

Database Maintenance Advisory Council

August 22, 2007

Attendees: Lisa Bouchard, Rob Carle, Mary Coon, Sue Dague, Barbara Goetschius, Deidre Lisio, Lisa Pitkin, Carol Reppard, Joe Thornton

Minutes of the July 25 meeting: Approved without discussion.

Questions for Maggie's Subject Heading Workshop on 9/26: Maggie Horn will give a Subject Headings Workshop on 9/26 and she asked that we send her questions in advance. A few 'Database' members sent questions by email and Joe will compile them and solicit more.

Joe will invite Reference and Youth Services librarians, as well as directors, to the workshop..

Duplicate Bib records for audiobooks: Barbara sent the following by email:

A check through the catalog will show many "library edition" and trade edition records for the same title. They have exactly the same content. The only physical difference is packaging, along with price and replacement benefits for the purchasing library. An example is Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: 658982 and 669053. The first has "Library edition" in the 250 field; the second has "Unabridged". They have different ISBNs and prices, same publisher. To my mind these and similar records could be merged with the "library edition" tag removed. This would consolidate a lot of otherwise duplicate records and reduce patron confusion when requesting popular titles.

RCSC purchases trade edition audiobooks. Our patrons often place their requests on the first record they come to (usually the Library edition) without going further into the record to see if we own a copy. They don't care where it comes from as long as they get it.

When we get new audiobooks and the only record in the system is for a "Library edition," I create a new record for the trade edition because I don't feel comfortable editing the 250 tag without permission or agreement by the database advisory council. Could this be discussed?

Lisa Pitkin suggested that we make it our policy to do what Barbara suggests: in particular – when a *Random House Listening Library* book on CD is identical to an existing record in our catalog but has a different ISBN and has a 250 tag of "Library Edition," merge the records and add an alternate ISBN. In general, if an item to be cataloged matches an existing record on our five match points (author, title, publisher, copyright date, and number of pages), it should be evaluated and possibly merged. When in doubt, send it to UHLS or bring it to a Database Maintenance Advisory Council meeting.

Foreign language material: One of our libraries did a title browse search in stafpac for Rich Dad, Poor Dad, and requested one of the results for a patron. When the book arrived they saw that it was in Korean, although there was no indication of this in the brief display (hit list). The group agreed that the record was cataloged correctly (the full display shows the title in Korean) and that librarians need to look at the full display in stafpac before requesting items.

Carol asked if we could disallow requests from the hit list screen. Rob and Joe said that it was doubtful but they will check.

Purging lost items: Lisa Pitkin asked if we could talk to directors and the Resource Sharing Advisory Council about purging item records that have been lost for a very long time (e.g. “Lost on DRA”). Sue warned that the absence of a “lost” record might give patrons who lost the items the opportunity to say, “How could I lose something that you don’t own?” Rob and Joe will bring the discussion to the Resource Sharing Advisory Council and then to ASC if the idea gains any traction.

UHLS cataloger: A follow-up on the ASC decision not to recommend to the board that UHLS hire a cataloger:

- Carol: Any news or further discussion? Joe: No.
- Sue: the directors distinguished between bad searching and bad cataloging, but bad searching is caused by bad cataloging.
- Carol: Any response to our question of why we weren’t consulted before the original decision not to replace Mary Ellen was made? Joe: Phil said that hiring is a Board of Trustees decision and that there is no policy that requires consultation with any committee or advisory council.

Next meeting: Subject Headings Workshop on September 26, 2007 at UHLS.