

## Database Maintenance Advisory Council

July 23, 2008

**Attendees:** Lisa Bouchard (BETH), Katie Caprio (RVLL) Rob Carle (UHLS), Mary Coon (APLM), Deidre Lisio (APLM), Peggy Mello (COLN), Lisa Pitkin (GUIL), Mary Trev Thomas (BETH), Joe Thornton (UHLS)

**Minutes of the April 30 meeting:** Approved without discussion.

**APL projects:** Mary Coon reported on the progress of the APL branch renovations (e.g. APLP will double in size and be almost as big as the main branch), and also on their new project with Baker & Taylor, which will include the addition of many new Baker & Taylor bib records to our database. The B&T records should be more complete than the brief records that we import as part of the Acquisitions process, but Mary said that APL will continue to use the method that they use now to import Acquisitions records: if a bib record with a matching ISBN already exists in our database, the B&T record will not overlay it.

**Graphic novels:** We discussed the recent overlaying of a single-volume graphic novel bib record by a multiple-volume record, which caused us to lose the holdings information for the single-volume record. We decided to recommend that everyone import only records that represent a single volume (one ISBN; volume title in the 245 or a series statement).

Rob will update the wiki section *Appendix I: How to Add a Graphic Novel*.

Mary said that APL will be happy to help if anyone has a problem with graphic novels.

**Subject headings:** We reviewed the *Subject Headings* section of the *Cataloging Manual* on the wiki. Rob will add some examples of popular and common genres in the 655 field.

**Deleting old 'lost' items:** A long discussion about purging very old 'lost' items, that have no realistic chance of ever returning. Reference staffs would like them to be purged because they're not helpful to patrons and they clutter up search results. Circulation staffs don't want them purged because without them, patrons with fines could say, "You can't fine me for something that doesn't exist." Joe & Rob will discuss the issue with the Resource Sharing Advisory Council.

**Database cleanup:** Joe described the database cleanup project (completed) that he and Barbara Nichols Randall managed with MARCIVE. We enriched 8830 children's records with 520 (and other) fields through MARCIVE's MARC Record Enrichment (MRE) process, and we upgraded 25,000+ brief records to fuller records (including subject headings) through MARCIVE's Brief Record Upgrade (BRU) process.

Joe described the tentative plan to evaluate the effectiveness of these changes. He had planned to count total checkouts of each record before the upgrades and then periodically to count subsequent checkouts to see if the upgrades increased circulation. Mary Trev made an excellent suggestion that we will probably follow: count total checkouts per month of all 34,000 records in the months preceding and following the upgrades. This will make the report more readable (one line instead of 34,000) and it will also accommodate the greatly varying ages of the records.

**System slowness:** Joe asked if the catalogers were noticing (and suffering from) the system slowness that has increased this summer, in spite of our many attempts to identify and correct the causes. The answer is yes, it's a problem for catalogers, too.

**Next meeting: August 27, 2008 at 9:30 at UHLS**