Library of Congress reaches out to the Latin America library community

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The end goal of this contribution is to highlight the importance of collaboration and cooperation at all levels. To do so I use as a starting point the cooperative cataloging projects that the Library of Congress (LC) has been involved with in the past and those that are still actively being pursued. I will especially focus on those projects that involve reaching out to the library community and which I think have had impact. First I am going to talk about the past –and overview of LC cooperative involvement to set the stage the current activities.

The highlights of LC's cooperative programs begin at the turn of the century when LC began to distribute its cataloging cards to the US public libraries. A decidedly passive sort of cooperation but one that by the end of the 20th century turned out to have an enormous impact on cataloging on a

global scale. What began as a very manual delivery of information to US institutions became by the mid 1960's a slightly more automated process and by the 1990's a highly technical exchange of data. This change over time was clearly due in large part to the development of the MARC format, the creation of the bibliographic networks in the US and the rapid development of technology in the 80's and 90's. Looking back over the list of cooperative project highlights during the 20th century one thought clearly emerges –that cooperation takes time, that it takes hard work and as politicians like to say it is "not an event it is a process" and it requires commitment and work which I take every opportunity to spread the word and encourage working together.

A good example of the process of building cooperation and achieving results are the cataloging rules we currently use. Dr. Barbara Tillett, Chief, Policy and Standards Division of LC, in her presentations often notes that the rules we use now were developed over 2 centuries beginning with the rules used by the British Museum's librarian Panizzi and later build upon or melded with, Cutter's efforts and in 1961 expanded upon and codified by the IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations, in what are known as the Paris Principles.

The development, implementation and widespread use of the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR2) were the culmination of collaborative efforts not only of LC and the British Library, but of collaboration with the national libraries of Canada and Australia. Success being measured in the agreement to base AACR2 on IFLA's Paris Principals and that has provided a great measure of uniformity to the cataloging of these Anglo-American institutions, for LC it has been the bedrock of the success of its cooperative cataloging programs as I will discuss next.

Of the most successful cooperative programs that LC has sponsored and led is the Program for Cooperative Cataloging best know by its acronym "PCC." The major reason for the success of the PCC lies in the shared characteristics of the majority of its participants which are –first and foremost that all participants agree to use AACR2 as the rules for their cataloging, as well as to use the MARC format as the carrier for the records. Note that MARC 21 is also an example of the collaboration between the Anglo-American libraries as in 1998 the different MARCs were harmonized to form MARC 21. Key also in the successful partnership was that all participants used English as the official language of their catalogs, that is to say English is the predominate choice of language for their users.

It was not until 1998 that an institution from Brazil and then in 2000 an institution from Argentina joined the PCC that the choice of the language of the catalog became a problem or at least a consideration. Upon joining the PCC these non-English language institutions had to agree to use English to formulate authorized name headings and in doing so excluded a portion of their possible contributions from the PCC. As it stands even now the Universidad de Sao Paulo in Brazil and the participating institutions from Mexico do not contribute corporate name entities to the program. As you well know in English the name "Brazil" is spelled with a "z" and in Portuguese it is spelled with an "s"; Mexico in Spanish has an accent but in English it does not; and there are other considerations for the formulation of geographic names, too that I won't go into here. Later you will see how we hope that the new cataloging code and with the help of technology we hope to overcome these challenges. But in the meantime the fact that the PCC can not change the language of the catalog from English to accommodate other languages means that international expansion is often compromised, actually that is not the only challenge the other challenge and this is perhaps the greatest challenge is that another defining characteristic of PCC membership is that all participants are also members of the US bib-

liographic network, OCLC; so there is a require-
ment that in order to participate an institution must
also have membership in OCLC –currently there
are only three exceptions to this requirement: the
British Library, The National Library of Australia
and the Library and Archives of Canada.

Let me back up and explain the programs under
the PCC umbrella are the programs known as:
NACO (name authority records), BIBCO (biblio-
graphic records), CONSER (serial publications)
and SACO (subject authority records. The largest
of these programs is NACO –the cooperative for
the creation and modification of name authority
records. NACO is the basis of membership in all
the other programs (except SACO) and includes li-
braries from all over the world including from the
Caribbean area, Mexico and South America.

In *figure 1* we see the growth of the PCC since
1990 –and as I noted earlier the success of the pro-
gram has come in the past 2 decades even though
we started our cooperative program early in the
20th century. The PCC currently had 78 interna-
tional participants, 22 are individual member of
NACO and 3 are SACO only participants; 46 of the
international participants are members of 5 inter-
national funnel projects– 7 participate through US
funnel projects.

Estadísticas PCC	1990	2009
NACO	36	640
Proyectos chimenea NACO	01	35
BIBCO	00	48
CONSER	10	50
SACO	10	50
Proyectos chimenea SACO	00	10

Figure 1

Here I need to take the time to forestall questions and define funnel project. A funnel project is formed by a group of institutions (sort of a consortium) that share like interests or share the same geographic area and become a mini cooperative to share administrative resources (human and technological), as well as expertise and most importantly it provides a mechanism for small and special libraries that do not have membership in OCLC to participate. We have found this to be a cost effective way for libraries to share costs, documentation, and most importantly to build a cooperative community.
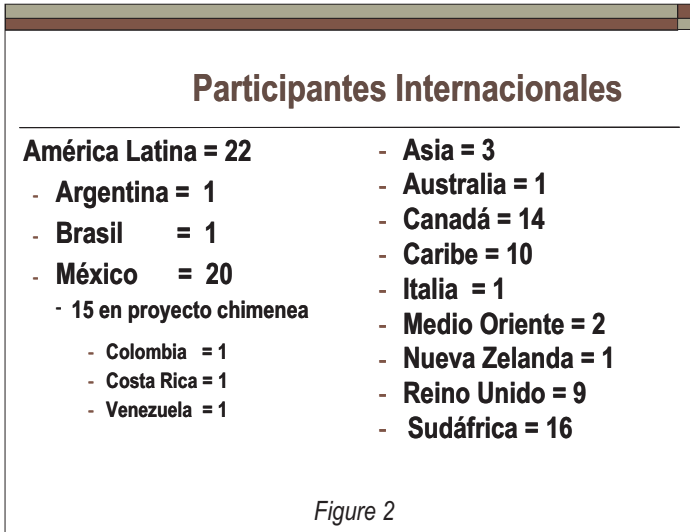
Participantes Internacionales

América Latina = 22

- **Argentina = 1**
- **Brasil   = 1**
- **México   = 20**
  - **15 en proyecto chimenea**
    - **Colombia   = 1**
    - **Costa Rica = 1**
    - **Venezuela = 1**

- **Asia = 3**
- **Australia = 1**
- **Canadá = 14**
- **Caribe = 10**
- **Italia = 1**
- **Medio Oriente = 2**
- **Nueva Zelanda = 1**
- **Reino Unido = 9**
- **Sudáfrica = 16**

Figure 2

Figure 2 shows a list of NACO participants by area and with great pride I note that there are 22 participants from Latin America, but I'm sure you note that there are many countries that are not represented –Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Central America, etc. Clearly the requirements for using OCLC as the mechanism for contribution is a costly requirement and having to use English is also a deterrent, but we continue to search for alternatives.

For the moment let's step away from the PCC and look back to LC's continuing efforts of cooperation within IFLA and see how those efforts have fed into new areas of cooperation since the adop-

tion of AACR2. In the early 90s, IFLA formed many working groups continued to explore IFLA's concept of "universal bibliographic control"; however, there began to be an overwhelming view that perhaps this concept was not feasible because it focused more on the catalog and not the user, so what began to emerge was a new perspective that focused on the needs of the user –a recognition that the end user really wanted to see information framed within their needs and thus the IFLA groups began to identify the functions that the catalog needed in order to meet the needs of the individual user. The report "Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) was published in 1998 and it was this work that in 2000 gave rise to the formation of a working group within IFLA's Cataloging Section, that was eventually charged with assembling and coordinating a series of regional meetings of cataloging experts from the major areas of the world. Of course the most expedient way of accomplishing this was to hold the meeting as an adjunct of the annual IFLA conferences which had been determined that from 2002 on would be held in diverse regions of the world (at least 4 different continents) that would enable this goal. The IFLA Meetings of Experts on an International Cataloguing Code (IME ICC) have been one of the most successful collaborations in recent his-

tory. These meetings gathered representatives of expert catalogers and rule makers from all regions of the world with the goal of identifying the differences and similarities within cataloging practices and especially to see if there were differences that could be harmonized and transformed into mutually agreed upon cataloging principles that would replace the 40 year old Paris Principles. A secondary goal of the meeting was to try to increase the potential for sharing cataloging data across languages and scripts by promoting and publicizing international content standards for bibliographic and authority records.

The first meeting was held in Germany for the European and Anglo-American communities, the 2nd in Buenos Aries, Argentina, the 3rd in Cairo, Egypt, the 4th in Seoul, Korea and finally the 5th in Pretoria, South Africa. Outcomes of these meetings are the proceedings of each one of them.

The 2nd meeting, held in Buenos Aires, that I'd like to focus on because it was this meeting that produced the most impact in Latino America and is at the heart of my contribution. This meeting was attended by representatives from 14 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. There had been representatives identified and invited from 32 different countries but mostly because of economic reasons most were not able to attend. The fi-

nal result of the meetings are –what we call the ICP– the International Cataloguing Principles –can be found in the IFLA web site, available in 24 languages, including of course Spanish. http://www.ifla.org/en/publications/statement-of-international-cataloguing-principles

Let me be clear the reason we include these meeting and its final outcome as an LC out-reach to Latin America and part of LC's cooperative effort is that Dr. Barbara Tillett was at the helm of IFLA's Cataloguing Section during this period and she chaired the Planning Committee that coordinated all 5 meetings. Dr. Tillett and I (I'm proud to say) were the coordinators of meetings 2-5 as well as the compliers and editors of the proceedings of those meetings and of the final volume of the ICP published in 20 languages.

It is this 2nd meeting that has also had great impact in LC ability to reach out to the Latin American library community as we continue to see wonderful follow-up meetings held in many of the countries that had representatives at that 2nd IME ICC meeting. True to the premise that cooperation starts at the local, regional, national and then at the international level we have seen renewed activity and interest in cataloging with meeting focused on cataloguing and metadata being held at all these levels. These meetings have raised awareness of the

latest advances in cataloging but also have strengthen communication within the community itself and have engendered discussions on how to harness emerging technologies and deal with cataloging resources in formats way beyond the printed book. Here's a list of the Encuentos Internacionales de Catalogadores held at the international level and you'll see that these have generally been sponsored by the national libraries of the respective countries:

➢ I Encuentro en Lima, Perú – Biblioteca Nacional del Perú (2005).
➢ II Encuentro en Ciudad México–CUIB and Biblioteca Nacional de México (2006).
➢ III Encuentro en Buenos Aires–Biblioteca Nacional de Argentina (2007).
➢ IV Encuentro en Bogotá, Colombia–Biblioteca Luis Ángel Arango and the Biblioteca Nacional (2008).
➢ V Encuentro en Santo Domingo–Biblioteca Nacional Pedro Henríquez Ureña (2009).
➢ VI Encuentro en Costa Rica–Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica (2010).

These international meetings have also spawned annual conferences at the national level and I'm still proud to say that the organizing agents and leaders of those meetings are catalogers, library directors, and library science professors that at-

tended that IME ICC in 2004 and that continue to collaborate with LC in cooperative projects.

Encuentros Nacionales de Catalogadores
- › México (2006-)
- › Argentina (2009-)
- › Perú (2009-)

One of those areas of collaboration begins to play a role with the development and projected implantation of the new cataloging rules. As you know in order to continue play a viable role in any profession we must continue to explore and accept changes as they emerge in order to be able to retain cataloging as a mechanism for capturing and organizing data. We believe that RDA will help us accomplish these goals. In this paper I will not delve into the details of how and why the new rules differ from the old or the price neither of purchasing the online tool, nor of the timeline or the test planned before implementation. Instead I'll provide you with the URLs where you go to find all the information on these issues online: http://www.rdaonline.org and for the test see: http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/rda/

Briefly let me say that RDA –Resource, Description and Access is based on the IFLA conceptual models FRBR, FRAD, the ICP in the future will incorporate the FRSAD model also. But what RDA does is presents us with an opportunity to simplify

the current cataloging code and allows us to incorporate new metadata schemas that will fulfill the needs of our users in ways library catalogs could not do before.

This brings us back to the fruits of the IME ICC meeting held in Buenos Aires and the wonderful people we met there. On the Joint Steering Committee for the Development of RDA web site (the committee is known as JSC) –at the urging of our Latin American colleagues we have assured that there are clearly stated policies for obtaining permissions for translating working documents, etc. The URL is: http://www.rda-jsc.org/working1. html# translations and there you can see the page with that information, what is most important is that this page will lead to some very important documents that have been translated into Spanish. These documents were translated by folks we met at the IME ICC2, from Argentina, Graciela Spedalieri and from Costa Rica, Sonia Gutiérrez. It has been wonderful to be able to have their help with translating the information most important for librarians in the Spanish-speaking because what we have learned from our AACR2 experience is that without a copy of the rules in the language of the cataloger to hand it will take a long time to implement any new rules –something that in this dynamic environment we cannot afford if we are to be able to share data.

Another example of the fruits of the IME ICC2 meeting was that in August of 2009, Dr. Barbara Tillett was invited by the Biblioteca Nacional de Chile, working with the US Embassy in Santiago to present a video conference in Spanish on the development and plans for implementation of RDA: Resource Description and Access. The conference was recorded and is made available on the LC cybercast Web site at: http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature_wdesc.php?rec=4736 In support of this webcast and to assure that it can be presented locally the Policy and Standards Division at LC has produced PDF manuals for use in a workshop setting and makes available for download the PowerPoint presentation (that includes the Spanish notes) for use by any one who wishes to use it.

The modules consist of 3 Spanish-language files; as mentioned earlier 2 PDF files; one for use by an instructor and another for use by the participants as well as the PowerPoint file. Users are encouraged to customize and tailor the presentations to their audience. The URL for the accessing the files is:
http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/RDA/rda.html

In support of assuring that basic information is available to those that may need it within the Spanish-speaking community LC is also making available for download and use on Latina America, Spanish language modules with information on ba-

sic level background on IFLA's aforementioned conceptual models FRBR and FRAD. These also consist of files that contain PDF and PowerPoint modules that can de downloaded, customized and tailored for different audiences or used "as is". The Web page on the Policy and Standards Web site where these are found is http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/frbryfrad/frbryfrad.html They include 4 files 2 PDF manuals and the PowerPoint as well as accompanying pop quizzes that help to reinforce the most important aspects of what was presented.

These modules are based on presentations developed by our colleague Graciela Spedalieri, a librarian at the US Embassy in Buenos Aires first presented at the Conferencia Regional para Catalogadores held in March 2009 at the Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, México. The FRBR module is based on the translation of that document by our colleagues at the Biblioteca Nacional de España, and while unfortunately the official FRAD was not available, Graciela does a masterful job of translation and presentation on that model also. We are very appreciative of the work that Graciela has done and especially her generosity in sharing her work with us and allowing us to make it available to the Spanish-speaking library community. This is truly a global collaboration! As

an aside and to be clear, our Spanish-speaking colleagues in Mexico, Argentina, Chile or Colombia where library schools abound are not the intended audience for these modules, it is our colleagues that rarely attend the international meetings that are the target demographic, those folks from El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Uruguay, etc. we want to make access is available to the latest advances in library science so that we can as they say "level the playing field."

And you might ask why are we placing such emphasis on FRBR, FRAD and RDA? The answer is that the library community wants and needs to take advantage of the benefits that the new technology provides us; we want to better organize information so that users continue to seek libraries to find what they need when they need it, where they need it. In order to accomplish that need libraries have to where the user looks for information–now days it is on the Internet, on the Web, on remote applications for their electronic gadgets FRBR and FRAD provide a model to follow. The new cataloging rules are based on those models and are further enhanced by collaboration with the metadata communities so that information can and will be presented in information packets that will greatly simplify cataloging, increase navigation, re-

duce redundancies, and present information in ways that promote discovery.

I would like to mention the Virtual International Authority File (VIAF) is a project made possible by the work of the OCLC's Research Department, that began in early 1900 by linking the national name authority files of the Library of Congress, the Deutche Nacionalbiblioteck, and the Bibliotheque nacional de France without any of these participants having to change neither the bibliographic format used for cataloging, the official language of their catalog, nor the rules used for cataloging, instead comparisons and matching of same names was accomplished by computer programming. In 2003 the VIAF prototype was made publically available at URL http://www.viaf.org and since then the number of participants has grown to include the name authority files of the national library of Israel, Spain, Portugal, the Vatican and at least 10 others. To date a total of 20 libraries have been invited to participate and we think this is a project that will have great impact on a global scale. I invite you to visit the site and do a search. I think you will say to yourself –this is what I want my library catalog to do!

The VIAF is an example of a project that demonstrates the ability to link the authority files of national libraries using algorithms that match

metadata in bibliographic and authority records and which helps to show what is possible if more authority records used the attributes described by FRBR and FRAD and have been incorporated into RDA. We hope that soon we will have national libraries from Latin America joining this project too; in the meantime the addition of the BNE and BNP greatly helps the Latin American community to find names for use in their cataloging.

I do not have time in this paper to do justice on the virtues of the VIAF but I do urge you to visit the VIAF and see for yourself. Type in a search for Miguel Cervantes and you'll see an array of choices of names (all authorized versions) as well as indications of the provenance of the headings via the flags used to represent each country. Note also that the results offer the option of selecting a name in non-Latin script! –in this case you see the authorized Hebrew form from the National Library of Israel and an Arabic form from the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (in the future you'll see authorized headings in Japanese and Chinese, too!). You will also be presented with a page containing visually stimulating information with lots of choices including the variant forms of name for the person, publication statistics, and even the choice of format views MARC 21or Unimarc.

Select the "Publication Statistics" view and you'll see a publication timeline with information on the number of works published in each year or century –in this case we see the total number of publication cataloged with imprint dates of 17th century, 19th century and 20th century. These statistics are based on bibliographic records available in OCLC –but wouldn't it be great to have this for your own catalog? I think this is a small example of what can be achieved when there is a willingness to work together and we can meld cooperative projects with technology to our best advantage.

Sources

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FRBR–Requerimientos Funcionales para Registros Bibliográficos-PDF versión en español
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IFLA–Federación Internacional de Asociaciones e Instituciones Bibliotecarias http://www.ifla.org

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Library of Congress, Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access - http://www.loc.gov/aba/

› Testing Resource,Description and Access (RDA) http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/rda/
› Módulos FRBR y FRAD
http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/frbryfrad/frbryfrad.html
› Módulos RDA http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/RDA/rda.html

RDA–Resource, Description and Access
  http://www.rdaonline.org

VIAF–Virtual International Authority File
  http://ww.viaf.org