

CATALOGER

Newsletter of the Cataloging and Classification Committee of the
American Association of Law Libraries

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CLOSING THE LC CATALOG

Hearings on the closing, or the "freezing," of the Library of Congress catalog were held Tuesday, January 24, at the ALA Midwinter Meeting. Most of the two hour session was devoted to IC staff explaining the changes to be made. All discussion is based on the following assumptions:

1. IC will close its catalogs on Day 1, which is January 2, 1980 (a Wednesday), whether or not the automated system is ready.
2. Should the system not be ready, new temporary card catalogs will be started which can be discarded when they are no longer needed.
3. IC will abandon superimposition and begin using AACR 2 and the 19th edition of Dewey.
4. IC will make some changes to refine and improve its subject headings before Day 1.

Comments from the library community are solicited particularly for the revision of subject headings. After a study of PRECIS the library decided to retain its current subject heading structure but to improve its terminology. So we are all requested to send each heading we'd like changed on a separate 3X5 card listing the present and the preferred form, then to rank them, making the most horrible heading number one. This part should be fun.

Less fun will be deciding what to do with the decision to end superimposition and create all entries according to AACR 2. A study at IC shows that an estimated 49% of the headings in the existing MARC file will not

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conform to that standard. The present assumption is that all headings on-line will be corrected. Those of us tied to hard copy catalogs will have to make some difficult decisions about our own practices.

Points about which IC still is unsure are how to handle shelflisting, how to link the old catalog with the new, and the ultimate treatment of the old catalog. These are problems we'll all face and although it will be helpful to see how IC handles them, in the end each library will have to develop its own procedures.

Ellen Sandmeyer

Look for a complete report on IC's freezing the card catalog in the IC information bulletin within the next month.

DIVIDED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CATALOGING AT WASHINGTON AND LEE

In most libraries, all cataloging and classification is done by the cataloging department. At the Washington and Lee Law Library this was the case until our library's collection began expanding rapidly in several different directions. While the Head Cataloger is still responsible for overseeing all cataloging, other librarians do the actual cataloging in their areas of specialization.

Our reasons for dividing up the cataloging responsibilities in this manner were ones of practicality rather than philosophy. In 1972, plans were finalized for building a new law school. The law library has a book stack capacity for 250,000 volumes and technological capabilities for innovation in the area of in-house audio and video taping, as well as much greater storage capacity for microforms and films. Prior to this expansion, the law library had approximately 35,000 volumes; now, it has about 170,000 volumes. In 1972, the text, treatise and monograph collection was partially cataloged and was arranged by topic, e.g., Torts, and within topics, alphabetically by main entry. Serial and periodical cataloging was almost nonexistent.

In 1972, it had very few government documents, and what we did have were basically serial titles so they arranged themselves quite well. The documents collection has doubled in size during this period by adding administrative and statistical series and many monographic publications. In 1972 we had very little microfiche or film so those materials could easily be maintained by the reference librarian. Now, the library has a volume equivalent of approximately 60,000 in microform. So, with this rate of growth, what "works" had taken precedence over what is usually done.

At present, our U.S. Government documents are cataloged and classified by our Serials and Documents librarian, who is also responsible for Virginia state documents and periodicals. We are using the Superintendent of Documents classification scheme for U.S. Government documents so that they are a separate collection. However, they are given full cataloging and interfiled in the public catalog. We have not yet decided upon a classification scheme for Virginia state documents.

Concerning periodicals, we should note that the classification of our periodical collection into class K 1-30 is being done by a paraprofessional. The descriptive cataloging of our periodicals is, however, incomplete.

Our nonprint materials, i.e., microfilm, microfiche, video tapes, films, audio cassettes, etc. will be cataloged and classified by our Media Librarian. Since our new library was planned to include great potential for this type of material, the task will be an ever increasing one. The system has not been completely worked out; however, we do expect that we will devise our own classification scheme.

The cataloger, then, is responsible for the cataloging of all other materials, i.e., texts, treatises, monographs, international documents, reporters, codes, citators, state session laws, reports, etc. For these materials we are using the Library of Congress classification scheme, except for publications which are not classified, e.g., the West reporter system, current state codes, encyclopedias, digests, Shepard's citators, etc.

The system described has evolved for reasons of practicality. However, we have found that this system is beneficial for the librarians. For one thing, they become familiar with the various aspects of library work. And, they find that cataloging the items in a field helps later on in doing reference work. One becomes familiar with the total picture, as it were, not just his own little world.

If you would like more information about this organizational plan, please contact either Jean Eisenhower, Head Cataloger; or Nancy Raab, Acquisitions and Media Librarian at Washington and Lee University, Law Library, Lexington, Virginia 24450.

Jean Eisenhower
Johanna Thompson

CLASSIFICATION QUESTIONS

1. Is there any difference in meaning among the following captions?
(As examples, some numbers which have these captions are included.)

General. (KF3985)
General. Comprehensive. (KF1600)
General and comprehensive. (KF4101)

Answer:

There is no difference in meaning among the captions you cite. The standard captions now being used in new developments in the K schedules are "General works" (for captions having a form division table number) or "General works" (for topics not further divided by form).

2. On The justices of the peace in Wales and Monmouthshire, 1541 to 1689, by John Roland Seymour Phillips (76-372758) L.C. has assigned the number KD7309.P45 which is within the span for the heading "Justices of the peace. Magistrates. Magistrates courts." But this is a sub-heading under the larger heading "Administration of justice. Courts and procedure since Judicature act of 1873." This work concerns a much earlier time. This problem has come up several times in retrospective cataloging because this span, KD7301-7310 is the only one provided for justices of the peace and we have several titles dealing with an earlier historical period. Are we to disregard the major heading and use this for works of this type regardless of period covered? This doesn't seem logical to me. There should be a number between KD6870-6992.

Answer:

The span of numbers, KD7283-7312, is intended to apply to the periods before 1873 and after 1873. We will make the necessary adjustments in the KD schedule to clarify this.

Cecilia Kwan

LCSH CROSS-REFERENCED WITH KF

For the last couple of years now, I've been working off and on with a project which is now about done. I have crossed law related LC subject headings with the KF schedule. This is done for the non-law headings and schedules in the LCSH, but not for law.

My original intent was to help my clerks and the reference people here at BYU. As I've noted in the Law Cataloger, many law firm libraries have been inquiring "how to" go with LC. My little compilation would undoubtedly be an easy way for such people to familiarize themselves with both the schedule and the common law headings.

There are about 1200 or so headings and I'm about completed. My Boss, Heinz Peter Mueller has been considering having our press publish it much as we did our Foreign Law Schedule (2d ed., 1975). With the University subsidy, the price would be minimal, say \$5-7.50.

I think I could have it out and ready for publishing by late spring or summer. Anyone interested in obtaining one should drop me a note as we need to know about how many to print up. I can be contacted at this address:

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AALL OCLC SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION NEWS

Two OCLC programs are in the works for the Rochester convention. Christian Boissonnas will speak on OCLC and quality costs in the Cornell Law Library. Gayle Edelman, Cheralyn Briggs and Diane Hillman, representing small, new and large law libraries, will hold a panel discussion on the effects of OCLC on workflow.

In addition to these two programs, there will be an informal question and answer period for those who are considering OCLC. This will take place after the Special Interest Section business meeting.

DR. MATTHEWS TO STUDY LAW COMPUTERIZED CATALOGING

Dr. Elizabeth W. Matthews has received a grant from Southern Illinois University Dept. of Research Development and Administration to conduct a national survey on computerized cataloging in law libraries. The data gathering instrument is being forwarded to catalogers in ABA approved Schools of Law in January.

CATALOG CODE REVISION NEWS FROM ALA MIDWINTER 1978

The Catalog Code Revision Committee met on Sunday, January 22, 1978 to discuss the details of a proposed introductory program for Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, 2d ed. The purpose of the program is to introduce to the library public the content of the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, 2d ed., and to assist in the interpretation of the probable effects of the provisions of AACR 2 upon library catalogs and bibliographic records.

The proposed instructional material includes videotapes and a series of graphics which will not duplicate the videotape information. In addition, but not mentioned in the proposal because it is not a CCRC undertaking, is an AACR orientation manual being prepared by Dr. Margaret Maxwell of the University of Arizona School of Library Science.

Suggestions to RTSD for forming the committee to develop the introductory program were discussed. It was decided that CCRC would ask that it be large enough to handle the project well. Involvement of special interest groups appears to be feasible.

A national (or international) introductory seminar and workshop will follow the publication of AACR 2 which will be published between September and November 1978. Additionally, regional and special workshops will be undertaken by interested groups under the general coordination of the RTSD Council of Regional Groups.

Reported by Cecilia Kwan

Dashed-on by Jill Brophy and Ellen Sandmeyer

As we look through the news items and articles we've accumulated since our last issue, it's clear that automation has to be the major concern of catalogers these days. It's what's happening — if not for us in our individual libraries, at least in the library world at large — and we have to be aware of it. The GPO's decisions are becoming almost as important to some of us as LC's — and all because of OCLC!

An indication of the impact of automation on cataloging is the 3-day "ACM Conference on Management Issues in Automating Cataloging" held in Chicago, November 3-5, 1977. Computer-generated catalogs in COM and book form are now as much a reality as those in card form and informed decisions will have to be made as to which is right for a particular library. Far too much information was covered to be summarized here. Fortunately the proceedings will probably be published this year. A couple comments which were particularly noteworthy:

Peter Spyers-Duran (California State University) on "Staff and Human Relations Issues in Automating the Catalog": At the end of two years we were taking everything as is off the screen...We still need support staff, but the need for professionals is decreasing...

Henriette Avram (LC) on "The Effect of National Networking on Cataloging Management Decisions": How do we interconnect networks to make sharing possible? Standardize, standardize!...A study showed that LC's cataloging service is the most important it offers to the nation's libraries and it should be given priority.

Despite the frequently heard charges of the inadequacy of LC subject headings, they still reign supreme in the hearts of most librarians. In a recent survey by the GPO only 5.5% of 3956 respondents thought the Monthly Catalog should not continue to use LC subject headings to provide subject access. A full 76.4% thought they should be used. This is particularly surprising in light of the fact that government documents are often considered "special" and held to need "different" treatment. For full results of the survey, see Documents to the People v.5 no.6, Nov. 1977, p. 240-41. The survey results were also sent to depository libraries.

Good news for those cataloging government documents using OCLC or the Monthly Catalog is that the GPO and LC are now cooperating on the establishment of government and private corporate names. Also, early this year LC intends to make catalog cards available for documents on an 'on demand' basis. They will be generated from GPO's archival tapes.

The University of Michigan/Dearborn Library anticipates that many medium and small libraries will not be able to afford the cost of the OCLC acquisitions subsystem when it becomes available. Consequently, they have devised a method of using the OCLC cataloging subsystem and a printer to facilitate monographic acquisitions. They have created a new order form that uses a print-out of the OCLC cataloging record to which is added necessary order information. Using this form and a new set of procedures, the UMD Library had eliminated the searching of the LC proof slip file and the typing of book order forms. The new system has also resulted in the use of more accurate bibliographic information, the elimination of unnecessary files, and the simplification of some order routines.

Copies of the report describing the new system, forms and procedures are available for one dollar from Katherine Schreiner, UMD Library, 4901 Evergreen Rd., Dearborn, MI 48128.

Although the Council on Library Resources' contract to pay OCLC for its participation in the CONSER project has run out, OCLC has decided to continue its involvement in the project until the CONSER data base is complete. OCLC will discontinue making charges for computer file memory space occupied by CONSER records as well as other charges being made for CONSER utilization of OCLC's staff and central installation. LC is scheduled to assume responsibility for CONSER in 1978.

The Los Angeles County Law Library became a member of the BALLOTS network this fall. Other California law libraries currently on BALLOTS include Stanford, the University of California at Berkeley and at Davis, the McGeorge School of Law, and the Golden Gate University School of Law.

Apparently LC's announcement that it intends to close its card catalog in 1980 led to the rumor that it would discontinue its Card Distribution Service. However, this does not seem to be the case since LC has invested in new computer technology that will enable its Cataloging Service to print catalog cards from MARC records on demand. CARDS (Card Automated Reproduction Demand System) is being developed under a contract with the Xerox Electro-Optical Systems in Pasadena, California and will use sophisticated laser, xerographic and computer technology. It will be integrated with the existing software and systems used by LC since 1970. The system will be able to print mixed font and point sizes and mixed Roman and non-Roman characters, using diacritics over characters and with proportional spacing. Since it will no longer be necessary for LC to maintain a card inventory, some processing delays will be eliminated and costs for cards should drop.

LC is considering some changes in another of its bibliographic products -- the NUC. In its present format and publication pattern (appearing monthly with quarterly and annual cumulations) the NUC repeats many entries two or three times and consequently requires much shelf space, high printing costs, and access to its contents is sometimes clumsy, tedious and time-consuming. To cut publication costs, trim the size of the catalog and improve access to information, LC is proposing to replace the NUC with a series of Master Registers.

There would be separate registers for books, films, music and sound recordings, serials, maps, manuscripts, microforms and newspapers. The registers would appear monthly and reproduce all the information given on LC catalog cards, but would not cumulate. Each register would be augmented by a series of Cumulative Brief Entry Catalogs which would act as indexes and would contain enough data under each entry to satisfy most reference needs. The indexes for each register would be the following: Name Brief Entry Catalog; Title Brief Entry Catalog; Monographic Series Brief Entry Catalog; LC Classification Number Brief Entry Catalog; Dewey Classification Number Brief Entry Catalog; Register of Locations/LC Card Number Index; and ISBN/ISSN Index.

Publications:

Ganning, Mary Kay Daniels. "Library of Congress Cataloging Distribution Services, 1901-1976." LRTS, Vol. 21, p. 317 (Fall, 1977)

Morita, Ichiko T., and D. Kaye Gapen. "Cost Analysis of the Ohio College Library Center On-Line Shared Cataloging System in the Ohio State University Libraries." LRTS, Vol. 21, p. 286 (Summer, 1977)

"A study of the cataloging and associated processing tasks before and after the adoption of OCLC at OSU."

North, John. "Card Catalog to COM." Library Journal, Vol. 102, p.2132 (October 12, 1977)

"The story of one library's decision and action to convert from card catalog to COM."

Peele, David. "Exploring Catalog Country's Great Divide." Wilson Library Bulletin, Vol. 52, p. 324 (December, 1977)

Readable article on the pros and cons of dividing the card catalog. Includes bibliography.

Weber, E. Sue. Serials Workbook: A Problem Solving Manual for OCLC Serial Catalogers.

"Designed to train serials catalogers in cataloging skills and to help them with practical problems in cataloging serials for OCLC."

Order for \$1.25 from the author, SUNY at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY 11794.

Wolf, Steve. "Put me to the test," HCL Cataloging Bulletin, no. 30, pp. 33-35 (Sept./Oct. 1977)

Wolf urges that practical tests of cataloging skill be substituted for hours of interviews with screening committees when hiring a cataloger.

Meetings:

April 7 Anglo-American Cataloging Rules : A Preview, a workshop, SUNY Albany. For information, write or call Gordon Stevenson, SLIS, SUNY Albany, Albany, N.Y. 12222. Phone: (518) 457-8677

April 23- Clinic on Library Applications of Data Processing. Illini 26 Union, Urbana Campus. The theme of this conference will be "Problems and Failures in Library Automation." For information, write or call Edward C. Kalb, Office of Continuing Education, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801. Phone: (217) 333-2884. Cost: 95 dollars.

EDITORIALLY YOURS

Public Services' and Technical Services' librarians alike spend a good deal of time these days debating, pondering, researching and dreading the effect LC's closing their catalogs will have on all of us. The two programs on the closing of the card catalog that I mentioned in the October issue were thought-provoking and in some ways encouraging. J. Michael Bruer discussed the pros and cons of the COM catalog at the New York Technical Services' fall dinner meeting. I came away concerned and convinced that the costs would be prohibitive for the small and medium-sized libraries. The New York Metropolitan Reference and Research Library Agency's program featured three speakers: Joseph A. Rosenthal on Whether or Not to Close, John F. Knapp on How to Close and Carole R. Weiss on the Impact on Users. When Carole Weiss described the overwhelmingly positive response of the users to the COM catalogs at the University of Toronto, I felt encouraged. It seems that the library users are more ready (or should I say impatient) for the age of technology in bibliographic access than librarians.

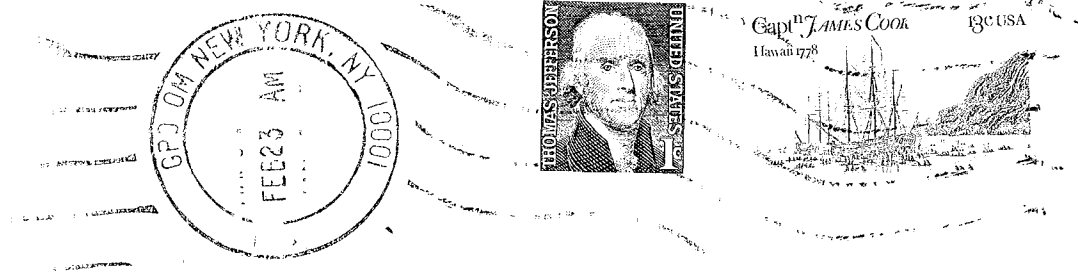
One study or prediction I would be very interested to see is how much will it cost to integrate LC's AACR II copy into existing catalogs. For the large research library it seems a foregone conclusion that they will close their catalogs when LC does. But I can't believe that all libraries everywhere will be able to afford an automated alternative at least in the near future. Does anyone have a profound theory?

A bibliographical reference that I can't resist including is: Sandemeyer, Ellen C., Subject Access to a Bibliographic Data Base for Law and Related Fields, Law Library Journal, v. 70, no. 3, August 1977, p. 349-359. Thanks, Ellen, for a very interesting article.

For all you other aspiring authors, there's help on the way. I don't know all the details, but I've heard that the New England Chapter of the ACRL received a grant to hold a writing seminar throughout the fiscal year 1977-1978. There are ten participants and they get together about once a month to help each other in formulating a publishable scholarly article. If anyone knows more about this program, I would be most interested. It sounds like the type of program that would be most helpful to replicate.

When you send your suggestions to LC for the most hated LCSH and their proposed changes, please send me a copy. I will compile the results and let you know if Law Catalogers all hate the same LC subjects!

A special thanks to all the contributors to this issue, and particularly to Jean Eisenhauer and Johanna Thompson who so generously shared their interesting organizational setup. You're fantastic! And a reminder to those of you who will have contributions for the May issue. Please send them to me at the beginning of May. Remember it's your newsletter; I'm depending on you.



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