

# Database Maintenance Advisory Council

September 6, 2006

**Attendees:** Mary Ellen Bena, Debbie Canzano, Rob Carle, Sue Dague, Mary Coon, Geoff Kirkpatrick, Peg Mello, Lisa Pitkin, Carol Reppard, Julie Stump, Joe Thornton

**Overlays:** Rob demonstrated the stafpac/import settings that will enable us to import records (especially Baker & Taylor records) without overlaying any existing records. A new bib record will be created only if none exists already. Lisa will test the new settings and report any problems.

**ISBN-13:** Joe reported that SirsiDynix has released Horizon 7.3.4 and HIP 3.0.8 to accommodate ISBN-13. Supposedly it's a fairly easy upgrade and UHLS has started to plan for it. However, according to SirsiDynix, no discretionary custom programming will be carried forward with these upgrades. Because this is an important consideration for us, we're waiting to hear from SirsiDynix about whether the custom programming we've had done is "discretionary" or not, and what our options are if it is.

Mary Ellen said that ISBN-13 is working now (on 7.3.2 and 3.06a) and that the only problem is that the 024 (home of ISBN-13) is not indexed. Joe will follow up with SirsiDynix to see if the upgrade is actually necessary. UHLS will also look into adding the 024 to the ISBN index.

**Authority Control:** We have two options for continual authority control updating, both of which are recommended by LTI, and both of which have been approved by ASC:

**AEX:** This service processes all new bib records (since the last AEX run) and returns to us updated bib and authority records. The cost is \$.10/record plus \$10/file. We add about 48,000 bib records a year, so we should budget \$5,000 if we want to go with this option.

**AUP:** This service processes all existing bib records (our entire database, including those added by the last AEX run) and returns to us updated bib and authority records. The cost for our size database is \$3,200 if we do it semiannually, or \$2,000 if we do it annually. Mary Ellen thinks that semiannually is the better choice.

Lisa asked what LTI is doing about the Library of Congress's decision to discontinue providing series authority control for bibliographic records. Joe said he will ask LTI, but asked Lisa if an unsatisfactory answer from LTI should cause us to cancel the updating process. Lisa said that we should just be aware of it.

We need to determine which fields of our existing bib records need to be protected when importing the cleaned up bib records. LTI keeps a copy of our entire database (from the big authority control project last year), updates it with authority changes, and sends us the corrected records. A potential negative effect will be that changes to our non-authority fields in the existing bib records will be wiped out by the incoming records unless we protect them. We could not reach consensus on a limited set of tags to be protected, so Joe will experiment with protecting all non-authority tags when we import the cleaned up records.

**SONY BMG CD's:** Peg discussed the issue of SONY BMG CD's with .xcp files attached: "There is a list of 52 titles that have these files on them - if someone plays the CD on their computer the files may be very damaging to the computer, installing spyware files. According to the settlement agreement, customers can exchange their CD's for CD's that do not have the files on them. Here is a link to the list of the titles:  
<http://cp.sonybmg.com/xcp/english/titles.html>"

**TROY cataloging request:** Carol had been trying "for years" to convince UHLS to create a bib record that would allow the TROY YPS department to circulate Young Writer's Workshop materials. Joe put this request on the agenda for two reasons:

1. Mary Ellen would be at this meeting and could explain why she and Karen had remained unconvinced.
2. Joe wanted to emphasize again the importance of sending requests to [support@uhls.lib.ny.us](mailto:support@uhls.lib.ny.us) (or [database@uhls.lib.ny.us](mailto:database@uhls.lib.ny.us)) instead of to individuals, mainly because this was the first he had heard of this request, and generally doesn't like surprises.

Carol explained exactly what she wanted. Mary Ellen said it was okay with her (the major objection had been Karen's), and UHLS will fulfill the request.

**Mary Ellen's position:** We had a long discussion about UHLS's decision to leave Mary Ellen's position unfilled; about the state of the catalog generally; and about the respective responsibilities of UHLS, catalogers, and the Database Maintenance Advisory Council. Carol (and unnamed collaborators) had sent a list of concerns, which is attached to this document.

The short answer to most of the questions on Carol's list is "UHLS." The exceptions are:

Q. What all is CDLC doing under contract?

A. We have an informal agreement with CDLC that they will catalog (at their convenience) and bill us for records that we bring to them for help.

Q. Who will be responsible for answering upper level cataloging questions and ongoing training issues?

A. Joe's (not unanimously endorsed) answer: Catalogers, UHLS, and Database Maintenance. (more on this below).

Some discussions, all related:

- The catalog still needs to be cleaned up (e.g. NEWCATS). All agreed, and Joe and Rob asked that everyone send specific problems to [database@uhls.lib.ny.us](mailto:database@uhls.lib.ny.us). Joe said that UHLS has done a lot to improve the quality of the database, including the subscription to CatExpress, the big authority control project, and the ongoing authority control updates. He is strongly opposed to the suggestion that UHLS hire someone to continually examine for correctness every record in our 500,000 record database.
- The quality of the catalog is ultimately the responsibility of UHLS. Ultimately, yes (Joe again), but if we want to have a distributed system then we need to have distributed responsibility. UHLS will take ultimate responsibility but thinks it's reasonable to expect libraries to fix some problems, too. To guarantee a cleaner database, UHLS would need more control, including centralized cataloging, like many library systems use. The system (directors?) decided a while ago that they don't want centralized cataloging, and UHLS doesn't either.
- Everybody's busy. Joe would like a more democratic operation. For example, anyone in our system should be able to send a cataloging question to the database list. If a member of Database Maintenance can answer it, that's great. If they can't, UHLS will do whatever it takes to get an answer (from Mary Ellen, CDLC, SirsiDynix, Google, Maggie Horn, ...). Some people on the advisory council said they don't have time, and that it's Upper Hudson's job to handle questions and problems, to which Joe's reply was, "Then what's the point of having a Database Maintenance Advisory Council?"

**Current Awareness:** Lisa said that it's important for us to keep up with developments in the library world, especially those that pertain to cataloging, as discussed on the AUTOCAT-L list. She said that she deletes about 95% of the posts, but finds the other 5% useful. Julie asked if Lisa could report on these developments at Database Maintenance meetings or through email. Lisa said she forwards items of general interest to the database list, but that she is "in no way responsible" for this duty and that "someone at the system level should be monitoring it." Joe said he'll do it, but repeated "so what's the point of having a Database Maintenance Advisory Council?"

**Next meeting: October 11, 2006 at 9:30 at UHLS.**

## **Carol's (and collaborators') list of cataloging issues**

Mary Ellen's position and all it entailed? Who will handle this now?

Original cataloging? Who will handle?

What all is CDLC doing under contract?

LC changes how are we are going to handle them without a head cataloger?

Who will be responsible for answering upper level cataloging questions and ongoing training issues?

In the UHLS Cataloging Handbook (June 2004), it states: "The Upper Hudson Library System is fully responsible for authority control over the following fields in the bibliographic record: ...". Who is responsible now?

Serials: who does one send holdings updates to? Who will close ceased records, reflect frequency and publisher changes? Who will take care of title changes? Who will merge monograph records with serials records and alert libraries about their holdings (a function that Database voted should be taken care of by UHLS)?

Who will address the cataloging side of things when we need to make another system migration? Who will take the lead in navigating the cataloging changes ahead as RDA, ISBN-13, etc. are implemented?

Who will take care of database cleanup (newcats still unaddressed, leading words such as A, An, The have incorrect indicators, incorrect 245 \$h, etc)?

Who will resolve tricky situations such as overlaid records and relinking holdings?

Who will be training new people on the Cataloging Manual procedures for the editing of records? Before it was either Karen or Mary Ellen that did this.