

2-1-1991

Conference Report I

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Recommended Citation

Ellen McGrath, *Conference Report I*, 16 *Technical Servs. L. Libr.* 10 (1991).

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CONFERENCE REPORT I
ELLEN MCGRATH
SUNY AT BUFFALO

The Online Audiovisual Catalogers (OLAC) biennial conference was held in Rochester, New York on October 17-18, 1990. The three general sessions: "Do We Catalog For Other Catalogers?" (Dr. Beatrice Kovacs), "Technology and AV Cataloging" (Jean Weihs), and "Mastering Technology" (Dr. Sheila Intner) were thought-provoking, and raised issues important to all catalogers, not only those of AV materials. The questions of multiple versions was the focus of the CAPC (Cataloging Policy Committee) meeting attended by all conference participants. At the close of that discussion, it seemed the group was in favor of applying the multiple versions approach at the most basic level only, with photocopies for preservation and AV dubs given as examples.

The session on "Workflow, Technology and AV Cataloging" (Liz Bishoff and Dorian Martyn) was helpful, as it addressed the fact that automation often demands an altered workflow. Examples of flowcharts illustrated how one library dealt with the creation of a more efficient workflow. A session given by Laurel Jizba dealt with authority control, and focused on the issues involved with automated authority work. The presentation on cataloging computer software (Ann Sandberg-Fox) was accompanied by an excellent handout, containing examples of the points discussed.

"Cataloging Videorecordings" (Glenn Patton) consisted of an in-depth examination of a number of examples, and a discussion of the variety of ways in which some videos may be cataloged. Karen Driessen presented a session on processing decisions, which showcased the varied packaging and labeling choices available for audiovisual collections. In addition, there were sessions on "Audio Recordings and AV Cataloging" (Joan Swanekamp and Jennifer Bowen) and "Retrospective Conversion and the AV Cataloger" (Bobbie Ferguson and Cynthia Whitacre).

This conference was one of the most informative and practical meetings I have attended. The participants represented many different types of libraries and work with other materials as well as audiovisuals, so the discussions encompassed a wide range of cataloging perspectives. The handouts for the majority of the sessions reflected a great deal of preparation and have already proven to be of assistance in my daily work.