IFLA to the rescue: how Division IV (Bibliographic Control) is responding to new issues in Bibliographic control

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Introduction

The traditional mandate of national and research libraries to collect, preserve and give access to printed resources has in recent years been challenged by the impressive development and increase in the amount and diversity of electronic documents. National libraries, like most public and research libraries have had to integrate these new publications in their mandate, while at the same time working hard in trying to maintain their commitment to their core paper-based collections. In the context of bibliographic control, national libraries have made great strides in the last 30 years in developing and applying cataloguing and subject access standards and practices. Today, they are extending these standards and practices to electronic documents.

This challenge in expanding the library's mandate to ensure access to digital collections has been undertaken in a climate of rapid changes in technology as well as in information seeking behaviour and research. In a recent report commissioned by the Library of Congress, Karen Calhoun addresses this new reality facing all kind of libraries. She states:

> "Today, a large and growing number of students and scholars routinely bypass library catalogs in favour of other discovery tools, and the catalog represents a shrinking proportion of the universe of scholarly information. The catalog is in decline, its processes and structures are unsustainable, and change needs to be swift. At the same time, books and serials are not dead, and they are not yet digital. Notwithstanding widespread expansion of digitization projects, the role of catalog records in discovery and retrieval of the world's library collections seems likely to continue for at least a couple of decades and probably longer"[1]

While the prospect of being able access large digital collections and conduct full text searches is attractive to researchers, it will certainly take many years and decades to achieve the goal of

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[1] Calhoun, Karen. *The Changing Nature of the Catalog and its Integration with other Discovery Tools*: *Final Report, March 17, 2006.* p. 5 (http://www.loc.gov/catdir/calhoun-report-final.pdf)

converting parts of national libraries' collections to digital format. Even with the increase of digital publication, it can be assumed that published resources will continue to make up the core of national libraries' collections in the medium to long term.

National and research libraries will therefore continue to ensure that access to their printed resources meets users' expectations and needs. As this new generation of users is confronted with an ever growing amount and choice of information and scholarly resources, both in print and electronic formats, libraries will rely more and more on current quality metadata through improved exchange of bibliographic data. In this new information environment, library online catalogues must continue to offer support for browsing collections. As stated by Calhoun,

> "The predictable and consistent structure of catalog records can facilitate serendipitous discovery and offer a wide variety of ways to browse. The catalog contains good metadata, in the sense that it uses authority control, classification, and content standards to describe and collocate related materials"[2]

This environment described by Karen Calhoun has been for many years the focus of the IFLA Division of Bibliographic Control (Division IV). The activities of the current four sections that make up the Division, the Bibliographic Section, the Cataloguing Section, the Classification and Indexing Section and the Knowledge Management Section have over many years promoted, initiated and maintained bibliographic standards that have helped the international library community to create and share bibliographic data. Since the automation of libraries, the Division has geared its activities towards the improved exchange of bibliographic data through the standardization of practice in the construction of bibliographic records systems, particularly in the context of new technologies. This work has been undertaken in collaboration with the IFLA/CDNL Alliance for Bibliographic Standards (ICABS) and the MARC programmes (UNIMARC and MARC21). This paper will present an overview of the projects of the four sections that have led to concrete actions since the 1990s and the role played by Division IV in promoting this work.

Recent activities of the Division IV sections
The activities of Division IV are principally directed towards the maintenance and development of standards for cataloguing, indexing and classification in order to enable identification of, retrieval of and access to materials described in catalogues and bibliographies. These have been principally the responsibility of the original sections that make up the Division IV: Cataloguing, Bibliography, and Classification and Indexing. It is only recently that Knowledge Management was added to the Division and while it does not play the same role in the development of bibliographic standards, it does promote bibliographic control in knowledge management solutions.[3] Over the last ten years or so, each of the sections has tackled important issues that have led to concrete results, in the form of guidelines, publications, conferences and workshops. Many of these achievements can be traced back to the 1990 Stockholm Seminar on Bibliographic Records, sponsored by the IFLA Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC (UBCIM) programme and the IFLA Division of Bibliographic Control[4]. The Stockholm Seminar looked at the pressing issues that influenced bibliographic control at that time; new opportunities brought by new technologies and networked access to information resources and challenges from economic pressures and new forms of electronic publishing which led to an increasing need to adapt cataloguing codes and practices. A series of nine resolutions were adopted and set the stage for many projects that have guide the work of the Division since then.

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[2] Ibid, p. 31.

[3] Information from the current *IFLA Division of Bibliographic Control* brochure and from
http://www.ifla.org/VII/d4/dbc.htm

[4] Bourne, Ross (ed.). *Proceedings of the Seminar held in Stockholm, 15-16 August 1990, Sponsored by the IFLA UBCIM Programme and the IFLA Division of Bibliographic Control.* München: K.G. Saur, 1992.

The Cataloguing Section has been at the centre of many of these resolutions. Established in 1935, the Cataloguing Section is the oldest of the bibliographic control sections and has traditionally been involved in the major development of cataloguing principles and codes, of cataloguing theory and standards. Over its long history, it has initiated ideas, concepts and projects that have led to tangible contributions to cataloguing, often in collaboration with national and international organizations and institutions[5]. It is fitting that one of the resolutions have led to a major achievement in the bibliographic control, with the publication in 1998 of the Study on Functional Requirements for Bibliographical Records[6], also known as FRBR. This publication articulates a conceptual model of the bibliographic universe, how it is organized and the information used to identify the bibliographic entities and relationships. Since its publication, FRBR is continuously being developed under the FRBR Review Group and has been expanded recently in other review groups in the area of authority control; Functional Requirements for Authority Data (FRANAR)[7] and Functional requirements for Subject Authority Data (FRSAR)[8]. In January 2008, the FRBR/CRM Harmonisation Working Group issued a draft version of the object oriented definition of FRBR (FRBRoo). This is the result of integrating the object oriented methodology and framework of CIDOC GRM (International Committee on Documentation, Conceptual Reference Model) of the International Council of Museums. Started in 2003, this collaboration between the IFLA FRBR and a subgroup of the CIDOC CRM SIG has led to a common view of library and museum documentation necessary for interoperability between both communities.[9]

Another initiative that has its roots in a conference held 30 years ago is the ISBD consolidated edition that was published in 2007[10] in an innovative loose-leaf format. This edition is the results of many years of work in merging the texts of the seven specialised ISBDs (for books, maps, serials, sound recordings, computer files and other electronic resources, etc.) into a single text. Work is already underway for a supplement of examples and a first revision in 2009. The ISBD product goes back to a decision made in 1969 at the International Meeting of Cataloguing Experts in Copenhagen, sponsored by the IFLA Committee on Cataloguing. The concept of the International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD) was created and led to the first publication of the ISBDs, the International Standard Bibliographic Description for Monographic Publications (ISBD(M)). This publication was followed in the 1970s and 1980s by a series of ISBD publications that have provided bibliographic descriptions to a variety of types of resources.

Since 2003, the section has sponsored a series of IFLA Meetings of Experts on an International Cataloguing Code with the goal of increasing the sharing of bibliographic information worldwide. The results of discussion and information gathered at the five meetings have led to the drafting of the Statement of International Cataloguing Principles, an adaptation of the 1961"Paris Principles". In June, an invitation to worldwide review of the draft version of the Statement was sent for comments and voting and a final draft will be submitted to the standing committees of the Cataloguing and Bibliography section of Division IV[11]. Another working group was set up in 2005 to investigate

[5] See http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/index.htm

[6] IFLA Study Group on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records. *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records*. UBCIM Publications-New series Vol. 19. München: K.G. Saur, 1998; see also http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/wgfrbr/bibliography.htm for a list of publications on FRBR.

[7] See http://www.ifla.org/VII/d4/FRANAR-ConceptualModel-2ndReview.pdf

[8] See http://www.ifla.org/VII/s29/wgfrsar.htm

[9] See http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/wgfrbr/FRBRoo_V9.1_PR.pdf ; also Riva, Pat; Doerr, Martin; and Zumer, Maja. FRBRoo: Enabling a Common View of Information from Memory Institutions. World Library and Information Congress; 74th IFLA General Conference and Council. http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/papers/156-Riva_Doerr_Zumer-en.pdf

[10] *International standard bibliographic description (ISBD)*. Recommended by the ISBD Review Group ; approved by the Standing Committee of the IFLA Cataloguing Section. Preliminary consolidated ed., IFLA series on bibliographic control; vol. 31. München: K.G. Saur, 2007.

[11] See http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/icc/principles_review_200804.htm

metadata for digital text documents and this Working Group on Metadata for Digital Objects is planning its final report for 2008.

The second oldest section of Division IV is the Bibliography Section, established in 1965[12]. This Section is primarily concerned with the content, arrangement, production, dissemination and preservation of bibliographic information principally as this relates to national bibliographic services. It has played an important role in the promotion of the bibliography as well as the bibliographic data in bibliographies. In 1998, the Bibliography Section sponsored the International Conference on National Bibliographic Services[13]. The goal of this conference was to examine the 1977 guidelines issued from a UNESCO sponsored conference. The results of the 1998 Conference were published as a set of recommendations that acknowledged the impact of the internet and the availability of electronic formats for bibliographies. The Section continued to monitor the impact of the Conference by issuing a final report in 2001 entitled "An examination of national bibliographies and their adherence to ICNBS recommendations" by Barabara Bell and Anne Hasund Langballe and the "Changes in National Bibliographies, 1996-2001" by Unni Knutsen. Since then, the Section has produced several surveys on the state of national bibliographies in areas of the world that generally coincided with the IFLA General Meeting (Latin America in 2004, Europe 2005, Asia in 2006 and Africa in 2007). In 2001, the section decided to respond to the need for guidelines for electronic publications in national bibliographies. A working group was established in 2002 and has just published (June 2008) a draft version of the *Guidelines for National Bibliographies in the Electronic Age*[14] for world-wide review.

Thirdly, the Classification and Indexing Section, established in 1981, aims at methods for providing subject access in catalogues, bibliographies and indexes to documents of all kinds, including electronic documents[15]. The Section serves as a forum for producers and users of classification and subject indexing tools, and it works to facilitate international exchange of information about methods of providing subject access. Right from its inception in 1981, the section moved to establish guidelines for the establishment of subject headings. It initially collaborated with the Section on Cataloguing in the work on the *Guidelines for Authority and Reference Entries (GARE)* and proceeded in 1988 to set up a working group to formulate guidelines for subject authority records. That work led to the publication *Guidelines for Subject Authority and Reference Entries* [16]in 1993. During that same period, in the context of the Stockholm Conference, the Section decided to investigate principles for the construction of subject headings[17]. From 1990 to 1993, the WG concentrated its efforts on identifying and stating general principles underlying subject headings languages. The end of this first phase coincided with the organization of the Section's Satellite meeting in Lisbon which offered the opportunity to discuss subject indexing practices and principles used in many libraries across the world. Several drafts of the Principles were issued during the following years and the *Principles Underlying Subject heading languages (SHLs)* was published in 1999[18]. Since that time, the section has been involved in two other projects. A working group was set up in 1999 to draft new *Guidelines for Multilingual Thesauri* to replace the 1976 UNESCO *Guidelines for the Establishment and Development of Multilingual Thesauri*. After submitting a draft review for world-wide review in 2005, a small committee has just completed the final editing of the *Guidelines* for publication[19]. In 2005, a working group to establish guidelines for subject access in national bibliographies was set up. The

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[12] See http://www.ifla.org/VII/s12/index.htm

[13] See http://www.ifla.org/VI/3/icnbs/icnbs.htm

[14] See http://www.ifla.org/VII/s12/guidelines-national-bibliographies-electronic-age.pdf

[15] See http://www.ifla.org/VII/s29/index.htm

[16] Working Group on « Guidelines for Subject Authority Files » of the Section on Classification and Indexing of the IFLA Division of Bibliographic Control. *Guidelines for Subject Authority and Reference Entries.* UBCIM Publications – New Series Vol. 12. München: K.G. Saur, 1993.

[17] Holley, Robert P.; McGarry, Dorothy; Duncan, Donna; Svenonius, Elaine (ed). *Subject Indexing: Principles and Practices in the 90's: Proceedings of the IFLA Satellite Meeting Held in Lisbon, Portugal, 17-18 August 1993.* UBCIM Publications – New Series Vol. 15. München: K.G. Saur, 1995.

[18] Lopes, Maria Inês; Beall, Julianne (ed.). *Principles Underlying Subject Heading languages (SHLs).* UBCIM Publications – New Series Vol. 21. München: K.G. Saur, 1999.

[19] See http://www.ifla.org/VII/s29/wgmt-invitation.htm

section had been concerned with this question for a number of years and it is hoped that the working group will issue its guidelines by 2009[20].

And finally, the newest section in Division IV is Knowledge Management. Established as a section in 2004, Knowledge management supports the development and implementation of a knowledge management culture in libraries and information centers. Its activities are integrated and linked to the Division IV sections as well as to other relevant sections and divisions of IFLA. Their work has focused on disseminating the results of relevant research, providing education and training programs and workshops. The section has in recent years, organized successful pre-conferences and has published "Knowledge management: Libraries and Librarians Taking up the Challenge" in 2004[21].

Division IV: Sharing and cooperation
Each of the Division IV sections has been very productive in the last ten years and has contributed to the development of bibliographic control and the improved exchange of bibliographic data. The Division has kept track of the projects and results through the online publication *Sharing of Bibliographic Information and resources (March / November 2005)[22]*. In looking at this list, it is important to mention that all of these tasks were initiated, developed and conducted mainly by the standing committee members that make up each section. The twenty or so standing committee members are involved on a yearly basis in at least one initiative of their section mostly though their involvement in working groups.

Division IV has also initiated and fostered division level working groups that embraced elements of different sections. Officially organized though the Division's Coordinating Board, these working groups often result from exchanges between the members of the different sections. Presently, the two working groups belonging to Division IV, The Functional Requirements of Authority Numbering and Records (FRANAR) and the Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Records (FRSAR) have members from several sections. Like other IFLA divisions, Division IV has always promoted interaction between sections in order to create synergies and cooperation. The exchanges of ideas have often resulted from joint programs at the annual IFLA Conferences. In recent years, most of the sections have organised program together in order to debate and share views on current issues. For example, at the Durban Conference in 2007, a program entitled "Re-thinking national bibliographies in the digital age" was organised by the Bibliography Section with Classification and Indexing Section and National Libraries Section, while in Oslo in 2005 Classification and Indexing with Cataloguing organised a joint program "Cataloguing and subject tools for global access: international partnerships".

Future Perspectives
Each section will be developing a new strategic plans for 2009-2011. At the core of these discussions will be the status of existing tasks of the working groups as well as preliminary ideas for future working groups. Information gathered from recent presentations in the sections' programmes and ideas from section members will provide some input on issues and concerns that could result in a particular goal and initiative.

In 2009, IFLA will undertake a reorganisation of the professional structure of IFLA. This reorganisation will see a decrease of divisions, from the current eight divisions to five divisions with each Section, Special Interest Group and Core Activity assigned to one Division. The current four sections of Division IV will be part of the new Library Services Division with 7 more sections and two core activities (UNIMARC and ICABS). This new structure presents the advantage of bringing together sections and other groups with similar profiles and activities. The core bibliographic control sections

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[20] See Bourdon, Françoise; Landry, Patrice. *Best practices for Subject Access to National Bibliographies : Interim Report by the Working Group on Guidelines for Subject Access by national Bibliographic Agencies.* World Library and Information Congress; 73rd IFLA General Conference and Council. http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/papers/089-Bourdon_Landry-en.pdf

[21] Hobohm, Hans-Christoph (ed.).*Knowledge Management: Libraries and Librarians taking up the Challenge.* München: K.G.Saur, 2004

[22] See http://www.ifla.org/VII/d4/pub/InteroperabilityStandards.pdf

will certainly maintain the same collaborative spirit and will probably benefit from closer contacts with the other sections: Reference and Information Services, Information Literacy, Libraries for Children and Young Adults, Library Services to Multilingual populations, Libraries Serving Disadvantaged persons, Reading, and Information Technology.

The Division IV has answered the recent challenges to bibliographic control by providing guidelines and support in the area of bibliography, cataloguing and classification and indexing. The recent and forthcoming publications in the area of FRBR, digital documents in national bibliographies, subject access in bibliography, multilingualism thesauri and metadata for digital objects are tangible manifestations of IFLA commitment to the efficient exchange of bibliographic data. The competences and dedication of the current membership of the four sections committed to the development and promotion of bibliographic control guaranties that present and future issues will find successful answers in IFLA.

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