(MCDAC) MOBIUS Catalog Design Advisory Committee
January 2006

MCDAC met July 8, 2005 and Nov. 4, 2005 since our last report in June. The next meetings will be March 10, 2006 and July 14, 2006.

Chair: Denise Pakala was elected chair.

Cataloging Standards: MCDAC formed a 3-person subcommittee (Donna Bacon of Springfield-Greene, Gwen Gilpin of Ozarks Technical Community College, and Kathy Nystrom of Webster University) to discuss the issue of standards and report back to MCDAC. In looking at the MOBIUS agreements and Memorandum of Understanding for any mention of cataloging standards, Donna Bacon reported that the subcommittee found no real standards. The subcommittee found three documents posted on the MCO website but none of those documents even mentioned AACR2. The subcommittee submitted a document which was approved by MCDAC. It is mounted on the MCDAC page of the MOBIUS website. MCDAC recommends that a copy of the standards be given to all new MOBIUS members and, possibly, added to the Cooperating Partners agreement.

MARS: There have been a few problems with MARS Authority Control since it was sold by OCLC to Backstage Library Works. By and large Backstage has done a good job, but Bridges and Merlin have noted minor problems. We recommend that the clusters check carefully when their records return from MARS processing so that any problems can be addressed quickly.

Digital Archive records from the State Library: Linda Harris from the State Library discussed the State Library's Digital Archives project. The State Library was looking for a way to "archive" many of the core publications from the Missouri Documents Depository program. The idea is to make Missouri documents accessible on any desktop anywhere in the world through OCLC, MOBIUS, the State Library website, and, hopefully, search engines. Once the records have been created via the Digital Archive project, the records are loaded into OCLC, then into the Arthur catalog. MCDAC is looking into having these added to all the other clusters as well.

Holdings Display: MCDAC has set up a Holdings Task Force to look at holdings display issues. The members of the Holdings Task Force are Stephen Wynn of Truman State University, Joy Flanders of Central Methodist University, and Mary Doran of the University of Missouri, St. Louis. The Task Force identified four categories of holdings display problems in the central catalog: 1. Large multi-volume monograph sets (e.g.: Psychology of Art); 2. Serials (e.g.: Journal of Algebra); 3. Electronic materials only available by subscription (e.g.: Absolute Beginner's Guide to Personal Firewalls); and 4. Electronic materials that are freely available and that have various cluster-level shared location codes (e.g.: Missouri Sunshine Law).

A title may appear properly in the cluster catalog, but in the Central Catalog a cryptic "No local holdings" appears when a patron clicks on the "Display Holdings of MOBIUS Libraries" button. For an example, search "Missouri Sunshine Law" in the Arthur catalog and then look at the same record in the Central Catalog. A different sort of problem occurs with bib records with long lists of individual items. The holdings are poorly displayed and difficult to wade through. For an example of this, search "Newsweek" as a journal title. The holdings problems are complicated by the fact that we do not have any 'best practices' set up for recommended suppression codes and holdings displays. The Task Force is continuing its work and will report back to MCDAC with recommendations.

Reverse suppression code demonstration: This new suppression code may help resolve some of the holdings display issues. It allows an item or checkin record to be suppressed locally but displayed centrally. This allows a library to control/define its central catalog display by displaying individual item records for a video, for instance, only in the local catalog, since they can't be checked out at the central level anyway. At the same time, the library can create a LibHas note in a checkin record or create an item record that will display the extent of the library's holdings for that title in a single holdings statement—and then display this record centrally but suppress locally. See local (Arthur) and central displays for the title, Ethical Issues in Professional Life [videorecording].

Corporate Authors: We discussed ways to make the display of corporate authors (110, 710, etc.) more intelligible. For an example of the problems, search under "World Council of Churches" as an author and page through several screens. Some author elements are not appearing at all, or are appearing oddly or in the wrong index. Merlin has worked on this issue in their cluster and has solved many of the problems. MCO is going to change some of the settings in the Central Catalog. The basic problem is that the indexing rules for the 110/710 and 111/711 fields need to be exactly the same, particularly the 'n' delimiter.

Table of Contents Service from Blackwells: BNA has changed the first indicator values it uses in the 970 tag. Originally, there were three first indicator values defined for the 970 tag; now there are only two. Indexing decisions were made on the basis of these values and therefore need to be revisited. Three clusters (Archway, MERLIN, and Washington University) are currently paying for the BNA TOC service). Some indexing changes may need to be made at the MOBIUS catalog level. These will be decided on at the next MCDAC meeting, after the three currently subscribed clusters discuss this and develop a recommendation.

Limit by 007: Mark Scharff (Washington University) led a discussion on how specific search limits (e.g., sound recordings in cassette, LP, CD formats or videorecordings in disc or cassette formats) can be implemented in cluster catalogs, based on the first four bytes of 007 fields. He shared a procedure for identifying records that should contain 007 fields and for cleaning up the data contained in them and/or adding the field with Rapid or Global Update.

Limit to E-Book: Every cluster has an E-Book search limit but the Central Catalog doesn't. MCDAC voted to add this limit.

Advisory Committee Task Force to review the Advisory Committee Charges: Denise Pakala represented MCDAC on this Task Force.

Sharing of Bib Records for Electronic Resources: Now that there are numerous collections of free Internet resources, we are beginning to discuss how we might share the cataloging of these collections across clusters. For example, National Academies Press has a large set of scholarly books that are freely available on the NAP web site. If a few libraries got together to catalog this collection, it would be helpful if we could share the entire MARC set with any MOBIUS clusters who want it. This may or may not be feasible, but we think it is worth discussing. Denise Pakala (Covenant Seminary) is talking with Susan Lewis (MLNC) about issues involved in the sharing of OCLC records created by member libraries.

Submitted by Denise Pakala
01/25//2005