Cataloging Advisory Committee (CAC)
April 18, 2009, 5:15-6:15pm

Moderators: Sarah Quimby
Recorder: Lori Van Deman

Attendance: Sarah Quimby (chair), Elizabeth Lilker, Daniel Starr, Lori Van Deman. Several observers were also present.

Sarah opened the meeting and asked for a motion to approve the previous year’s minutes. The motion passed and the minutes of the 2008 meeting were approved.

Liaison reports

Liz O’Keefe sent her report on MARBI activities out over email previous to the conference.

Elizabeth Lilker gave a report on the activities of CC:DA (Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access) concerning RDA, and has also posted her report to Sherman’s Art NACO site. In sum, the RDA software is still not ready and has been cited as one of the reasons for the numerous delays in the release. Testing is currently scheduled to begin later this year. The current discussions have been focusing on the form and cost of RDA and the question of whether making the switch to the new standard will be worth the costs, given the current economic climate in most libraries. These concerns have been exacerbated by the decision to not include RDA in Cataloger’s Desktop.

New business

Sarah Quimby brought up the use of the wiki format for editing “Cataloging Exhibition Publications: Best Practices,” and mentioned that its use seemed quite successful. While its usefulness was generally agreed upon by those present, Daniel Starr stated that conference calls or other forms of contact during the year might be more expedient for discussing and solving certain issues that come up over the course of the year. The possibility of opening the wiki to outside comments in the future was also mentioned.

On the subject of the group’s liaisons to other organizations, Quimby noted the difficulty in the current economic climate of members having to commit to attending multiple conferences, especially in cases where their travel may not be fully supported by their institutions. The idea of having “liaisons-at-large” or finding other ways for members to contribute to liaison relationships was briefly discussed.

The committee considered the idea of sponsoring a session for the 2010 ARLIS conference in Boston. Lilker said that the reason she had suggested Shawne Miksa for a session on RDA was because Miksa had been offering to give sessions and been turned down by other groups. Quimby mentioned that we were encouraged at the leadership breakfast to consider speakers from within ARLIS, both because of speaker costs and to help members get funding for travel to the conference next year. The idea was put forward of jointly sponsoring a session with the cataloging section and featuring speakers whose libraries will
be part of RDA testing over the course of the coming year. If the conference planning committee rejects the session ideas, they can also be covered in the section meeting, thereby needing no approval. Lilker also mentioned that Jennifer Bowen is a very good speaker and would also be a good option for a session. Quimby said that we will revisit the session ideas in May or June when the deadlines for the 2010 conference are posted.

The committee agreed to continue work on “Cataloging Exhibition Publications: Best Practices,” with the final section on added entries. Starr mentioned that it would be good to have the complete work finished so that it will be ready for revision as a whole once we know what will happen with RDA. The section on subject headings has been submitted to Kraig Binkowski and will appear on the ARLIS website soon. Quimby mentioned that in the museum section meeting several members had indicated that they had been using the available sections of the document.

Starr brought up the issue of whether there is a mechanism for feedback to the CAC from the ARLIS website. Quimby reported that currently there is not but that it would be a good thing to ask the new management company about adding.

Recorded by Lori Van Deman