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Interesting Cataloging Tidbits From AALL Annual

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Part III

INTERESTING CATALOGING TIDBITS FROM AALL ANNUAL
by Ellen McGrath, University at Buffalo Law Library

As always, I accumulated a wealth of information at the AALL Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, July 20-25, 1996. Since I am a cataloger, I tend to spend my meeting time in sessions that deal with cataloging, hence the focus of this piece. I should say that these comments are in no particular order. Perhaps that will give readers a sense of my actual experience of going from one meeting to another, with a feeling that a ton of information was kind of washing over me. Many of the sessions I attended will also be summarized in the September issue of the *Technical Services Law Librarian*, so be sure to read that for more detail.

I attended the Basic Law Cataloging Institute held at Notre Dame prior to the Annual Meeting. All of the sessions were delivered by very knowledgeable speakers and overall it was a wonderful experience, in my opinion. (I spoke on the topic of authorities.) The smaller setting of about 60 or so people also made it possible for me to get to know a number of new people fairly well, since the Institute went from Wednesday morning until Friday afternoon. Kudos to Janis Johnston (Notre Dame) and Marie Whited (Yale) who were co-directors of the Institute! The amount of material covered was just amazing and I could never do it justice here. I have heard that the book of handouts prepared by the speakers and put together by AALL may be available for sale, so be on the lookout for that.

On to Indy. Alva Stone (Florida State University) announced in a few different meetings that she is compiling a list of law libraries interested in becoming a NACO member and in receiving training at the Library of Congress (LC) prior to the Baltimore AALL meeting next July (1997). Contact Alva if you want to know more. There were a number of interesting items of information passed along at the Technical Services (TS) SIS business meeting. A very deserving Melody Lembke (Los Angeles County) received the Renee Chapman Memorial Award for Outstanding Contributions in Technical Services Law Librarianship. Melody and Rhonda Lawrence (UCLA) are hard at work on their new edition of *Cataloging Legal Literature*, which is excellent news for those of you who are like me and refer to it often!

AALL's representatives to ALA's Subject Analysis Committee (Jean Pajerek, Cornell), ALA's Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CCDA) (Ann Sitkin, Harvard), and ALA's MARBI (Rhonda Lawrence) each summarized the committees' activities in the past year. There is a new edition (5th) of the *Subject Cataloging Manual: Subject Headings* which will be available soon--and in four volumes, instead of the two at present. The new edition of *Library of Congress Subject Headings* (the red books) is also out and it is still in four volumes, but now has a soft cover. ALA has stopped distributing copies of its Chapter 9 guidelines for computer files, since they are so out of date. Use of the 753 field for technical details access to computer files has been discontinued at LC. It seems many libraries did not use the field anyway, since the vocabulary was not controlled and many local systems ignored it.

CCDA is in the process of developing its home page, which will be accessible through the ALCTS home page. AACR2e (electronic version) is due in early 1997. It will include the original version of the rules as well as the 1993 changes. There is going to be an international cataloging conference held in Toronto in 1997 and CCDA has postponed a few topics to see what comes out of that conference. MARBI has been dealing with proposals concerned with the alignment of the various versions of MARC (USMARC, CANMARC, UKMARC, etc.). This alignment would make the sharing of records much easier and will help us all in the long run, though it is a slow and technical process. MARBI is also discussing the resolution of URLs issue.

At the Online Bibliographic Services (OBS) SIS business meeting, it was announced that AALL is changing the structure of its education process. There will now be a Program Committee, which will focus on the annual meeting content, but there will also be a professional development committee that concentrates more on long range planning. The new edition of the *Law Library Systems Directory* is now out and is part of the AALL publications series (v. 53). Alva Stone has been appointed to the AALL Research Committee. As co-coordinator of the OBS/TS SIS Research Roundtable meeting, I will put in a plug here. We had another excellent meeting with a number of enthusiastic attendees. We decided to try to get an informal research mentoring setup going. Please contact me for more information.

At the TS Cataloging Heads Roundtable meeting, a number of themes emerged in the discussions: downsizing, disruptions due to renovation, reclassification projects, workflow changes due to Windows applications being implemented, and investigation of or migration to a new local system. Fortunately, it seems that outsourcing for current cataloging has not taken hold in that group just yet, though it is composed mostly of academic law library representatives and the experience in other types of law libraries may be very different.

The TS Cataloging & Classification Committee and its related Issues Roundtable spent much of their meeting times discussing the changes to the K schedule form tables proposed by Jolande Goldberg (LC). Many of the K schedules have been converted to the USMARC Format for Classification, and in the process of doing this work, LC is taking the opportunity to simplify tables where it seems to make sense. While it is not possible to standardize the form tables across all the K schedules, LC does want to standardize terminology, while at the same time being very careful not to interfile unlike material. The JZ/KZ schedules should be ready fairly soon, as should the rest of the Ks once the form table changes are decided upon. Jolande has also begun work on the development of the canon law schedule.

Melody Lembke chaired a Cataloging & Classification Committee Task Force on Constitution Headings. This group proposed a simplification of the constitutional subject headings, so as to have the Constitutional law headings conform with current LCSH practices and the Constitution treatment as similar to that for an act as possible. There was general support for the proposal, so it will go forward to LC.

Yes, I did attend a few programs, though I did leave a bit earlier than usual, since I had been at the Institute and on the road for a while. As always, I found myself exhilarated and exhausted by the hectic pace. There is so much to cram into just a few short days. And so much of what we learn from each other takes place in the non-program meetings or in casual conversation. But there never seems to be enough time for either of those. Oh well, I suppose there's hope for next year!