office. Becoming an officer with the TS division is a great way to develop new leadership skills as well as an opportunity to network with technical services

librarians statewide. The number of division meetings per year is small with most business being handled through email and over the telephone. Division Officers are invited to attend the OLC Leadership Conference in the fall.

We are currently seeking two candidates to run for Assistant Coordinator, which is a three-year commitment. The successful candidate acts as the division's Assistant Coordinator for a year while they learn the ropes. They then serve as the Coordinator and finally as the Past Coordinator. We are also seeking at least 4 candidates to run for Action Council. Action Council Members serve for two years and assist the Coordinators with division business. Together the members of the division's Action Council plan programs, produce publications and represent technical services concerns for OLC.

If you are interested in running for office please contact Jane Myers at Westlake Porter Public Library at 440.871.2600 or at jane.myers@westlake.library.org.

A First Step Toward Distance Education

Some of us would like to attain library degrees, undergraduate as well as graduate, but find ourselves blocked by geography, by scheduling conflicts or by a lack of time to attend traditional in-class coursework. Because of these constraints distance education has been growing as an alternative to traditional classes. Distance education can take many forms. For example, Kent State's school of Library and Information Science offers their Distance 12-12-12 program that allows students to participate in library school classes via videoconference. Some schools offer courses via the web, with varying degrees of campus visits required.

If you are beginning your search for a distance education program a good first stop is Douglas Winship's *Distance Courses* file. The file contains an informal list of sites that maintain lists of schools offering courses in librarianship as well as a list of schools that AUTOCAT subscribers report have MLS / MLIS distance classes. There are links to the schools' websites in most cases.

Douglas is the list owner and editor of the AUTOCAT discussion list, and the file is maintained on the University of Buffalo's listserv software. Simply send an email message to listserv@listserv.buffalo.edu that contains the message *get distant.courses* and the listserv software will send you a copy of the file. You do not need to subscribe to the AUTOCAT list to receive the file.

TS Division Direct to You: 2004 Chapter Conferences

Northeast Chapter Conference – March 24, Kent State University

- Metadata Schmetadata ... Tell me why I should care? / Margaret Maurer, Kent State University Libraries and Media Services
- Is Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Right for Your Library? / Shelley Neville, Dynix
- Caring for Clipping Files and Local History Resources / Ann Olszewski, Cleveland Public Library
- MARC for everyone else! / Sevim McCutcheon, SEO Library Center
- Taking It to the Next Level: Tips for Cataloging Rare, Unique, or Locally Significant Materials / Laura Salmon, Akron–Summit County Public Library

Southwest Chapter Conference – March 30, Dayton

- Using Vendor Websites in Collection Development and Acquisitions / Bonnie Doepker and Jill Peters, Dayton Metro Library
- To Err is Human, To Report Humane / Ian Fairclough, Marion Public Library
- MARC for everyone else! / Sevim McCutcheon, SEO Library Center
- Dynamic Dewey 22 / Donna Schroeder, OHIONET
- Taking It to the Next Level: Tips for Cataloging Rare, Unique, or Locally Significant Materials / Sheryl R. Pockrose, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County; Laura Salmon, Akron–Summit County Public Library

North Chapter Conference – April 7, Cleveland

- Caring for Clipping Files and Local History Resources / Ann Olszewski, Cleveland Public Library
- MARC for everyone else! / Sevim McCutcheon, SEO Library Center
- Metadata Schmetadata ... Tell me why I should care? / Greg Weller, Cuyahoga County Public Library

Northwest Chapter Conference – April 16, Toledo

- Looking for a Date with AACR/MARC? / Jeanne Poole, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library
- Taking It to the Next Level: Tips for Cataloging Rare, Unique, or Locally Significant Materials / Laura Salmon, Akron–Summit County Public Library
- Using Vendor Websites in Collection Development and Acquisitions / Bonnie Doepker and Jill Peters, Dayton Metro Library
- Dynamic Dewey 22 / Donna Schroeder, OHIONET

Central Chapter Conference – April 22, Columbus

- Caring for Clipping Files and Local History Resources / Julie Callahan, Columbus Metropolitan Library
- Dynamic Dewey 22 / Donna Schroeder, OHIONET
- Metadata Schmetadata ... Tell me why I should care? / Margaret Maurer, Kent State University Libraries and Media Services
- Using Vendor Websites in Collection Development and Acquisitions / Bonnie Doepker and Jill Peters, Dayton Metro Library

Southeast Chapter Conference – April 29, Zanesville

- **MARC for everyone else! / Sevim McCutcheon, SEO Library Center**
- **Dynamic Dewey 22 / Donna Schroeder, OHIONET**