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IFLA Standing Committee of the Cataloguing Section

Report on Activities

Gunilla Jonsson

National Library of Sweden
Stockholm, Sweden

In Berlin, the standing committee prepared the strategic plan, which was later discussed and finalized via email between the members. It is available at our homepage at IFLANET (<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/annual/sp13-04.htm>).

Our Section has two review groups,
the ISBD review group, which has been running for a long time, chaired by John Byrum,
and

the FRBR review group, which was established as such in Berlin and is chaired by Patrick Le Boeuf. Each review group has one or more working groups, focussing on particular topics.

Two revised ISBDs have been out for world wide review on IFLANET, the ISBD(G) and the ISBD(ER). With the financial backing of IFLA-CDNL Alliance for Bibliographic Standards, ICABS, Tom Delsey have been hired as consultant to perform a mapping between FRBR and ISBD terms. His work will be based on the newly revised ISBD(G), after having been approved by the standing committee members, and it will be finished before the time of this presentation. A specific ISBD Series study group has been established, chaired by Françoise Bourdon from the Bibliothèque Nationale de France.

Three FRBR working groups have started their work during the year. The FRBR/CRM harmonization group has been very productive and come a considerable way in expressing FRBR as on object oriented model. The working group for Continuing resources also has started working and have had very constructive discussions. The Expression entity working

group has been formally established and has issued a couple of discussion papers internally. Real discussions, however, have yet to start.

We have had five other working groups during this year:

Multilingual Dictionary of Cataloguing Terms and Concepts, chaired by Monika Münnich

Planning committee for the International Meetings of Experts on an International

Cataloguing code, chaired by Barbara Tillett

Working Group on Guidelines for the use of Metadata Schemes, chaired by Lynne Howarth

Working Group on Guidelines for OPAC displays, also chaired by Lynne Howarth, and, finally

Working Group on Anonymous Classics, earlier chaired by Nadine Boddaert

The working group on Anonymous Classics compiled Pt 1, European Anonymous Classics two years ago, but final checking has taken a long time. Presently, we have no chair for this working group, but Patrick Le Boeuf has taken it in his able hands to provide the last details. Once pt 1 is published, it is our intention to take this work further to cover other regions of the world.

Two working groups have completed their work during the last year, the working group on Guidelines for OPAC displays and the working group for the use of Metadata Schemes. Both have had their final reports on IFLANET for worldwide review. Our open programme on Tuesday will have given a thorough report of the outcome of the Metadata Schemes.

There will also be a new working group established to follow up work regarding metadata and digital publications.

The working group on a Multilingual dictionary of cataloguing terms and concepts has established a database, which has been further developed during the last year. There will be a special demonstration of it later in this session.

The planning committee for the International meetings of experts on an international cataloguing code, under the dedicated chairmanship of Barbara Tillett, will have finished its second meeting in Buenos Aires, just before the IFLA conference. The statement from the first meeting, "The Frankfurt Principles", have been published in our newsletter SCATnews, on IFLANET, and this statement will now be the foundation for the meetings to come, in Seoul in 2006 and in Durban in 2007. A conference publication from the Frankfurt meeting, comprising also the background papers and presentations is under preparation.

The Cataloguing Section is also well represented in the IFLA Working Group on Functional Requirements and Numbering of Authority Records, FRANAR. FRANAR issued a draft report for the review by our standing committee during spring this year, and we will undoubtedly hear more about it in the specific FRANAR report.

Much work has gone into updating our homepages on IFLANET as well as the specific FRBR homepage, contained within it, and it is now well structured and gives comprehensive information about our work (<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/sc.htm>) .

We are also, by and by, establishing working routines with ICABS, which has provided very important support during the year, both for our work with FRBR and with the ISBDs.

The conclusion is that our work with bibliographic standards and global harmonization of cataloguing guidelines continues at an ambitious level.

I see two major challenges for the future:

One is shared, international authority control. There have been several, international projects and experiments over the years, where the Cataloguing section has been involved, one way or another. There is presently a new project co-operation going on, called ONESAC, that is, ONE Shared Authority Control. It belongs within a European library consortium, comprising several Nordic national libraries, the British Library, ICCU in Italy and some other European national libraries that have agreed to share the use of their national records. ONESAC aims to produce a service for cataloguers, and has at the time of writing successfully loaded Swedish and British records with a common search interface. Finnish and Croatian records are underway. Several of the section's members, as well as Barbara Tillett, are part of the project group. I hope to come back next year with a report of the outcome of this project.

The second big challenge is bibliographic control of digital publications. I am not talking of web sites here. Digital publishing, especially in the academic and so called "grey" area, is expanding and proliferating very rapidly. We urgently need to extend common, bibliographic standards to DTDs and schema creation to govern the mark up of digital texts. Practical experience shows that if digital publications don't come with well structured metadata, either embedded or automatically linked, it is a very time consuming and awkward task to catalogue them, much more so than with printed publications. If, on the other hand, we do get well structured metadata, the process can be largely automated and very swift. DTDs and XML-schemas for embedded or linked metadata are proliferating, too. That is a promising factor as such, but if libraries shall be able to make efficient use of these metadata without a tremendous amount of conversion work, we need to establish common standards and guidelines far beyond the library world. The working group on the use of Metadata schemes has made a start in this direction, and the Cataloguing Section aims to take the work further, in co-operation with other IFLA sections and with other actors beyond IFLA.

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