

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### OCLC's ENHANCE PROGRAM 1

#### WHAT WILL WE DO WHEN THE 440 FIELD BECOMES OBSOLETE? 6

#### BOOK REVIEW: RADICAL CATALOGING 7

#### FLOATING COLLECTIONS AT COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN LIBRARY 8

#### MOHICAN III: LOOKING BEYOND THE HORIZON 10

#### OLAC/MOUG CONFERENCE 11

#### COORDINATOR'S CORNER 12

#### SUMMARY OF LC's RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP 13

#### BOOK REVIEW: THE COMPLETE RFID HANDBOOK 15

*by Sevim McCutcheon, Catalog Librarian, Kent State University*

How many of us have come across a minimal-level bibliographic record in the WorldCat database that's riddled with errors, or is nothing but skin and bones? Most of us bring these records in, but we don't let them remain in our catalog as is. Instead we substantially edit the records before exporting them for local use. What we often don't do is to share our changes internationally, to take that one more step to improve WorldCat for others.

Most of us could use the replace command to improve minimal-level records, as outlined in *Bibliographic Formats and Standards'* chapter on quality assurance. Folks that do this deserve a pat on the back. If we all did this more regularly our own work would live on to save the time of every cataloger and to improve the experience of every catalog user. Plus, by correcting and enriching records we earn credits against our OCLC bills for our libraries.

Think about how often we come across a supposedly full-level record that doesn't live up to the standards for accuracy and completeness that its encoding level requires. Who hasn't encountered a less-than-stellar record, coded "I" by a cataloger who was overconfident of their abilities, or maybe just having a bad hair day? Editing for our own catalogs is possible, but for most of us, replacing the full-level master record is not.

We always have the option of reporting errors to OCLC's Quality Control Section, which gets the record in line for attention. But during the time delay between the report and the fix, other users of the record must either accept the record as is, or repeat the same editing. Considering that we're doing the work for our libraries anyway, wouldn't it be nice to just press a button, fix it right away, and save all future catalogers the hassle?

*CONTINUED on page 2*

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For those of us that long for the immediate gratification of affecting an international database with a click of the mouse, those of us that are frustrated with errors in some member-contributed full-level records, and those of us that think we can do better, there is an answer—participate in OCLC's Enhance Program.

### What We Can Change in WorldCat

OCLC catalogers have always had the ability to correct and replace master records when their OCLC symbol is the only holding symbol attached. Those with full-level cataloging authorizations may also upgrade or replace

minimal-level records. There are also many ways that full-level catalogers may enrich records in the database, as outlined in *Bibliographic Formats and Standards*. Many of these replacements and corrections earn credits that can off-set regular OCLC charges.

Additionally, those of us that have solid cataloging skills and that are willing to jump through a few hoops, have opportunities to take matters into our own hands. By joining OCLC's Enhance Program, proficient catalogers are authorized to edit and replace full-level non-serial records input by fellow member libraries of OCLC (all Encoding Levels except blank, 1 and 4 when field 042 is coded pcc). And Enhancing records earns additional credits against OCLC charges.

### TS Division Election Results

TS Division election results are in. Two new Action Council members have been elected. The winners are Laura Kinner, Director of Technical Services, The University of Toledo Libraries, and Kathy Webb, Head of Technical Services, Elyria Public Library. Many Thanks to Kathleen Lamantia, Technical Services Librarian, Stark County District Library and to Deborah Malecha, Head of Technical Services, Delaware County District Library for running for office. Next year's Assistant Coordinator and Secretary will be selected by Action Council members. A list of division officers is available at <http://www.olc.org/TechnicalServices.asp>.

The Enhance Program may be the best-kept secret of the quality control mechanisms available to catalogers who use WorldCat. Although the Enhance Program is open to any of the 9,875 institutions which are full members of OCLC, only 162 are participants in the Regular Enhance Program. An additional 51 institutions participate in the National Enhance Program, by invitation. Why such low numbers? Because unlike the other quality control mechanisms that are available automatically with an OCLC authorization number, attaining Enhance Status entails an application process designed to weed out less proficient catalogers. My goal in this article is to convince catalogers that this process is no big deal, is well worth the effort, and that

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and at the *TechKNOW* mirror site at Kent State University Libraries and Media Services at <http://www.library.kent.edu/techknow>. For more information, to submit articles or book or product reviews, or to be placed on an e-mail announcement list for new issues please contact Margaret

Maurer at Kent State University Libraries and Media Services at 330.672.1702 or at <mailto:mbmaurer@kent.edu>. ISSN: 1939-1641. *The opinions expressed in this publication are the responsibility of the authors alone and should not be interpreted as the opinions of the OLC.*

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they probably already know what they need to know to participate.

### **My Personal Journey Through the Enhance Program**

I'm not sure when or how I first learned about the Enhance Program. Most likely I heard about it on discussion lists and in workshops, and skimmed over the description of it in the *Bibliographic Formats and Standards* chapter about Quality Assurance. I can state with certainty that my three motivations for applying were frustration, altruism, and arrogance.

I found it frustrating to select a full level record in WorldCat with an obvious error or omission. I could put forth the effort to fix it for my own database, but without Enhance Status, those edits disappeared from the

master record as soon as I moved on to another task. It rubbed me the wrong way to leave others encountering that record to fend for themselves. What a waste of time it was for each of us to repeat the same work, or worse, to accept the record as it was. I also regretted missing the opportunity to add value, to increase the efficiency of fellow catalogers, and to maximize access for library users world-wide. I was chomping at the bit to fix the bibliographic records on the spot, and, having done original and copy cataloging in multiple formats for several years, I was confident that I had the expertise to do so.

I began my Enhance journey when I was working at the Serving Every Ohioan (SEO) Library Center. The one page Enhance application was a breeze to fill out. The form required a little digging for statistics on my library's collection size per format and cataloging activity per year, but ballpark estimates were acceptable. I had fun compiling printouts of the 10 to 15 sample

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### **Additional Resources**

OCLC Bibliographic Formats and Standards: Encoding Level (ELvI) Fixed Field  
<http://www.oclc.org/bibformats/en/fixedfield/elvi.shtm>

OCLC Bibliographic Formats and Standards: Quality Assurance  
Minimal-Level Upgrades: section 5.2  
Database Enrichment: section 5.4  
Cooperative Programs (Including Enhance): section 5.5  
<http://www.oclc.org/bibformats/en/quality/default.shtm>

OCLC Enhance Discussion List  
<https://mailman1.u.washington.edu/mailman/listinfo/enhance>

OCLC Enhance Program Evaluation Procedure  
<http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation/worldcat/records/enhanceevaluation/default.htm>

OCLC Enhance Program Participants  
<http://www.oclc.org/worldcat/catalog/quality/enhance/default.htm>

OCLC Enhance Program Training Outline  
<http://www.oclc.org/support/training/worldcat/enhanceoutline/>

OCLC Regular Enhance Requirements and Application Instructions  
<http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation/worldcat/records/enhancerequirements/default.htm>

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bibliographic records to submit—it was almost like putting together an artist's portfolio. The most time consuming part was reviewing each record for accuracy. This is a situation where you want to show your best work!

I sent one application form and set of samples for each format of interest to OCLC. Some weeks later, a packet arrived from Jay Weitz, Senior Consulting Database Specialist at OCLC. A letter was enclosed that congratulated me on passing in some formats. He encouraged me to re-apply for the other formats.

And, wonder of wonders, my sample printouts were also enclosed. They were annotated with Jay's handwritten notes containing corrections and explanations. I can't explain how happy getting this feedback made me, having worked in isolation as my institution's lone

original cataloger for years. It felt like getting one-on-one tutoring from a personable and expert teacher. Even failing the first time around in a format or two had a silver lining as I learned from Jay's feedback, and became a better cataloger.

The last step was to pass the probationary period. Training consisted of reading and absorbing the contents of the *Enhance Training Outline*. Joining the *Enhance Discussion List* was recommended for ongoing support and information. After I'd actually used my new, powerful Enhanced authorization on a dozen member-created I-level records, I sent "before" and "after" printouts of the upgrades to Jay Weitz. When Jay was satisfied, he sent an email saying that I had passed.


In 2006, I changed jobs and started working at Kent State University. While individuals apply for Enhance capability, it is their institutions that are actually designated as Enhance participants. In fact, once an institution is so designated, it takes responsibility for administering the local assignment of Enhance authorizations. My Enhance capabilities therefore did not move with me.

I could, however, act as a guide through the application process for coworkers at Kent. Since I'd been through it before, I let other people submit examples of their work instead of me as much as possible. In time, Kent State University passed probation in four formats.

### **If I Haven't Convinced You Yet...**

Many more catalogers than are currently participating are capable of responsibly Enhancing master records. There are no stipulations that the individuals applying have

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**OCLC - MOUG  
CLEVELAND CONFERENCE**  
[www.oclc.org/oclc-moug/home.htm](http://www.oclc.org/oclc-moug/home.htm)

**Rocking the Metaverse:  
A/V Cataloging in a Web X.O  
Environment  
Cleveland, Ohio**

**September 26-28, 2008**

*CONTINUED from page 4*

an MLS or do original cataloging as opposed to copy cataloging. What is required is demonstrated cataloging competence, knowledge of cataloging rules and MARC21, and judicious responsibility in deciding whether a record does or does not require enhancement. I encourage catalogers who have some years of experience, eagle eyes, and a firm grasp of AACR and MARC to apply for Enhance authorization. The effort it takes is nothing compared to the long term rewards.

One added bonus is that by gaining Enhance status, you and your institution join a fairly selective group of catalogers. Participation reflects well on both the institution and the catalogers, particularly at annual review time.

Motivations and rewards for participating in the Enhance Program therefore run the gamut from personal satisfaction to an awareness of global interdependence. It's an opportunity to altruistically serve our

profession, fellow catalogers, and users. It's an opportunity to earn monetary credits with OCLC for our workplace. It's a feather in our caps. But wait there's more!

Remember that if we only upgrade or correct records in our local databases, we do nothing to improve user access to our catalog via OCLC WorldCat. Only the master record is searchable there. Also, if an institution ever opts to use WorldCat Local for their library catalog's discovery layer then it is the master record that is searched, not the local catalog's record.

The more of us there are that are Enhancing records, chances are the sooner a bibliographic record will be Enhanced. For very new materials, early Enhancement could make a huge difference for a lot of libraries.

In these days of WorldCat Local, online catalogs and the Internet, all cataloging is global. By contributing through the OCLC Enhance Program, any cataloger's global impact can be substantially amplified.

## Plan Ahead: OHIONET Training Calendar

[http://www.ohionet.org/training\\_calendar.php](http://www.ohionet.org/training_calendar.php)



- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| • August 28th    | Fundamentals of Cataloging: Subject Analysis                   |
| • September 23rd | Fundamentals of Cataloging: Continuing Resources               |
| • October 21st   | Technical Services Workflow Analysis                           |
| • October 28th   | Fundamentals of Cataloging: Classification                     |
| • November 6th   | Authority Records Workshop                                     |
| • November 20th  | Fundamentals of Cataloging: AV Materials                       |
| • December 2nd   | Connexion Client Basics  |
| • December 4th   | Library of Congress Workshop: Integrating Cataloging Resources |
| • December 11th  | The Future of Technical Services                               |
| • December 16th  | Introduction to Local Holdings Maintenance                     |



# What Will We Do When the 440 Field Becomes Obsolete?

At ALA in June MARBI passed MARC proposal No. 2008-07, which scheduled the 440 field for obsolescence. The proposal also clarified the first indicator value "1" of field 490 to indicate that the series is traced in an 8xx field. Visit <http://www.loc.gov/marc/marbi/2008/2008-07.html> to view the entire proposal.

Machine-Readable Bibliographic Information (MARBI) is an interdivisional ALA committee charged with considering proposed changes to the MARC21 formats. Decisions by this committee are implemented internationally after widespread consultation.

Historically the 440 field has been used when the form in which the series appeared on the piece was the same as the way that access was provided to the series. This field has long been problematic because it has been the only MARC21 field that contained both access and descriptive information. The complexities inherent in the field co-existing with the 490 and 8xx fields made training new catalogers more difficult, and complicated workflows in acquisitions units.

Once the 440 is made obsolete, catalogers will record how the series appears on the piece in the 490 field, regardless of whether or not the series is traced. An 8xx (800, 810, 811, or 830) field will be used to store the access point if series access is provided. This means that the contents of the 490 field might be repeated in an 8xx field.

As before, the first indicator of field 490 will indicate if series access is provided: "0" indicates the series isn't traced and "1" indicates that the series is traced in an 8xx field. MARBI did recommend editorial changes to the first indicator in the 490 field that point more specifically to the 8xx fields as access points. Please note that 8xx fields may appear with or without the 490 field.

Currently, if a series is traced the same as it appears on the piece, it appears as:

440 0 Series on cataloging

After the change is implemented it would appear as:

490 1 Series on cataloging  
830 0 Series on cataloging.

If a series is currently traced differently than it appears on the piece, it appears as:

490 1 Works  
800 1 Park, Felicity. #t Works.

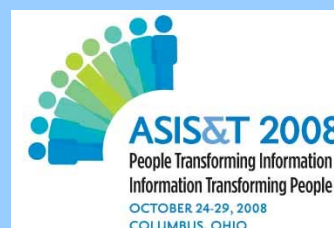
After the change is implemented it would still appear as:

490 1 Works  
800 1 Park, Felicity. #t Works.

During MARBI's discussion, concerns were expressed regarding data redundancy in the 490 and 8xx fields, but it was felt that the simplified decision process afforded by the change "outweighed the minimal consequences of repetition of fields."

Libraries will have to consider whether or not to retrospectively convert their databases, depending on their ability to do so. MARBI noted that MARC

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<http://www.asis.org/Conferences/AM08/>

A great deal of attention has been paid to the rapid growth of the Internet, proliferation of information - especially born-digital content, and the development of technologies in response to these trends. ASIS&T 2008 will focus on how people transform information as well as how information transforms people.

**CONTINUED from page 6**

principles allow obsolete data fields to remain in records. The MARBI discussion assumed that OCLC will investigate moving data in WorldCat records, as they did during format integration. Many libraries may opt to leave the 440 fields and index them there. Care must be taken locally to ensure that 4xxs and 8xxs are indexed properly. Libraries may opt to send their database to an authority control vendor to transition the data. If the library uses a vendor for authority work, they may need to update their profile to accommodate the changes. Local batch updating to transition data is an option, but must be done carefully. Regardless of these retrospective issues, the changes have consequences for acquisitions and other copy cataloging staff and catalogers which may require training.

OCLC and the Library of Congress have not yet implemented these changes. Announcements about the implementation of the changes will be issued in an OCLC Technical Bulletin and on the OCLC-CAT discussion list.

Some libraries and authority control vendors have already adopted this change and therefore libraries may be affected even if they don't implement the changes immediately. We may begin to see cataloging copy with identical information in 490 1/8xx fields. Libraries must decide what their practices will be regarding these records, particularly in copy cataloging units.

Remember that this decision comes on the heels of LC's decision to cease maintaining series authority access, and that decision will surely shape the consequences of this recent MARBI decision.

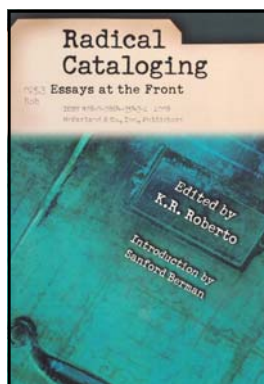
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**K.R. Roberto, editor. *Radical Cataloging: Essays at the Front*. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2008. 311 p. ISBN 978-0-7864-3543-2. \$45.00**

*Radical Cataloging* collects together a set of scholarly essays about cataloging written by people who are passionate about their work. Don't think of this, however, as just another dry tome on cataloging—it's so much more than that.

This is a book on why we catalog, and about what is important about our work. As such it simultaneously takes us back to our roots and into the future. It contains an entertaining mix of viewpoints that could help us all remember why we are librarians and catalogers. "Some of the pieces are more radical than others," states Roberto, "and I'm not sure that all of the contributors would work well together if they had to, but having room to explore different viewpoints and possibilities is part of what makes library work so compelling."

The book is edited by K.R. Roberto, the Serials/Electronic Resources Librarian at the University of Denver. Roberto also co-edited *Revolting Librarians Redux* (2003). He is passionate about cataloging and its benefits and believes that cataloging is "under siege," yet he resists over-sentimentalizing



our situation. He does a good job of contextualizing the book in her preface.

There are pieces written by Jennifer Young, Jeffrey Beall, Thomas Mann, Daniel CanCasciato, and many others. The book is divided into three sections. *Cataloging in context* provides a series of reflections and theoretical essays. *We criticize because we care* contains discussions on topics such as subject thesauri, library vendors and consultants. (There is an especially biting piece on OCLC.) The *Innovative practices* section details projects aimed at making catalogs more useful. These last two sections in particular make for very stimulated thinking. The legendary Sanford Berman provides an introduction to the text.

If you're looking for a basic book about cataloging then this is not the book. If you're looking for a fearless yet hopeful assessment of the cataloging industry from a decidedly liberal perspective, then this is the book. And for the true cataloging geek, it might even make a great beach book!

# Innovation @ Our Library: Floating Collections at Columbus Metropolitan Library

by Marihelen Hatcher

Public Services Administrator, Columbus Metropolitan Library



Materials in floating collections stay at the location or branch where customers return them rather than being transported to their "owning" locations. Basically, materials no longer have permanent locations. Libraries implement floating collections to decrease transportation costs and increase staff efficiencies. Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) implemented floating collections in August 2007, expecting to decrease transportation costs, increase customer access to materials (since materials would not be in a box en route to another location), distribute materials based on customer interest and reduce staff time spent selecting, ordering and processing since items would no longer be location specific.

Implementation of floating collections at CML was the responsibility of the Technical Services managers. They chaired the Floating Collections Task Force which was mostly comprised of public services staff. Many of the issues that the Task Force addressed had to do with process. Decisions had to be made concerning what to float and how to handle collection overflow especially at drop-off locations. Procedures for handling lost, in transit, claims returned and missing items were set. The group also determined which system reports were needed and which could be discontinued as well as what programming changes would be needed in

the integrated library system (ILS). CML has a homegrown ILS so programming changes were handled by programming staff in-house. One of the major changes was adding a "current location" field to each item record. When an item is checked-in at a location, the current location field is updated to that location. In addition, timelines were established for pooling budgets (no need for location specific materials budgets), existing procedures for handling donations and memorial gifts were modified and shared with staff so they could provide accurate information to customers and workflows were established for handling returns from our consortium members who were not participating in floating collections.

CML decided to begin to float almost all library materials at the same time, instead of floating in stages, as had been recommended by other libraries. We reasoned that if we were changing how the collection was handled, we should include the entire collection from the beginning. We also knew that the greatest efficiencies would be realized by floating the entire collection. Of course there are exceptions. Reference materials, magazines and two special collections (scores and maps) do not float.

Prior to floating, branch and location staff counted incoming and outgoing boxes and provided statistics on numbers of reserves, of books returned to their home branch or location, of new materials from technical services and of boxes shipped to or from our consortia partners. These statistics provided baseline information to use as comparison data post-floating. This data was shared with branches and locations so they could begin preparing for life in the floating environment which would feature shelving more materials and dealing with fewer boxes. After a couple of months of floating, we had staff count incoming and outgoing

TS librarians are constantly solving complex service issues using new methods and technologies, yet few of these solutions are shared widely. The articles in the *Innovation @ Our Library* series spotlight these innovations. What are you doing that is unique? Have you devised new methods recently? If so, don't hesitate to contact Margaret Maurer at <mailto:mbmaurer@kent.edu>. And look for the *Innovation* logo in future issues.

*CONTINUED on page 9*



**CONTINUED from page 8**

boxes again. The chart below details the decrease in shipping that was realized.

Communications with public services staff were ongoing during the work of the task force. This included a forum on the library's intranet, one-to-one discussions, a FAQ sent to all public services staff and presentations by Task Force members at various branch locations prior to the start of floating collections. The presentations were of the most use as they gave all staff an opportunity to ask questions, voice concerns and make suggestions. The primary concerns were loss of control over one's collection, handling formats (e.g. videos) that were no longer in a location's collection and responding to customers regarding items that they claimed they had returned.

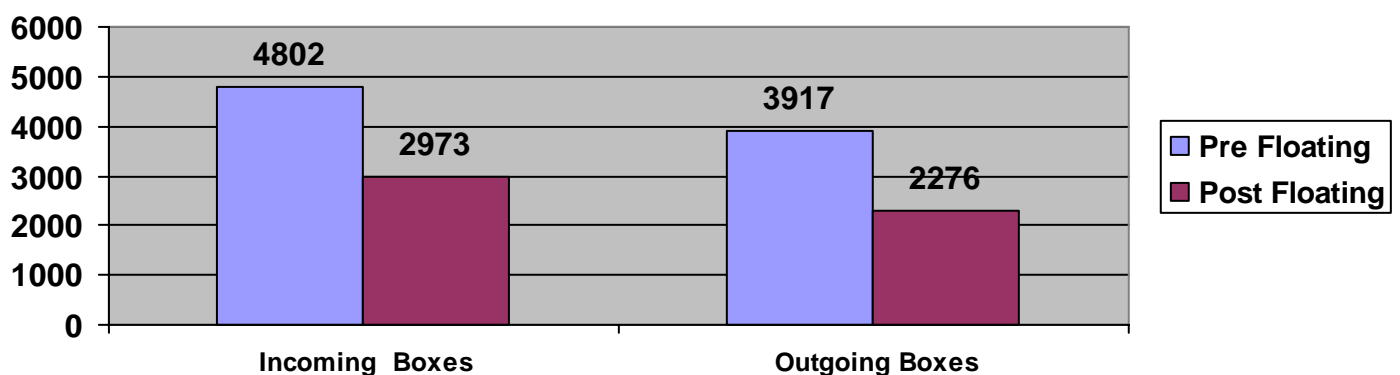
Once floating collections started, our biggest surprise was the amount of overflow materials that the main library and branches sent to Technical Services. All overflow materials were sent to technical services to be reviewed by central selection staff for determination regarding their redistribution or withdrawal. We had expected that it would be a couple of months before we saw any overflow. Instead, it was about two days before boxes of overflow materials started showing up. The primary reason for this immediate influx of materials was branch staff reluctance to weed items other than ones that had their branch label on them and (we surmise) their not wanting to shift materials on their shelves to accommodate the incoming

materials. The central selection staff increased their visits to the locations that sent in lots of overflow materials in order to educate location staff on how to handle the increase in incoming materials. They have had some success as most staff are now weeding items on condition and age. We continue to experiment with ways to deal with overflow at locations so that materials are not being shipped around the system.

CML implemented floating collections to gain internal efficiencies. Efficiencies were gained in public services as fewer boxes were handled, and faster check-in became possible. Transportation costs were reduced because less central sorting of materials was necessary and there were fewer boxes being handled. Financial tracking became less costly due to pooled budgets and decreases in the number of transactions handled by the accounting system. Technical Services also realized efficiencies in selecting, ordering and processing.

The reaction from customers was very positive. In addition to customer reserves moving through the system faster (we were able to add two deliveries to all locations instead of just the larger locations on a daily basis Monday through Thursday), customers commented on the "freshness" of the collection. Staff remarked on how often they found an item on the shelf for a customer when in the past it would have been "in-transit" to its owning location. At the Columbus Metropolitan Library, Floating Collections is a definite success.

### Columbus Metropolitan Library Floating Collections Incoming/Outgoing Delivery Boxes



# Ohio Library Council Technical Services Retreat: Mohican III—Looking beyond the Horizon

by: Fred Gaieck, Librarian, Ohio Reformatory for Women, Marysville, Ohio

The Ohio Library Council held its third technical services retreat on April 1-2 at the Mohican Resort and Conference Center. *Choosing our Tools for Tomorrow* featured Janet Swan Hill, University of Colorado, as the keynote speaker. Ms. Hill reminded the audience that we are the best tools we have for advocating the value of technical services to other staff members and administrators. This is especially true in this era of constant technological change, with the emergence of Web 2.0 in everyday life, with the declining role of the Library of Congress in cataloging affairs, and with concurrent staff reductions. In order to be effective in promoting technical services, the advocacy must be done proactively rather than reactively.

The conference format followed the pattern of previous technical services retreats. It featured a keynote address and a final synthesis by Janet Swan Hill as well as a variety of break-out sessions. Attendees learned about the emergence of Web 2.0, listened to an update on the Library of Congress Working Group of the Future of Biblio-



**Janet Swan Hill, Keynote Speaker**

Photo courtesy of Marilyn Spence

graphic control, discovered social tagging and folksonomies, explored workflow analysis, and heard about other assorted trends in technical services. Approximately 90 people from various institutions throughout the United States and Canada attended the event.

On behalf of the OLC Technical Service action council, we appreciated the assistance of Wayne Piper, OLC's director of professional development, and OHIONET for the sponsorship of Janet Swan Hill's participation in this retreat. The division's programming committee (Jennifer Bull, Andrea Christman, Michael Farmer, Ian Fairclough, Fred Gaieck, Connie Strait, and Margaret Maurer) looks forward to having another Technical Service Retreat in 2010 and welcomes your comments and suggestions. Please send program or speaker ideas to any member of the OLC technical service division by visiting <http://www.olc.org/TechnicalServices.asp> and clicking on the e-mail address of any of the members of the Action Council.



**Wayne Piper, OLC Director of Professional Development and Ian Fairclough, TS Division Coordinator**

Photo courtesy of Marilyn Spence

# OLAC/MOUG Conference is Just Around the Corner

by Mary Huismann, Music/Media Cataloging Coordinator, University of Minnesota Libraries

Rock and roll your way to Cleveland, Ohio for the 2008 joint OLAC-MOUG Conference!

The conference will take place Friday, September 26-Sunday, September 28, 2008. Please check the conference Web site (<http://www.otsl.org/olac-moug/home.htm>) for updates on program sessions, speakers, schedules, and local information.

Conference Chair Sevim McCutcheon, Kent State University, and Vice-Chair Kevin Furniss, Tulane University, invite you to come Rock the Metaverse.

The historic and elegant Renaissance Hotel (<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/clebr-renaissance-cleveland-hotel/>), adjacent to the Tower City shopping complex, will serve as the conference hotel. Attendees will have the opportunity to view the newly-remodeled Cleveland Museum of Art at Friday night's reception, and tour the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

There will be an exciting array of speakers and workshops. Keynote addresses will be delivered by Lynne Howarth, former Dean of the Faculty of Information Studies at the University of Toronto, and Janet Swan Hill, Associate Director for Technical Services, University of Colorado at Boulder. A large group session, presented by Glenn Patton, OCLC and Heidi Hoerman, University of South Carolina School of Library and Information Science, will inform the audience of what's in store for catalogers with RDA.

Conference workshops will cover much more than the traditional cataloging. Sessions will be presented on metadata for audiovisual materials, WorldCat Local, form/genre headings, electronic resources, integrating resources, videorecordings (basic/advanced), music scores (basic/advanced), and sound recordings (basic/advanced). There will also be poster sessions on a wide variety of topics.

Be there or be square!



## Musings Series

by Jennifer Bull, Technical Services Supervisor/Head Cataloger, Ashland Public Library.

"Amused" is the third in a series of enhanced Artist Trading Cards created for *TechKNOW*. Artist Trading Cards (ATCs) are miniature works of mixed media. One of the few rules for creating an ATC is their size. They are usually the size of

a typical playing card (2.5" x 3.5"). Some artists incorporate the face on the playing card into the work itself. In this series I have enhanced the ATCs with verse, frames and a multi-layered approach from a cataloger/poet's viewpoint.

## Coordinator's Corner

By Ian Fairclough, George Mason University

British schools don't use the American grade system (at least not last time I checked). But when I was in second or third grade I served as the class monitor, a rotating responsibility that entailed cleaning the blackboard, ensuring that chalk was present and sundry other tasks. At the beginning of the week the teacher gave me the monitor's badge, which I wore proudly, pushing out my chest for envious classmates to see.

At the end of the week the teacher required me to turn in my badge. "I haven't done anything yet," I protested. But it was too late. I had spent the week waiting for the teacher to tell me to do my tasks. It didn't occur to me to simply do them. As you'll gather, that's a lesson I didn't forget.

Now I serve you as the Coordinator of the Action Council, and I'd better do what's required. A Coordinator might well wonder, do I simply repeat what my predecessors have done? Or, is there more to my position than this?

Some of what the Coordinator must do is spelled out in the OLC Leadership Manual. This document is available for all OLC members to read, but you don't have to be a genius to figure

that if you're a Coordinator, you better had. So I did. And in reading, a world of opportunities passed into view. I came upon the section on task forces (also informally called working groups). I realized that, if any task forces were to originate during my tenure as Coordinator, I'd better get cracking and start them.

Setting up task forces can greatly enhance a division's achievements. One Technical Services Division task force is now in place, the Task Force on Historical Record. Have you ever tried to recall where and when programs were presented during which someone spoke about updating OCLC master records? Or who was it that made that presentation on reporting typos in LC records? The Task Force on the Historical Record is charged with getting this information into a manageable form, so that present and future members of the Action Council can find answers to these types of questions. The goal here is to ensure that programs are offered to the various OLC chapters in a consistent manner.

Why does the Action Council need this information? Some programs are "hardy perennials" that can be recycled on a regular basis every few years. For example, OLC Chapters can repeatedly use a session on physical repairs or basic copy

*CONTINUED on page 13*



## National

Technology & Community  
Building the Techno Community Library

### 11th Annual LITA National Forum

October 16-19, 2008

Hilton Netherland Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati, OH

<http://www.acrl.org/ala/lita/litaevents/litaforum2008/litaforum2008.cfm>



*CONTINUED from page 12*

cataloging. For such recurring shows, we can identify new presenters, developing a new generation of speakers, introducing them to past masters, facilitating communication on what works well in a group setting. Other programs can be innovative; challenging us to question our assumptions about what librarianship is and should be. Some programs are ideal for chapter conferences, which are oriented to your local situation. Others are more suited to a wider audience and are best shown at state conventions. At the Mohican Lodge retreat, yet another set of attendees, including many from out-of-state, can wrap their minds around our profession in a more theoretical mode, albeit one grounded solidly in local and national practice. The Action Council needs to get a handle on all this information so that they can expeditiously review it and make decisions on what to do next. The Action Council meets annually at the Leadership Conference plus twice during the course of the year.

So I am very gratified that four people have kindly

agreed to serve on the Task Force on the Historical Record. They are:

Ann Bickle	Coshocton Public Library
Michael Farmer	Ohio University Libraries
Katherine Hughes	The State Library of Ohio
Roger M. Miller	Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

The charge to the task force is elsewhere in this issue. If you have any comments or suggestions, please refer them to Michael Farmer (<mailto:farmerm@ohio.edu>), who is also serving as incoming Secretary of the Action Council.

If you have an idea for a task force, and/or are willing to serve on one yourself, please contact the Coordinator. But please don't be surprised if you get an e-invitation to participate. If such a request comes your way, but you will not be serving, please respond immediately to let the Coordinator know to move ahead and contact other potential task force members. (Or better still, "just say yes!")

## A Summary of LC's Response to the Report of the Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control

*by Amey L. Park, Database Maintenance Librarian, Kent State University*

In November 2006, the Library of Congress (LC) convened a Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control to "investigate the future of bibliographic description in the 21st century." It was chaired by Dr. José-Marie Griffiths, Dean of the School of Library and Information Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and included 19 professionals from the library and business communities.



The working group was charged with:

- ◆ Presenting findings on how bibliographic control and other descriptive practices can effectively support management of and access to library materials in the evolving information and technology environment
- ◆ Recommending ways in which the library community can collectively move toward achieving this vision
- ◆ Advising the Library of Congress on its role and priorities

The Working Group's final report was issued on January 9, 2008 and included five broad recom-

*CONTINUED on page 14*



**CONTINUED from page 13**

mendations. The Library of Congress' response to the report was issued on June 1, 2008. LC endorses the recommendations of the Working Group. Its response document describes in detail how LC plans to implement the recommendations and, as such, serves as a sort of crystal ball into LC's future bibliographic control plans. Surprising parts of the report included:

- ◆ LC's plans to accept more cataloging from other libraries, thus freeing up time to work on cataloging special collections materials,
- ◆ The desire to move away from Z39.2 and develop a new carrier method,
- ◆ The recommendation to stop work on RDA until more testing is done, and,
- ◆ Recognition of the value of a controlled vocabularies and the corresponding increased use of the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) while improving some of its elements.

Although not included in their written response, LC has assigned priorities and start dates for implementing the recommendations and has estimated associated costs. Each of the report's five recommendations is broken into several layers of smaller sub-recommendations. The lowest layer of each recommendation is assigned to a responsible party and includes LC's response and rationale, current action, and planned action.

The introduction to LC's Response to the Report, written by Deanna B. Marcum, Associate Librarian for Library Services, states that LC's staff remains committed to the principles of "free and open access for all" and recognizes that LC has historically delivered "high-quality, accessible bibliographic data." Marcum states that they want to continue in that role, yet they recognize that they must invest more in new initiatives.

The first recommendation (including 38 specific sub-recommendations) is to "increase the efficiency of bibliographic production and maintenance". Sub-recommendations include eliminating redundancies, increasing the distribution of responsibility for bibliographic record production and maintenance, and collaborating on authority record creation and maintenance. Action plans in-

clude sharing responsibility for creating bibliographic records by making more use of vendor cataloging, increasing metadata efficiencies, making full use of PCC cataloging and expanding the number of PCC libraries, fully automating the CIP process, and collaborating on authority record creation and maintenance.

The second recommendation (including 13 specific recommendations) is to "enhance access to rare, unique, and other special hidden materials". LC aims to do this by making the discovery of these sources a high priority, streamlining cataloging for this material, emphasizing greater coverage and broader access, encouraging digitization, and sharing this access with other libraries.

The third recommendation (including 22 detailed recommendations) is to "position our technology for the future". LC aims (recommendation 3.1.1.1.) to "specify and implement a carrier for bibliographic information" that can represent "the full range of data of interest to libraries" because Z39.2/MARC "are no longer fit for the purpose". Development will be Web-based. Most of the recommendations speak of the need to develop standards and implement them widely within the library community to allow for data sharing. LC has already acted on recommendation 3.2.5.1, which suspends new development work on RDA until testing has been completed, its benefits have been demonstrated, and FRBR as it relates to RDA have been tested and analyzed. The National Library of Medicine, the National Agricultural Library, and LC plan to investigate these issues in 2009.

The fourth recommendation (including 24 specific recommendations) is to "position our community for the future". Action plans include incorporating user-data into catalogs and testing FRBR. LC plans to optimize LCSH's use and make LCSH more openly available for use, including exploring ways to make it freely available for downloading along with the name authority file (4.3.1.2). LC does not intend to abandon the LCSH, but rather aims to "take advantage of [its] terminologies in a more accessible environment with broader audiences" (4.3.2.1). They plan to evaluate LCSH's ability to support faceted browsing (4.3.2.2), ways it can be integrated and cross-referenced with other thesauri, and to investigate the possibility of

**CONTINUED on page 15**

**CONTINUED from page 14**

computational indexing in the practice of subject analysis (4.3.4.).

The final recommendation (including 17 detailed recommendations) is to “strengthen the library and information science profession” by developing key measures, supporting ongoing research, requiring core levels of knowledge for all information professionals, sharing educational materials broadly via the Internet, and developing continuing education.

To gain further insight into LC’s future direction concerning bibliographic control, it’s a worthwhile read to examine the recommendations and LC’s

action plans. These documents are all available at:

- ◆ The Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control  
<http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/>
- ◆ On the Record: Report of the Library of Congress Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control  
<http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/news/lcwg-ontherecord-jan08-final.pdf>
- ◆ Library of Congress Response to On the Record: Report of the Library of Congress Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control  
<http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/news/LCWGResponse-Marcum-Final-061008.pdf>

**Diane Marie Ward. *The Complete RFID Handbook: A Manual and DVD for Assessing, Implementing, and Managing Radio Frequency Identification Technologies in Libraries*. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2007. 259 p. + 1 DVD. ISBN 978-1-55570-602-9. \$75.00**

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technologies can help libraries reduce personnel costs and improve real-time collections information. To accomplish this, libraries attach RFID tags to their library materials. These RFID labels communicate with the library software using radio frequencies. RFID technologies have a somewhat controversial history in libraries because of patron privacy issues. They can also cost a lot of money.

Diane Ward, the author of *The Complete RFID Handbook* is a passionate proponent of RFID technology. She sees it as a good investment for libraries, but one that must be locally decided and well managed. The author is the Principal Cataloger, Poetry/Rare Books Collection, State University of New York at Buffalo. A researcher in the field of informatics, she is also an adjunct instructor on RFID technologies for the University of Buffalo’s Department of Library and Information Studies.

By writing this book, she hopes to help libraries determine their return on investment, and to provide best practices for patron privacy, technology and interoperability. The first sections of the book provide a good explanation on how RFID technologies work and how they are being applied in li-

braries. There is a good explanation of how libraries could create their decision-making process and implement their strategies for an RFID installation. There is information on system maintenance. There are also sections on staff and patron privacy and on handling public relations and patron education. The book includes a list of frequent acronyms, a list of Library of Congress Subject Headings for RFID and related topics, a pocket guide to recommended resources on RFID and an index.

The accompanying DVD is of mediocre technical quality. A hand-held camera appears to have been used to create the video recording, and the resulting aesthetic does not contribute much to our understanding of RFID. The sound is also uneven and often muffled. There appears to be no way to identify sections appearing on the DVD and therefore no way to select specific sections of interest. All of this will be frustrating for those who prefer to learn by listening or seeing rather than by reading.

All-in-all this book provides a good tool for understanding of RFID systems and their deployment in libraries.

