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The New Books Project: a prototype for re-inventing the Cataloguing-in-Publication program to meet the needs for publishers, libraries and readers in the 21st century

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The New Books project is a Library of Congress Cataloging Directorate proposal intended to provide the library community and general public access to a rich source of information about soon-to-be-published and just-published books. In conjunction with another Cataloging Directorate proposal, known as the Library of Congress Partnership Program, New Books would enable readers to identify forthcoming books in the Library of Congress database and then readily request books of interest be purchased by their local library.

The New Books program would build on the Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication program (also known as "CIP"). CIP began in 1971. Its aim was simple: to help libraries by reducing the cost of cataloging and by expediting book processing so books would get into the hands of readers more quickly. Participating publishers submit an application form and a galley (or manuscript) of each forthcoming book for which CIP cataloging (also known as CIP data) is requested. Upon receipt the work is fully cataloged. This includes descriptive cataloging, name authority work, subject analysis, LC number classification, and decimal number classification. The bibliographic record is then sent to the publisher who prints the record on the verso of the title page so that it is immediately available to any library that purchases the book .

In recent years, an electronic version of the CIP program (known as Electronic CIP or ECIP) was developed to enable publishers to apply for CIP data via the Internet. In this instance, the publisher completes an online form and then transmits the complete text of the work to the Library of Congress. After cataloging is complete the CIP data is emailed to the publisher.

ECIP set the stage for New Books. New Books would use the same technology as ECIP. With New Books the publisher would complete an online data application and transmits the full text to the Library of Congress just like ECIP. But with New Books the publisher would submit additional data elements. These would include: an image of the book jacket, book jacket blurb, a summary, sample text, table of contents, information about the author, the author's email address, the publishers' homepage, and the homepage where the book can be purchased. Upon receipt by the Library of Congress, computer programs would automatically extract various data elements and construct a New Books record.

The New Books record is the keystone of the New books program. This is not a catalog record but, as noted, a record generated automatically by computer programs. A New Books record (as currently defined) includes the author, title, place of publication, proposed date of publication, and ISBN as well as an image of the book jacket, a summary, sample text, table of contents, information about the author, the author's email address, the publishers' homepage, and the homepage where the book can be purchased. The New Books record would be posted on the Library of Congress homepage where it could be accessed by any reader worldwide with access to the Internet.

Simultaneous to the New Books record creation process, Library of Congress staff would appraise the title for processing via the CIP program or the Preassigned Control Number program. Consequently, the publisher would be sent either a Library of Congress control number or CIP data for each title submitted to the New Books program.

When posted on the Library of Congress homepage, the New Books record would also include a link to the user's local library, assuming the local library participates in the Library of Congress Partnership Program. This latter program is conceived as a cooperative effort between the Library of Congress and participating libraries to enhance service to local library users. Libraries that participate in the program would receive requests from their users for forthcoming books which their users have identified in the Library of Congress New Books data base. Depending on how this program is developed, the user may connect directly to the local library and submit his/her request directly using the local library's server or an email message could be generated and transmitted to the local library. The Library of Congress server could conceivably also support other local library activities related to the New Books program.

A third proposed element, related to the New Books project, is the New Books Alert Service. The intent of the New Books Alert Service is to support the collection development and book acquisition activities of Library of Congress staff by providing New Books records for forthcoming titles which fit the profile of the individual staff member's area of responsibility. The New Books Alert Service would provide Library of Congress staff with an online application form that would enable staff members to identify types of books relevant to their area of expertise. The staff members could do this by identifying subject areas, publishers, formats, genres, etc. of interest. New Books records for titles matching the profile could then be sent directly to the staff members' accounts to be accessed and reviewed at their convenience.

The information elements displayed for Library of Congress staff would include the full range of information elements necessary to enable the staff member to make acquisition, custodial, and processing decision prior to the books receipt and record these decision in the catalog record and related files. This means that when the book is received by the Library of Congress, technicians who first search the book would know at the outset of the work-stream whether or not the Library will add the book to its collections, the number of copies it will add, the unit(s) that will have custody of the work, as well as other decisions related to the books processing and disposition. The staff will also be positioned to acquire additional copies, if needed, or to alert technicians and catalogers of special processing or security needs.

A model of the various modules of the New Books project has been developed and can be accessed as noted

below.

> The publisher's module. This module would be used by publishers to request New Books processing for individual titles. To visit this module see: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov:8081/ecip/celli/nbpub.html>.

> The public access module. Anyone with access to the Internet could visit the Library of Congress homepage and access this module. This would enable the user to search the database of New Books records and, assuming his/her local library participated in the Library of Congress Partnership Program, request a given book be purchased by his/her local library. To visit this module see: < http://lcweb2.loc.gov:8081/ecip/celli/lchp.html>.

> The Library of Congress Partnership Program. Local libraries would use this module to join the Partnership Program and conceivably use it to help process requests made by their readers. To visit this module see:< http://lcweb2.loc.gov:8081/ecip/celli/lcpp.html>.

> The New Books Alert Service. This module would be used by Library of Congress staff to assist them in performing collection development and book acquisition activities. To visit this module see:<http://lcweb2.loc.gov:8081/ecip/celli/alrt_so.html>.

Please note that these are only models.   They do not constitute a production system. The models were developed to enable staff, stakeholders, and developers to experience sample screens to better conceptualize how New Books might be built. No doubt substantial changes will be made as the system is developed to meet the needs of all of the stakeholders. Also note that comments are included on many of the screens. The comments are intended to explain aspects of the model and would not, of course, be part of a production system.