NACO/CONSER/SACO Listen & Learn Session

By Richard A. Lammert, Concordia Theological Seminary

ABSTRACT This Listen & Learn Session provides an opportunity to ATLA catalogers participating in one of the ATLA PCC Funnel projects (NACO, CONSER, or SACO) to learn about changes (including proposed changes) to those programs. The purpose is to give these catalogers the knowledge they need to continue to produce work for the national databases at a level expected of all PCC participants.

The NACO/CONSER/SACO Listen & Learn Session provided an opportunity for ATLA catalogers who are participants in any of the ATLA PCC funnel programs (NACO, CONSER, or SACO) to hear about several recent (or expected) changes in practices for those programs—particularly for NACO catalogers—based primarily on what had been presented at the meeting of the PCC (Program for Cooperative Cataloging) Operations Committee (OpCo) Meeting in May 2018. Since neither the ATLA PCC Funnels Director nor the CONSER Lead were able to attend the meeting, the news from this meeting was based on posted documents.

The PCC Standing Committee on Training has charged a task force with developing a training curriculum for PCC participants in the IFLA Library Reference Model (LRM) and the changes in the RDA Toolkit (3R project). This task force received its charge in March 2018. In addition, the committee has provided updates to the series training materials.

OCLC presented on work that it is doing. In late 2017, OCLC began partnering with a handful of libraries on a prototype to demonstrate the value of linked data for improving resource-description workflows in libraries. Working closely with colleagues in OCLC's Global Product Management and Global Technologies, the OCLC Research team launched a service built on the Wikibase platform (including Wikibase and WikiMedia). Harvard University will be a library partner in phase

II of this project, so ATLA members may have an opportunity to learn more about it after that point.

Because MARC field 264 was defined and authorized several years after the release of RDA, OCLC is beginning a project to convert all (possible) MARC 260 fields to MARC 264 fields in the 1.5 million (12.5%) RDA records that have MARC 260 fields. OCLC will also be expanding the capability of Record Manager to work with member-contributed authority records. When this functionality is added to Record Manager, OCLC will offer training webinars later in 2018.

A most interesting presentation at the OpCo meeting was about errors in LC–NACO name authority records. From a collection of data made from August through October 2017 (which, the presentation noted, was not a reflection of the full range and number of errors), the researchers found that 63% of errors were made by the Library of Congress. (In fiscal year 2017 [October 2016–September 2017], PCC contributions exeeded LC contributions by 185.8%. This indicates that PCC contributions have fewer errors than contributions from the Library of Congress—at least in this data sample.) Since one of the more common errors was in access points for compilations, it is recommended that the LC–PCC program clarify the policies on those access points and revise NACO training materials.

The PCC Identity Management Task Group presented a report on the evolving strategies for a changing name authorities land-scape. Because of changing environmental factors, there is a need to reconsider membership criteria within NACO. There are 9,000 OCLC members with cataloging authorizations, compared with 700 NACO members. One of the PCC's strategic directions is to "expand the community doing identity management within the framework of the PCC." The results of this effort will evolve as the differing needs (and results) of authority control and identity management are considered.

In other changes that have been "almost here" for several years, one will actually be completed this year, while one remains yet in the future. The Authorities Phase 3B changes in the authority file are still being (re)considered. The large-scale "slam" has been modi-fied, and a less radical approach is most likely, with the timeline to be determined. On the other hand, the PCC Directory, which has been in preparation for several years, will be operational by this fall. For ATLA NACO catalogers, this will mark an important change: instead

of having the PCC program collect statistics for the number of author-ity records that each member institution has added, each institution will be responsible for reporting its own statistics.

The ATLA CONSER Funnel can use additional catalogers. Any ATLA member interested in what this entails and how to become involved can contact Michael Bradford.

The ATLA SACO Funnel has been approved by the PCC program. Now it is necessary to provide some basic training for those ATLA catalogers wishing to contribute proposals for LC subject headings and LC classification numbers.