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Description and Entry: Working Session on Descriptive Problems, AALL Cataloging Institute

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DESCRIPTION AND ENTRY

Melody Lembke and Rhonda Lawrence
Los Angeles County & UCLA Law Libraries

Working Session on Descriptive Problems
AALL Cataloging Institute - July 15, 1992

presented by
Adele Hallam
(Library of Congress)

report by
Ellen McGrath and Adele Hallam

This is a report of the "Working Session on Descriptive Problems" held during the AALL Cataloging Institute at Santa Clara University School of Law in July 1992. As in the other advanced track sessions of the Institute, participants were asked to send questions to Adele Hallam prior to the session. These questions and Adele's answers were then included in the program materials binder given to all attendees of the institute. A limited number of these binders were also offered for sale later. The purpose of this report is to relate some of the additional discussions that took place at the descriptive session, since this information is obviously not available in the

binder. Adele did some follow-up research and that information will be reported as well. Since some of the questions are rather detailed, only a brief synopsis of the question will be given here. Each question is included in its entirety in the program materials binder.

- 1.0 The question concerned a publication consisting of a collective title page, an introduction, and an appendix containing reprints of five issues of a serial, which had also undergone a title change within those issues. Should it be cataloged as a monograph or a serial?

How to account for parts contained within?

Discussion during the session also raised the issue of main entry. Adele responded that the inclusion of appendices, etc. should be disregarded and only what is presented as the main work (although sometimes actually not a major portion of the publication) should be considered. This applies to both decisions concerning format (monographic vs. serial) and main entry. Adele goes on to say that for the purposes of choice of main entry, always ignore the appendices, etc., whether or not their inclusion is shown on the title page or in a note or not at all. The appendices should be handled in a note, either a general (500) or a contents (505) note.

- 1.4F The question concerned leaving the bibliographic record "open" for titles receiving pocket parts or supplements.

Adele's detailed response in the binder affirms that such bibliographic records should describe the main work only and that information about the supplementation should be included in a note. There was some discussion, however, about the increasingly frequent situations in which the publisher of the supplementation differs from the publisher of the main work. Adele responded that the Library of Congress (LC) should be notified of such situations and this information should be included in the note, as it helps to tie together the different editions of the main work, especially if authorship varies. Suggested form of the note:

500 Supplements for 1992- published by: Michie Co.

(For a publication for which information is available that supplements prior to 1992 were published by the publisher of the main work.)

- 1.5E1 The question concerned whether or not information about variation in authorship of pocket parts/supplements should be provided.

Adele's response was that such information should be provided in the bibliographic record, in a similar manner to the note suggested in the previous question (1.4F). There was discussion about the fact that such changes are often not noticed by staff upon check-in of the supplementary pieces, so the item is not flagged for bibliographic maintenance. Also, some titles change authors so frequently that recording all such changes in the bibliographic record would not be feasible. Adele advised that judgment should be applied.

- 12.0A The question concerned a specific set of titles issued by the Illinois Regional Transportation Authority and whether or not the monographic or serials format should be used to catalog them. There was also additional information on a number of the pieces that confused the issue of whether or not a title change had actually occurred.

Adele responded that all should be cataloged as serials, since they were published annually (though each covers a five-year period). As the title (and often, the choice of the chief source of information) changes, handle it as a serial title change. When the title is not a collective title, a semicolon should be used in the title area (245). The additional information (in this case, "Preliminary" and "Program and Budget" data) can be placed in "At head of title" or "At head of title on cover" notes.

12.1-12.5

The question concerned a situation where there was conflicting information on a serial title piece about date to be included in the publication area and in the numeric/chronological designation area.

The title in question had a cover letter dated November 16, 1990, but included the minutes of a September 10, 1990 meeting of the group in question. The response was that there should be no date in the publication area (260). There will be no |c at all, simply the name of the publisher followed by a comma. There will be no 362 either, since there is no information about the first or last issue of the title in question. Instead, there will be a note (500): Description based on: Sept. 10, 1990. (It was agreed that the date in the 500 should be that of the actual minutes of the group's meeting, not that on the cover letter.)

After the specific questions were gone over in the session, further discussion about general descriptive problems took place. These comments follow.

Serial title changes

The issue of "true" vs. "happenstance" title changes arose. LC has rule interpretations that are specific, but the method of application actually practiced at LC and in CONSER libraries does vary. A common situation that illustrates this variation occurs when the word "Annual" is included as part of the serial's title, then disappears, reappears, etc. Adele said that under AACR2R these are true title changes (although not always cataloged as such). If in disagreement with this, perhaps a suggestion could be made to LC.

Shepard's

There was general agreement that the current practice using one record for both Shepard's cases and statutes is better. All present preferred a serial approach to Shepard's, however, rather than the monographic approach now in place at LC.

Cover title

There was a comment that someone was curious as to why a "Cover title" note is used for monographs, but a "Title from cover" note is used for serials. Adele said that there was no practical distinction, just one of preference and choice. There was a suggestion that perhaps "Title from cover" implied the conscious choice of a title from a number of options, as opposed to "Cover title," which could mean that there was no other option. Subsequent to the session, Adele framed this response:

In cataloging serials, the CONSER editing guide indicates that the form "Title from cover" be used for indicating that the source of the title given in the 245 field is the cover. If however there is a bona fide title page and there is also a cover title, but it differs from the title proper, a 246 field, with the second indicator "4," is given, which when printed out reads "Cover title: -----."

In cataloging monographs, the approach is simpler. The form "Cover title" is used for indicating the source of title as well as for indicating that in addition to the title page title there is also a cover title and that title differs from the title proper. In the latter case, the form of note is identical with that of the note used in serials cataloging, i.e., it includes the citation of the cover title. A 740 field is also given.