

CONSULS Cataloging Group Annual Report, 2009
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To put our work into perspective the following statement of purpose is included:

Statement of Purpose (*proposed, 2004*):

The CONSULS Cataloging Group is made up of cataloging heads and interested representatives from each of the member library catalog divisions. The group meets on a regular basis (currently quarterly) to discuss catalog issues relevant to the member libraries. The Group strives to maintain an accurate and comprehensive catalog of all library holdings in all formats at each of the CSU Libraries and the State Library. The Group recognizes the need for both individual library autonomy and system standards and works to develop system-wide guidelines for bibliographic representation of holdings in the shared catalog. The Group recognizes that development of the CONSULS catalog is enhanced by input from the Reference, Serials, Systems and Administrative workgroups and seeks input from those groups regarding both specific issues and general pretext. The Group also serves as a sounding board for workflow and procedural issues and organizes training sessions and other professional development events. In addition, the Group regularly reviews Innovative upgrades and enhancements and makes recommendations to the administration regarding appropriate software changes.

2009 Activities:

The Cataloging Group has continued to work together to provide access to the library collections of the four CSU libraries and the State Library. The group met three times and had numerous electronic exchanges regarding specific issues. Discussions and activities have centered around authority control issues, export issues related to load tables, compliance with changes in national standards and practices, correct use of MARC formatting and effects of incorporating the new ERM module on the appearance and clarity of the catalog. Concerns include general communication issues.

- After the initial reauthorization of the entire catalog in February 2008, new records are sent for authorization monthly. Each campus agreed to certain monthly “clean-up” functions and records are transmitted to the vendor by catalogers at CCSU. Turn-around time is hours. Various procedures and agreements were put in place to reduce the possibility of multiple authorizations (and duplicate fees) for the same record and the accumulation of duplicate authority records. The first annual update was completed in mid-February, 2009. The group also agreed that previous shared work with the Library of Congress bulletins could be eliminated.
- After experiencing certain difficulties during the previous year’s authority control project, the committee felt strongly that people who work with the MARC records and are familiar with MARC format should be trained to do load table maintenance. Priya Rai (CCSU) and Stephen Slovasky (St.Lib) were so trained.

The group came to agreement regarding the various tags to be included, eliminated or edited. Load tables are currently working as intended. Priya and Stephen have done both editing of existing tables and creation of new tables for specific projects. Their expertise in this area and willingness to do work on behalf of the entire system has proven to be extremely beneficial to the CONSULS libraries.

- The group agreed to a transition from government document records purchased from a vendor to the use of locally exported records. This on-going process is coordinated by State Library catalog head Stephen Slovasky.
- The group responded to a request for WebPacPro enhancement priorities and forwarded suggestions to the directors.
- Genre headings remain an interest of the cataloging group and decisions were made that will allow genre heading searching when such indexing becomes available.
- Catalogers were instructed to make appropriate changes to export features to comply with the unicode conversion process. Each library made the protocol changes and the switch was accomplished without interruption.
- Guidelines were developed to accommodate the curriculum lab group's petition for scoping capabilities of curriculum collections. Common coding practices were not appropriate in the consortium environment and an alternate model was adopted.
- CCSU cataloging head Priya Rai successfully negotiated a group rate for NELINET membership, significantly reducing annual dues for interested CONSULS member libraries. ECSU, CCSU and SCSU libraries accepted the offer..
- The group has seen an improvement in communication regarding system-wide issues which may be the result of having one member now serving on the system group. There remains a question about whether one library is intentionally the conduit through which all the other libraries receive their information regarding changes and training; or whether the fact that CCSU consistently receives information and institutes changes before other libraries do is just an oversight. There have also been unannounced changes to the catalog display during the year which required varied responses.

Goals for 2010 include the production of a system-wide cataloging guide to include common procedures and policies.

Retirements that will affect cataloging at the CONSULS libraries include Claire Young, State Library History and Genealogy cataloger, and Edward Hoyer, SCSU Serials Librarian (serials cataloger)