

LITA/ALCTS CCS Authority Control Interest Group (ACIG)  
Business Meeting, 2007 ALA Midwinter  
Sunday, Jan. 21, Arcade Shop Atrium, Fairmont Olympic Hotel, Seattle

Present: Chair                   Sandy Roe  
          Past Chair               Linda Ballinger  
          Members-at-large: Marlena Frackowski (Names)  
                                  Shannon Hoffman (Subjects)  
                                  Tom Larsen (Local Systems)  
                                  Mary Mastraccio (Series)  
          Guests:                 Margaret Kaus (liaison from the Music Library Association)  
                                  George Johnston  
                                  John Reese

Absent: Anaclare Evans, Secretary; Edward Swanson, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

The meeting convened ca. 4:00 p.m. Mark Scharff volunteered to take minutes. The unusual location was a last-minute substitution for the Spanish Ballroom, where the main meeting had taken place. Though the chair had been told that the space was reserved for another two hours after the main meeting, the hotel staff thought otherwise and began tearing down the room.

First came a short “post-mortem” on the session itself. Attendance was estimated to have peaked at 130 people, with much going and coming. The fluctuations were largely the result of conflicts and allowing for travel time to other meetings, particularly the PCC Participants’ session following ACIG. Mark commented that he appreciated those presenters who directly addressed the questions posed by the steering group. The session ran ten minutes over its scheduled time, and those ten minutes were the only opportunity for questions. Shannon wondered if the LC report could be submitted in writing rather than given in person. Mark thought that it might have been OK for this particular meeting, but he would prefer to have an LC representative at the meeting for the benefit of attendees with questions; he also noted that the LC report had been tailored to address concerns related to authority control. The speakers could have used more assistance in tracking time, and Sandy lamented that she had sat at the end of the platform, which gave her no graceful means of giving that help. General consensus was that a timing monitor would be useful for future meetings. Action item: Tom Larsen expressed willingness to be that person at Annual.

Sandy reviewed preparations for the program session for Annual. The proposed title is “Authority Control Meets Faceted Browse.” The program’s aims are to introduce the audience to facet theory, showcase implementations in library catalogs and digital collections, and facilitate discussion on how structured authority data might better support this type of navigation. Two speakers have been confirmed: Kathryn La Barre (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), who would define and give a historical overview of facet theory, and Charley Pennell (University of North Carolina), who would report on Endeca’s use of faceting and on efforts to incorporate data from authority records into user searching. Additional speakers have been contacted but have not yet been confirmed (Karen Schneider on Siderean, Mary Charles Lasater on Ex Libris’ Primo, and Casey Bisson, the developer of the open-source WPopac

software). Sandy mentioned that a new LITA interest group was forming, with the title of “Next-Generation Catalog Interest Group.” She thought that the group, even in this formative stage, could be approached about co-sponsoring the ACIG program, and will attend the group’s Monday meeting to learn more.

Sandy had also contacted Marcia Lei Zeng, one of the chairs of the IFLA Working Group on Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Records (FRSAR), to gauge this group’s willingness to provide an update at Annual. Given ACIG’s intent to ask for only two hours of meeting time at Annual (to avoid conflicting with the PCC meeting) and the desire to give adequate time to the facet presentations, a better alternative might be to consider presentations on FRSAR as well as the Working Group on Functional Requirements for Authority Data (FRAD, formerly FRANAR) as the basis for the 2008 Midwinter meeting. Sandy agreed to carry this suggestion to Edward Swanson for consideration.

Margaret opined that ALCTS’s publicity for the ACIG meeting had been much less than LITA’s. Tom pointed out that ACIG was listed only under LITA in the program book, and Shannon said that the same was true for the Conference Planner. Sandy will investigate. She mentioned that no one was known to have blogged the ACIG session, and recommended that the group recruit someone to do so for Annual.

Sandy drew attention to the positions that would be up for election at Annual and encouraged all to consider candidacy or to recruit potential candidates. These positions are Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Secretary, Member-at-large for series, Member-at-large for names, and Member-at-large for subjects. Each office has a two-year term with the exception of Vice Chair/Chair-Elect.

Edward Swanson is the incoming ACIG chair. Sandy noted his involvement with IFLA, which could make a session on FRSAR, an IFLA initiative, an even more attractive topic for 2008 Midwinter. Nonetheless, she asked members and guests to keep thinking of program ideas. Mark agreed to deliver the ACIG report at Tuesday morning’s ALCTS CCS Executive Committee meeting in Sandy’s stead.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Scharff as substitute for Anaclare Evans