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Discussion Groups Report on Conference Activities in Washington

The reports below are summaries of the discussions that took place in the meetings of ALCTS discussion groups held at 2001 Midwinter Meeting in Washington, D.C. Included are groups whose reports were received by the editor as of February 6, 2001. For information on discussion groups not shown here, see the ALCTS organization page on the ALCTS Web site.

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Division Discussion Groups

The Automated Acquisitions/In-Process Control Systems Discussion Group's topic was "EDI: A Cooperative Venture." Three speakers addressed differing aspects of the EDI implementation process:

- William Hoffman (Swets Blackwell) discussed the materials vendor perspective, sharing the functions that can be processed computer to computer, the back room work done by a jobber, and the steps that a librarian can take to facilitate implementation.

- Kathryn Harnish (Endeavor) discussed the process for an ILS vendor, and helped all present to understand the behind-the-scenes steps. Many Endeavor users had questions and comments directly for Kathryn.

- Dianne McCutcheon (NLM) has library experience with many phases of C2C processing, and gave a very thorough presentation of these issues.

Discussion was lively, evidencing the widespread interest and varying levels of involvement librarians share in implementing EDI processing.

The Newspaper Discussion Group heard Karen Huffman (graduate student at the University of Maryland, College Park and Systems Specialist in the Archives and Records Library at National Geographic Society), give a presentation titled "Taking Another Step Forward: Digitizing Historical Newspaper Collections." This academic project seeks out extant digital newspaper collections, with a goal of determining how best to connect to heterogeneous collections and design the interface and protocol for effective and efficient distributed searching while applying the open archives model. Local management, administration, and preservation of the physical holdings remain with the collection owners. Adherence to various standards is necessary, though the content and display of each collection may vary one from another. Digitization provides remote access to materials in a very immediate fashion, though Internet access speeds, navigation, and presentation present some obstacles. Short-term issues for this pilot project include recommending newspaper metadata standards, cross-walking systems, and designing a search interface. Long-term issues may include file degeneration, file formats, and copyright. Further information is available at http://newspapers.umd.edu/newspapers/index.html.

Other difficulties were discussed, such as microfilm collections in out-of-state libraries, cutting newspaper volumes to get the best photographic reproduction, ILL requests that ignore OCLC LDRs, multiple-formats (e.g., paper, film) description that makes research more difficult, and National Serials Data Program cataloging that goes unnoticed. The Group looks forward to Nicholson Baker's *Double Fold* book just published, as well as his speech at ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco.

The Role of the Professional in Academic Research Technical Services Departments Discussion Group centered on the advanced technology skills required of technical services professionals as well as the unique skill sets needed to capitalize on sophisticated library systems and integrate new electronic resources into those systems. Deb Silverman (University of Pittsburgh, Health Sciences Library System) spoke on her experience increasing technical skills of her staff in order to reduce their dependency on the Systems Department. Rather than rely on IT staff for expertise, they developed the expertise within her department. Following her presentation there was a lively discussion. The audience had many questions related to the specific projects and offered

comments on their own library situations. There was discussion about the relationship between technical services staff and IT staff.

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Acquisition Section (AS) Discussion Groups

The Acquisitions Administrators Discussion Group reviewed e-book issues. Diane Kachmar (Florida Atlantic University) provided an overview of available e-book options—all of which were exhibited at ALA. She introduced netLibrary, Questia, and ebrary as well as other sources including Baker and Taylor (not yet available) and Blackwell's (netLibrary). She also discussed Project Gutenberg, Gemstar, Etext Center, Books 24x7, IBooks, Glassbook, and Peanut Press, a subsidiary of netLibrary, which is not targeted to libraries and allows downloading titles to a Palm Pilot.

Nancy Gibbs (North Carolina State University) discussed the goals for the e-book collection at her institution. She identified the kinds of titles being collected and showed how the bibliographic records and circulation status appear in the online catalog. She mentioned how the cast of players involved in the acquisition of e-books differs from those involved in the acquisition of other library resources. In addition to collection management, public services, acquisitions, and cataloging personnel, other groups may need to become involved, including university personnel in risk management and legal services.

After commenting on how e-books required some workflow changes, Nancy identified the most popular subject areas and showed how those subject use patterns change from month to month, depending on class assignments. She discussed what North Carolina State University did to implement the e-book program, what it could do better, and what's ahead.

Lynn Connaway (netLibrary) described how her company defines an e-book and what capabilities it should have. She outlined challenges for both librarians and publishers. Librarians need to consider budget allocations, usage and distribution models (group or single licenses), collection development strategies, and licensing models. Publishers need to consider the following:

- Contractual rights (electronic and territorial)
- Permission clearance (including multiple sources

for various components of a document)
- Format identifiers, compositor and e-book file delivery
- Editorial and production workload
- E-book metadata maintenance and delivery
- Sales reporting and accounting, including royalties
- Marketing and publicity
- Storage for archiving
- Maintaining a competitive position
- Enhancing electronic publishing skills
- Avoiding devaluation of content
- Serving customers in a new way

Lynn mentioned that the collection development policy was a tool for planning, management, and communication, driven by both the client and the collection. Trends to monitor include e-book readers, personal digital assistants (PDA), electronic ink, print-on-demand, e-book software, and online providers.

Lynn also commented on other emerging trends: the utilization of e-book capabilities; the enhancement of bibliographic records, including tables of contents and indexes; the incorporation of full-text search capabilities within and across collections; access to e-mail, electronic text, audio, and video through wireless technologies; the aggregation of electronic content by individuals (e.g., Napster); and the need for librarians' assistance to retrieve and evaluate information. She observed that *Library Journal* and *Publisher's Weekly* will soon start reviewing e-books. She concluded by noting that repurposing content for various devices and formats involves a rights issue, and digital rights management is becoming more and more important.

Participants engaged the presenters and each other in a lively discussion throughout the meeting, which concluded with Mike Echery of netLibrary offering a demonstration of netLibrary.

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Cataloging and Classification Section (CCS) Discussion Groups

The Cataloging Norms Discussion Group heard presentations about changing to Pinyin romanization and what is left to do from the generalist's perspective.

The Copy Cataloging Discussion Group heard presentations about the cataloging process at

netLibrary, UC San Diego's experience with using the "single record" approach in cataloging NBER working papers, and North Carolina State's experience in cataloging e-books.

The Heads of Cataloging Departments Discussion Group discussed "When Former Copy Catalogers Become Paraprofessionals: Issues of Transition." There is a general, growing trend toward copy catalogers' responsibilities overlapping with tasks historically assigned to original, professional catalogers. Concerns identified include mandated cuts or retirements causing reduction of original cataloging pools; shifting backlogs, including more e-resources and other special materials; a need for on-site training for new MLS and copy catalogers; a need for clearly defined position descriptions and salary levels; and acknowledged need for more fluid departmental structure and for mutual respect among all staffing levels.

The LITA/ALCTS-CCS Authority Control in the Online Environment Discussion Group talked about "Current Developments in Authority Control." Ann Della Porta (Library of Congress) reported on changes at LC related to restructuring of LCCNs, implementation of new MARC characters, IFLA perspectives on sharing name authorities, Pinyin conversion, the move to "African Americans" in subject headings, and upcoming ILS changes. Mary Charles Lasater (Vanderbilt University) spoke about her institution's Pinyin conversion and undifferentiated personal name authorities. Glenn Patton (OCLC) talked about the utility's experience with Pinyin and other conversion efforts. Lynn El-Hoshy also reported on Pinyin changes to subject authorities and LC classification. The discussion period focused on undifferentiated personal name authorities and identifying ways to reduce the mismatching of name headings by restricting the reuse of LCCNs when the identity named by an authority record changes from undifferentiated to unique.

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Collection Management and Development Section (CMDS) Discussion Groups

The Chief Collection Development Officers of Large Research Libraries Discussion Group discussed several issues:

- *Counting Electronic Resources:* Julia Blixrud

reported on the ARL e-metrics initiative and how it will affect the way in which we count holdings as well as manage use statistics. Libraries such as Ohio State University in OhioLink have already developed some methods for handling statistics.

- *CD Research Topics:* the ALCTS Technical Services Directors of Large Research Libraries continued a discussion begun at 2000 ALA Annual Conference regarding development of a research agenda. Some of the questions the group posed are of interest to collection development. The CCDO group expressed some interest in seeing results of this work.

- *Moving Materials to Storage Facilities:* Deborah Jakubs asked for guidance from libraries who have gone through off-site storage moves. A useful list of targets and common pitfalls came from the discussion:
    - Developing a rationale for the move that can be shared with faculty
    - Making it clear that items going to storage are not unimportant and that they can be called back
    - Setting a pragmatic goal of having eighty to eighty-five percent capacity freed up in the stacks area of the main library
    - Considering how to handle access issues, such as providing table of contents for items in storage
    - Needing to analyze large sets
    - Looking carefully at duplications
    - Considering a triage system at point of acquisition
    - Segregating items that are currently in electronic format.

- *History E-books:* The American Council of Learned Societies History E-Book project is underway. Eileen Gardiner and Ron Musto provided background and asked for future direction in developing this area.

- *Bookplating Electronic Materials:* Ann Okerson led a discussion of bookplating of electronic products. Yale has a draft statement that she will share with the discussion group members.

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Preservation and Reformatting Section (PARS) Discussion Groups

The Cooperative Preservation Programs Discussion Group heard Steve Dalton (NEDCC) give an overview of a new NEDCC publication, *Handbook for Digital*

Projects: A Management Tool for Preservation and Access. Mary Wooten and Alan Haley (Library of Congress) spoke of developing policy and procedures and cooperation between the Conservation Division and the National Digital Library Project at the Library of Congress. Tom Clareson (AMIGOS) described integrating digital education with a preservation field services program at AMIGOS. Robin Dale (RLG) reported on recent conferences held in the United Kingdom relating to the preservation of digital collections.

The Library Binding Discussion Group and the Binding Automation Discussion Group held a joint session. Their topics included:

- *NISO Binding Elements (Z39.76) standard* is up for five-year mandatory review. The complete standard is on the NISO Web site. Members interested in working on a committee to review the standard and those with comment should contact Karen Anspach.
- *Library Binding Institute:* The serial "New Library Scene" is being revamped and should be out by end of first quarter.
- *ILS software and the lack of an interface with library binding software:* It has been recognized for more than fifteen years that an interface is needed, and it has been acknowledged by many in the ILS community that such an interface would not be complex to program. The goal of the meeting was to identify strategies for making this happen. The group reviewed a letter, which it supports, drafted by members of the PARS Books and Paper Committee. The letter will be put on PADG-L for final comments and then sent to the PARS and ALCTS executive committees.
  - Other suggestions include urging our library directors to sign the letter and use it for contract negotiation with ILS vendors; moving the letter through ALA channels; placing articles in the literature (*New Library Scene, LIRTS, American Libraries*) to raise awareness of this matter; requesting LBI to investigate the cost of a full-page ad in *American Libraries*; sending a copy of the letter to appropriate electronic lists; and becoming active in user groups to make binding issues better known.

The two groups plan to hold a joint meeting again during Annual Conference in San Francisco.

The PARS Discussion Group addresses topics of sectionwide interest and often summarizes

conference activities and discusses unresolved issues. The topic raised was reducing the number of discussion group meetings during ALA Annual Conference so that members would have time to attend programs or meetings of other sections. There was a wide range of opinions on this proposal, including the fact that many discussion groups have adopted the format of a presentation; while no consensus was reached, the discussion was useful.

The Physical Quality and Treatment of Library Materials Discussion Group heard David Walls (Yale University) discuss the development of the mass de-acidification program at Yale, in particular the selection aspects of ramping up a new program and funding strategies. Bob Strauss of Preservation Technologies (a mass de-acidification service supplier) led a spirited discussion of the benefits of de-acidifying somewhat brittle items and the preparation decisions of bound versus manuscript formats. Topics suggested for 2001 Annual Conference include the ASTM paper permanence standard, stack therapies for mold, and interim feedback on the new IPI data loggers.

The Small to Mid-sized Preservation Program Discussion Group explored the topic "Building a Preservation Program: Politics or Persuasion." Beth Schobernd (Illinois State University) shared her experiences in building a program from scratch, while Kay Walter (University of Nebraska–Lincoln) offered her perspective of building a program without a preservation librarian. The audience represented a mix of seasoned preservation professionals, librarians new to preservation programs, and preservation enthusiasts from libraries currently having no formal program. Those present shared experiences and brainstormed solutions to problems and situations raised by the group.

The Reformatting Discussion Group continued its exploration of preservation reformatting issues with the help of three speakers:

- Wesley Boomgaarden (preservation officer, Ohio State University Libraries) briefly reviewed the current state of selection, the impact of digitization projects on preservation programs, and the disposition of items that have been reformatted. Wes noted the usefulness of Janet Gertz's "Selection for Preservation in the Digital Age" (*LRTS*, vol. 44, no. 2) and the new NEDCC *Handbook for Digital Projects,* edited by Maxine Sitts, which can be accessed online at www.nedcc.org/digital/dighome.htm. Wes compressed the key points in the digitization process down to: "identify good stuff to

digitize; create excellent images; support access by others; don't break the law; and be able to justify cost." He noted that there isn't sufficient data to estimate the impact of digital projects on traditional preservation, but it would not be surprising to discover that "imaging resources might come from cuts in many areas of library operations, including preservation units." As for the fates of reformatted items, Wes shared his experience of being interviewed by Nicholson Baker and stressed that if anything was being discarded from collections, it was only the "most awful, unusable" items. The bottom line is that materials are being retained "unless they are absolutely unusable." Wes commented that one of the effects Baker's articles are having is to "undermine the public's trust in librarians."

- Margaret Byrnes (National Library of Medicine) reviewed progress NLM has made on developing a system of permanence ratings. The ratings will be used to indicate to users and other libraries what electronic materials NLM plans to archive. A report on this project is available online at www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/reports/permanence.pdf.

- Ken Thibodeau (National Archives and Records Administration) provided a brief overview of NARA's involvement with two projects centered on the extended-term retention of authentic records created in electronic systems. Ken indicated that the lack of stable archival media is essentially a manageable problem. The challenge is to develop an archival framework as broadly conceived as possible, incorporating obsolescence into the solution. In addition to developing the Electronic Records Archives Program, NARA is involved with the InterPARES Project. Those interested in NARA's efforts can also view its 1997–2007 strategic plan, "Ready Access to Essential Evidence."

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Serials Section (SS) Discussion Groups

The Journal Costs in Libraries Discussion Group chose as its topic "The (Un)logic of E-journal Pricing Packages: Free Electronic Information . . . at a Cost." The speakers were Marilyn Geller, information management consultant, and Matthew J. Price, manager, Product Marketing, American Chemical Society, Publications Division.

The Research Libraries Discussion Group chose the

theme "Archiving Print in a Digital Environment: Usage vs. Preservation." Sheryl Davis (University of California, Riverside) spoke on archiving and Cecily Johns (UC Santa Barbara) spoke on using digital versions as the use copy.

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