

CONSER Member Reports Oct. 2007

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Center for Research Libraries

During the first and early second halves of Fiscal Year 2007, the CRL Cataloging Dept. began preparations for instituting the new CONSER standard record. In late May 2007, soon after returning from the CONSER Operations Committee meeting, Steve Early, CRL's CONSER representative, teamed up with fellow rep. Renette Davis, head of Serials and Digital Resources Cataloging at University of Chicago, to give a joint Power Point CSR training session at University of Chicago for CRL and UC catalogers. Once implementation began in June, the Cataloging Dept. quickly adjusted to the new standard. Serafima Dukhan, the Dept.'s other principal monograph and serials cataloger (and BIBCO representative), has commented more than a few times on the increased workflow. Also during this time of change, Technical Services, under the direction of head Amy Wood, upgraded to Innovative Interface's Millennium. Andrew Elliot, initially hired in 2006 as a temp, joined the Cataloging Dept. as a full time cataloger. Presently, Andrew is also helping to design a French interface for the public Web catalog.

This was a busy year for CRL overall as well as it continued expanding its membership in the US and Canada. It also celebrated its first anniversary as chief administrator of the Global Resources Network, a collaborative program of CRL and non-CRL universities working to provide better access to the ever-widening range of international information resources. As part of its commitment to digital preservation, the Center digitized 2587 volumes of its (primarily monographic) print and microfilm collections, providing Web access to the public domain items (more than 97% of the total). Catalog records for these titles were created according to a "single record" approach, with 856 URL/PURL links added to copy or original catalog records for the source material (print or microfilm). The Dissertation cataloging project, supervised by Yoseline Louisma, also continued apace, with records now completed for 500,000 of the Center's 800,000 international doctoral dissertations.

CRL's International Coalition on Newspapers Project is focusing this year on Latin American newspapers, including the preservation and microfilming of a number of titles from South America. Steve continued cataloging ICON's new acquisitions as well as providing remote cataloging for distributed cataloging participants University of Connecticut and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The Center's Area Studies microform projects also continued to collect and film rare and unique materials from Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and South and Southeast Asia, providing Steve with abundant material for CONSER and BIBCO cataloging. These included Kurdish newspapers and other political opposition newspapers from Turkey; Vietnamese newspapers, journals, and political publications from the 1920s to the 1950s (including some authored by Ho Chi Minh); a large set of 19th and early 20th newspapers published in Rosario, Argentina; Indonesian political tabloids from the post Suharto period; and other newspapers and newspaper sets from Malawi, Venezuela, Nepal, and Bangladesh. Series authority records were created for most microfilm sets to provide improved collocated access to their individual titles. Items in scripts or languages beyond Steve's expertise were outsourced to other Area Studies participants including UCLA and University of Washington for descriptive cataloging and subject analysis.

At the end of FY 2007, Steve Early and Serafima Dukhan contributed 332 fully authenticated original records, 25 fully authenticated existing records, and 5 subsequently authenticated

existing records. They also contributed 26 minimal records and provided maintenance to 581 authenticated records and 10 non-authenticated records.

Columbia University

Columbia's serials cataloger Charlene Chou moved to a new position as Chinese Cataloger in Columbia's C.V. Starr East Asian Library on January 1, 2007. To assist with the transition, she continued to return to the serials cataloging unit one day a week until the end of September.

Robert Rendall, previously a cataloger at Columbia's law library, became the new serials cataloger on May 1, just in time to attend the OpCo meeting and the preceding CONSER Standard Record workshop. He has taken over supervision of Columbia's main serials cataloging unit and coordination of serials cataloging in the university libraries.

In her new position, Charlene has begun to contribute CONSER records for Columbia's Chinese print and electronic serials titles for the first time. She is continuing to train the Japanese and Korean catalogers in CONSER, and Columbia's new Tibetan Studies Librarian may also contribute records to CONSER in the future. Charlene is also serving on the CEAL Committee on Technical Processing's subcommittee charged with collecting CJK examples for AACR2 Chapter 12, working closely with LC and CONSER for this task.

The retrospective conversion of older serials titles in Union Theological Seminary's Burke Library continues. Most of these records are contributed to CONSER by Burke's serials cataloger Alex Crosier, with Robert Rendall now also participating. Columbia's Slavic cataloger Susan Summer continues to contribute CONSER records for Slavic materials.

Columbia has begun a new project to create CONSER records for a large number of uncataloged corporate reports from early twentieth-century New York area businesses held by the Business Library. The Slavic cataloger completed the first stage of this project, and it will now be continued by the new serials cataloger. 35 titles from the first stage have been digitized by the library's Preservation Department, which used the cataloging record as the basis for the digital record and metadata.

Columbia fully implemented the CONSER standard record on July 1, 2007. Serials catalogers have taken advantage of the new standard's flexibility, exercising the option to enhance records beyond the mandatory element set in individual cases as required by the resource being described.

Columbia continues to use Serials Solutions as its main source of electronic serials records and holdings, upgrading many of the records provided to the CONSER standard. With support for Endeavor's Meridian product coming to an end, Columbia is currently engaged in selecting a new ERM system.

Harvard University

Over the spring and summer, we loaded into our local catalog, HOLLIS, information for 71,116 titles held by CRL. Only holdings information was added for titles already represented by bibliographic records in HOLLIS; both bibliographic records as well as corresponding holdings information was added for those titles unique to HOLLIS. To insure all information remains current, CRL information will be updated on a regular basis.

Michael Bradford, Serials and Electronic Resources Librarian at the Harvard Divinity School Library enrolled in Judy Knop's NACO training session and now contributes CONSER-related NACO work through the American Theological Library Association (ATLA) Funnel.

Harvard contributed a total of 2,668 original and first-time authenticated records, as well as bibliographic maintenance work to existing CONSER records. Down somewhat from other years, our contribution reflects vacancies in key positions across the University.

During the past year, time was devoted to meetings designed to keep the Harvard serials community up-to-date with CONSER standard record developments. In June several CONSER standard record training sessions were held for staff in all Harvard libraries contributing titles to CONSER. Later in the summer an open forum was presented by Mary Jane Cuneo, Fine Arts Library, and Michelle Williams and Ruth Haas from the HUL/CONSER Office introducing the CONSER standard record to all interested library staff.

Harvard-Yenching Library

This year CJK catalogers at the Harvard-Yenching Library continued to create new CONSER records for selected titles based on the importance of the material to the collection. They also updated many older records that lacked an assigned ISSN and/or original scripts in the parallel fields. Since the Harvard University Library has access to several high profile e-resources and databases from China and Korea, catalogers focused on upgrading records, including the addition of ISSNs, in order to achieve better matching results during Harvard's MARCIt record loading process. Harvard-Yenching catalogers continue to transfer more and more selected titles to the off-site storage facility, Harvard Depository.

Harvard Law School Library

The Harvard Law School Library reports that the vacancy in their part time serials cataloger position (which has been put on hold) continued to drive the effort to keep up with new acquisitions. John Hostage has effectively eliminated their print backlog of English language titles to this point, resulting in the authentication of many original CONSER records. As usual, CONSER record maintenance comprised a large part of their work. The East Asian and Eastern European Law bibliographers continued contributing CONSER records in their areas. Law School catalogers are all beginning to gain experience in using the new CONSER standard record.

Several projects this year involved recataloging and reclassification of serials. A multi-year project to clear out the Pound basement storage areas of primarily older, international materials and move them to remote storage is underway. Problems identified as a result of this project include several still active serial titles in the area of religious law that had to be recataloged and reclassified for the International Legal Studies' stacks; and several ceased titles that also needed record revision. Another project has been to identify certain categories of print publications to be cancelled in favor of electronic access; many of these resulted in CONSER record enhancement.

Finally, mention must be made of the passing on July 23, 2007 of Lesley Wilkins, the Bibliographer for Law of the Islamic World. Among her numerous accomplishments was the contribution to CONSER of a number of complex records for Middle Eastern publications

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Our CONSER productivity slowed down in the past year with a total of 483 transactions, which included 98 authentications at full levels and 385 record maintenance. Much of the manpower was devoted to several record enhancement projects ensuing from the loading of thousands of records from different aggregators. Our Library gained access to over 4,100 new e-journal titles in the past year and our e-journal collection has reached a total of about 20,700 titles. It was a 25% increase from the past year. We have also expanded our subscription to the Chinese Academic Journal Full-text database and loaded over 2,700 records in May into our database. With many of our print journal subscriptions switched to electronic format, much of the special issues information from analytical cataloging of print journals was no longer available. In view of this, we began analytical cataloging of e-journals in April, starting with our ScienceDirect subscriptions. And it is our target to analyze over 350 special issues a year. We have also begun the implementation of CONSER standard record on June 1, 2007 and provided two training sessions for serials staff to familiarize them with the new practice.

As for electronic books, we have added about 10,000 catalog records to our database during this year, including those from Books24x7, Blackwell Reference Online, SourceOECD, Naxos Spoken Word Library, etc. Our Library hosted the 7th Annual Hong Kong Innovative Users Group Meeting on our campus in December 2006 with over 340 library professionals coming from Hong Kong, Macau, Mainland China, Japan, Philippines, Thailand and the USA. We also organized an exhibition of our University Archives collection in the Library Gallery in May 2007 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the University Archives. Our document delivery service has been extended to deliver scanned articles of print and microform journals in PDF format to University faculty members' desktops. Significant structural changes have been made to the Library Websites recently with a large number of new user-driven Web pages.

It has been a year since the launch of Information Commons in the Library and this area has gained encouraging popularity among students and other library users. We need to expand the area in order to meet the growing user demands for group learning space and to prepare for the much larger student body in 2012 under the 3-3-4 academic reform of the Hong Kong Higher and Tertiary Education System. The Library is in the process of planning for a building extension with the creation of a 24/7 study environment to meet the future need.

Indiana University

The Serials Cataloging Division of Indiana University Libraries is pleased to announce that it has successfully batch-loaded 132,716 local holdings records into OCLC. This move was in response to an initiative by the Committee on Institutional Cooperation to make the serial holdings of CIC libraries more visible to library patrons, especially for inter-library loan. The holdings will be updated on a monthly basis. We are also pleased that the accuracy and integrity of our data resulted in fewer than a dozen records that needed to be reloaded after the initial load.

On the local level, we successfully loaded more than 30,000 serial records into IUCAT, our local OPAC, for our e-journal holdings. These records, supplied to us by Serials Solutions, will allow patrons to have clickable access to our electronic journal holdings directly from our OPAC, in addition to the "Find Information" page, our local A-Z electronic journal list. These records will also be updated on a monthly basis from data we supply Serials Solutions.

The unit also implemented the CONSER Standard Record which we anticipate will have a positive impact on productivity and efficiency. Initial results have so far been encouraging. We also finished up the retrospective conversion of the last of our serials with Library of Congress call numbers. The remaining titles to convert are older international and foreign government publications. Fulfilling this task has been a long-term commitment of the unit and is a great source of satisfaction for the entire unit. This, combined with our loading of local holdings records into OCLC has had a very positive effect on our sharing of holdings data with the library community at large.

We also continue to place emphasis on the cataloging of integrating resources, ISSN discovery, and the creation of PURLs for freely-accessible web resources.

Library of Congress National Serials Data Program

FY 2007 was a year characterized by high points such as publication of the revised ISSN standard, adoption of the CONSER standard record, and a continued increase in demand for ISSN for online resources. For the first time, ISSN assignments to online titles comprised one third of total ISSN assigned. Nonetheless, ISSN requests for print titles outnumbered ISSN requests two to one and new print serials on all conceivable topics continue to appear (and then often disappear). ISSN requests from individual self-publishers continued to present challenges. There were also low points such as cataloger illnesses and departures, as well as delays in implementing three needed technical improvements: the ability to assign ISSN to integrating resources, the ability to provide current publisher information in the MARC 21 publisher field (260), and an online ISSN application form.

ISSN assignments to online resources continue to grow, although at a slower pace than in previous years. As noted above, FY 07 ISSN assignments to online titles represented one third of all new ISSN assignments. NSDP staff is routinely challenged by answering questions about online serials: determining if an online resource is a serial or an integrating resource; determining whether a blog is eligible for an ISSN; deciding ISSN jurisdiction for multinational serials where different formats are published in different locations; and finding online serials when URLs change. Self-published online serials present particular problems because they often lack standardized formatting and information. CONSER libraries continued to rely on the CONSER web form to request ISSN needed to populate OpenURL resolvers and ERM knowledge bases. Since the form's inception in May 2005, CONSER libraries have submitted 1298 requests, of which only 275 requests remained at the end of FY 2007. This source of ISSN requests has proved to be very suitable for telework. In August, the ISSN International Centre identified a core group of ca. 1200 U.S. electronic serials without ISSN and NSDP started assigning ISSN to these titles during September's Production Only Month.

NSDP has been on the brink of assigning ISSN to integrating resources for almost two years but LC's need to resolve technical issues related to CONSER distribution has prevented that work from moving forward. NSDP has some ISSN requests on hold, primarily for resources that are serials in print but integrating resources in electronic form, e.g., electronic directories & manuals, online A&I services, other database-type resources. NSDP has also has some pending requests for ISSN for print loose-leaf services.

ISO 3297:2007, the revised ISSN standard, became available in August. The revised standard introduces the linking ISSN (ISSN-L), a mechanism to collocate the various medium versions of a continuing resource. Plans are underway at the ISSN International Centre to implement the linking ISSN in 2008. NSDP has begun to examine and correct problem records identified by the IC that might cause failures in the planned programmatic retrospective designation of the linking ISSN. Specific procedures for designating and communicating ISSN-L to the IC and to publishers will be discussed at the 2007 ISSN directors' meeting.

With substantial help from LC's Network Development and MARC Standards Office, and the ISSN International Centre, Regina Reynolds presented a successful MARBI proposal at ALA Annual to add two new subfields to MARC 21 field 022 (\$l and \$m) to accommodate the linking ISSN and cancelled linking ISSN. Interested parties such as those from OCLC, NISO, VTLS, EBSCO, and Serials Solutions, as well as the LC ERMS, SFX, and Copyright electronic deposit project teams have been kept informed about ISSN revision and the linking ISSN by in-person meetings and by presentations and articles.

NSDP is clearing backlogs of overdue prepublication ISSN assignments by sending "last chance" cancellation letters to publishers, obtaining issues from OCLC holding libraries, or reporting lists of ISSN and records to be cancelled to OCLC and the ISSN IC. Whenever possible, NSDP assigns prepublication ISSN only to titles from mainstream publishers in order to minimize instances where the title is never published or the publisher cannot be located to request issues after publication. NSDP is working on the capability to send prepublication records to the ISSN Register and expects to begin in 2008.

The CONSER web form has been undergoing an intensive security review. Work has begun on a system to manage blocks of ISSN allocated to the U.S. ISSN center. The system will present a cataloger with the next available ISSN, record the operator ID and date and allow the cataloger to record the key title and requesting source. Since 1972, ISSN have been allocated from paper ledgers but that is becoming impractical because of telework and because future ISSN work will be dispersed among multiple cataloging sections. A project to develop an interactive online form for ISSN requests has been delayed by the need to resolve security issues.

Along with LC's Serial Record Division (SRD), NSDP implemented the CONSER standard record in May with few problems. Regina Reynolds, co-chair of the record's working group, presented a training overview for LC staff and consulted on the development of the SCCTP training module. Reynolds also attended the meeting of the Joint Committee for the Development of RDA (formerly the Joint Steering Committee for AACR) held at LC in October 2006 where she commented on topics related to recording correct and incorrect ISSN and provided input about retention of the term "continuing resources" in the new code. Delayed implementation of the repeatable 260 continues to pose problems for ISSN work. Publishers who have purchased titles from other publishers are very concerned to see the earliest publisher still listed with the label, "Publisher" in the ISSN Portal and LC OPAC (for LC acquired titles). Notes do not display in the Portal or in brief LC OPAC displays. The ISSN Network implemented the repeatable 260 with the implementation of its ILS.

Additional catalogers from SRD are being trained to assign ISSN. Chad Abel-Kops is training Ted Westervelt and Lakeia Roseboro who now assign ISSN to U.S. serials they catalog. Elmer Klebs will be trained in November 2007 to assign ISSN to the comic books and other serials he catalogs. Other training will follow throughout the year. It is hoped that the addition of more staff trained in ISSN work will increase ISSN coverage of U.S. serials.

A new employee, Alayne Mundt, was hired in October 2006 to replace Vanessa Mitchell as the CSA cataloger in NSDP, CSA then changed its name to ProQuest during the year. NSDP selectors continued to perform selection on all issues received from publishers. Esther Simpson spent approximately 30% of her time doing selection, Natalie Yarbrough began one-on-one selection training in the latter part of the year

Articles: Regina Reynolds wrote: "Unique Identifiers in Libraries: ISSN Revision," *The Serials Librarian*, Vol. 53, No. 1-2, 2007, pp. 125-137; "Taming the Serials Beast: a Look Back and a Peek Forward," (includes extensive CONSER, NSDP and ISSN history) in *Commemorating the Past, Celebrating the Present, Creating the Future: Papers in Observance of the 50th Anniversary of the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services*; "Verbs and Proverbs: Reflections on Cataloging Leadership," forthcoming in *Library Resources and Technical Services*, Vol. 52, 2008.

Library of Congress Serial Record Division

Serial Record Division continued to maintain excellent control of its workload and cataloging receipts. New serials quickly received full access. We were able to focus on cataloging serials in formats other than print and serials in small, more difficult arrearages for which we do not always have language expertise. With the use of the Internet and dictionaries, we made good progress.

At year's end, fewer than 2,000 serials awaited cataloging - a 5% decrease from last year. The number is impressive because even though we spent 19% fewer hours on cataloging this year, our backlog did not increase. Since we shared some staff to support colleagues in acquisitions and public service, the overall number of serials cataloged decreased by 10%. However, we did see some big increases in the cataloging of serials in formats other than print – microforms 129%, audiovisuals 50%, and sound recordings 3100%. With the print serials under control, it was possible to focus on formats that required different procedures and workflows. Cataloging sections cleared a project of 68 Korean newspaper microfilm titles; processed and cataloged 160 microfilm serial titles that were part of the Chicago studies library serials collection. They also cleared 33 Estonian titles; created 181 bibliographic records for Chinese serials that were sent to Ft. Meade; and cleared 905 issues (via check-in, cataloging, sending as monographs) of a backlog for the African/Middle East Division.

We also had an increase of 4.5% in the number of print serials cataloged and a 3% increase in the number of serials for which we provided original cataloging.

CONSER Activities

SRD adopted the CONSER standard record (CSR) guidelines on June 1, 2007 with few problems. CSR records continue to provide full access to serial titles yet simplify more time consuming descriptive tasks and eliminate redundant data in the description of serials. The CONSER Coordinator and team leaders presented training sessions on the CSR for SRD staff in May. All cataloging staff completed this training and implemented the new procedures.

The cataloging sections provided support to CONSER through review of records for institutions wishing to join CONSER. This year we successfully trained the representative from the University of Pennsylvania Libraries which is now independent. We also provided training for the new representative from the National Library of Wales, whose institution had

been an associate member of CONSER since 2000. All of the sections continued to provide regular support to CONSER institutions in resolving serial queries sent to us.

National Agricultural Library

The National Agricultural Library has been active in CONSER during 2006/2007, contributing 670 original or newly authenticated serial records and enhancing or maintaining another 261 serial records between October 2006 and August 31, 2007.

NAL was an enthusiastic participant in the development of the CONSER standard record and was an early implementer of the standard in March 2007, along with NLM. NAL continues to use the CONSER standard record guidelines for all serials cataloging. Increased productivity for the serials catalogers has been a clear result of the implementation, as is shown by an increase in 2007 of over 130 newly created or authenticated records over the same amount of time in 2006.

The Technical Services Division at NAL was completely reorganized during 2007, leading to significant shifts in personnel. Mike Esman continues as head of the Bibliographic Services Branch, which combines all of NAL's Cataloging and Indexing functions. Tina Shrader has returned to the Bibliographic Services Branch to serve as Cataloging Supervisor and CONSER Coordinator, supervising all monographic and serial original catalogers.

National Library of Medicine

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) has contributed a total of 286 new records to CONSER for FY2007, October 2006-August 2007. NLM authenticated 193 records at the full or core level and performed subsequent authentication for an additional 61 records at the full or core level. NLM made significant contributions in updating the CONSER and OCLC World Cat databases by editing 383 CONSER bibliographic records and 1712 non-CONSER bibliographic records.

NLM implemented the CONSER standard cataloging guidelines on March 1, 2007. CONSER had originally planned a phased implementation of these guidelines beginning on February 1, but at the ALA Midwinter meeting in January decided to postpone implementation until some unspecified time, not earlier than May, to allow the Joint Steering Committee on the Revision of AACR2 time to review the new guidelines. NLM, along with NAL, implemented the new standard ahead of the rest of the CONSER community. This meant that for a short period of time (March-May 2007), NLM serial records were not added to the CONSER database, although they went into OCLC WorldCat with special coding that would allow them to be easily identified and moved into the CONSER database by OCLC later on. Regular contributions to CONSER were resumed on June 1, 2007.

The 2007 edition of the NLM Classification was released on April 19, 2007. It incorporates all additions and changes to the schedules and index from April 2006 through March 2007. The PDF version, originally launched October 2006 has been updated with 2007 classification data. The PDF version is available at: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/class/terms_cond.html. The online 2007 edition also includes a revised animated tutorial (Quick Tour) on searching the NLM Classification.

In January 2007, the NLM Digital Working Group submitted its report, functional requirements and recommendations for next steps in building an NLM Digital Repository. A second Working Group was formed to evaluate different software options for the Repository and hopes to make a recommendation by the end of the year on what packages to test in

house. NLM has issued the document National Library of Medicine Selection Criteria for Digital Reformatting, which distinguishes criteria for reformatting for access vs. preservation purposes: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/psd/pcm/digitizationcriteria.pdf>.

NLM discontinued providing cataloger-supplied translated titles (MARC 242 field) in bibliographic records for materials written in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. Translated titles in the bibliographic records created prior to March 1, 2007 will remain in the records.

NLM is investigating the use of the Medical Text Indexer (MTI) software in Cataloging to support subject analysis. This software is currently used by NLM indexers to suggest Medical Subject Headings based on text from the titles and abstracts of journal articles. NLM has been participating in conference calls with members of the CPSO-Unicode Task Force to discuss the LC proposal and short and long term approaches for adding non-Roman data to authority records in the LC/NACO Authority File.

NLM continues to represent the Medical Library Association in the review of Resource Description and Access (RDA). Major activities included review of chapters 3, 4, 6 and 7.

In December, NLM representatives began meeting with staff of the Library of Congress and the National Agricultural Library to discuss implementation issues related to the possible adoption of RDA in 2009.

Miranda Hay co-taught the PCC Series Institute at the Library of Congress on May 16-18, 2007.

NLM CJK cataloger and Cataloging Unit Head, Chong Chung, volunteered to participate in the CJK NACO Project to serve as a trainer and has been working with the assigned institution since July 2007.

Barbara Bushman, Cataloging Unit Head, was appointed as the PCC liaison to the ALCTS RDA Implementation Task-Force. This task force will be responsible for developing training to coincide with the publication of RDA in 2009. She also was appointed as chair of a PCC Standing Committee on Training task force to develop a course on medical cataloging.

Diane Boehr, Head of Cataloging, was appointed as the Medical Library Association representative to the Library of Congress Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control.

Eugene Dickerson, Unit Head of Cataloging and NLM CONSER representative, left NLM for a position at the State Department on September 30, 2006. Miranda Hay succeeds him as the new CONSER representative.

Jennifer Marill joined NLM on March 5 as Deputy Chief of the Technical Services Division with responsibility for the newly reorganized Systems Office. She is also leading the Digital Repository initiative.

Alice Jacobs, Assistant Head of Cataloging since January 1991, retired on March 31, 2007.

Wilma Bass joined NLM on August 20 as the new Head of Cataloging Unit III. She comes to NLM from the Health Sciences Human Services Library at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, where she was an active member of the NACO Medical Funnel project.

National Library of Wales

The CONSER Programme in NLW underwent considerable change during 2006/2007. We are in the process of implementing a new Library Management System. This necessitated planning the refocusing of priorities which in turn has resulted in the adjustment of workflow patterns as various stages in implementation are completed. In December 2006 Galen Jones, CONSER representative, transferred to the Library's Systems Unit and Wyn Thomas took up the position of CONSER representative in January 2007.

Both representatives attended the CONSER Operations Committee meeting in May 2007 which proved invaluable in that it provided an opportunity in keeping abreast of developments within CONSER.

One of the benefits of the implementation of a new system has been the transition to MARC21 standards for holdings data. Other developments in the NLW's serials collection are the adoption of an Electronic Resources Management (ERM) called Verify (VTLS), which will facilitate control of licensing, access control and copyright. Linked to the implementation of Verify the NLW is also considering the adoption of ONIX for Serials data exchange which can be supported by Verify.

The NLW initiated a programme of retrospective cataloguing of Welsh journal records in January 2007. This forms part of a project, which runs from January 2007 to March 2009, to digitize the 90 most important twentieth and twenty-first century journals covering Wales and the Welsh. The re-cataloguing stage has now been completed and will facilitate the linking of digitized articles to journal title records on the Library's OPAC.

The aim of the project is to scan and index around 600,000 pages for inclusion in Welsh Journals Online. It will be possible for users to search the text for specific words, names and dates, and it will be possible to cut and paste parts of the text for teaching and general use. It will be a new web resource, and available free of charge to all members of the public.

The project is being funded by the JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee), the National Library of Wales, and the Welsh Assembly Government. The Library is working in partnership with members of WHELP (Welsh Higher Education Libraries Forum). It is hoped that the website will contain 600,000 pages of text from 90 titles published between 1900 and 2003. The material ranges from academic and scholarly journals to current affairs and popular magazines, reflecting all aspects of Welsh life. Welsh-language publications make up 40% of the content: this will represent the language's largest corpus of text available on the web.

These developments run alongside the NLW's commitment to provide CONSER standard records for all new Welsh journals as part of Llyfryddiaeth Cymru (the National Bibliography of Wales).

New York Public Library

Technical Services at NYPL is in the process of undergoing major change. With the decision to have one catalog for the Branch Libraries (86 branches) and the Research Libraries (4 centers), we are looking at our procedures and practices. We are comparing where Branch and Research bibliographic records are alike (and where we differ), and trying to set new internal guidelines. Our new ILS will serve all of NYPL—no longer will our patrons have to remember which is the Branch and which is the Research catalog-- with one search patrons will get access to all of our holdings. We sent out our RFP in the spring, and we anticipate

that a decision on an ILS vendor will come in late fall 2007. Migration (hopefully) will be complete a year later.

The impact on existing staff is a feeling of tension for some, and eager anticipation for others. It has resulted in some retirements and internal staff shifts. In general though, most staff has embraced the idea that after 120 years we are one, united, public library serving the needs of all New Yorkers.

Speaking of retirement, Karen Hsu, our Head of Cataloging for many decades, and a former CONSER policy member, retired this January. Edith Gewertz has replaced her in that position.

Now on to CONSER matters. We began using the CONSER standard record in late July. In general, the Serials and Electronic Resources staff accepted the new standard record well. So far, our public service colleagues have not had any negative comments on this new format. We provided training sessions for catalogers in language divisions, as well as acquisition colleagues. So far, it has gone smoothly.

Despite losing a technician due to disability, effectively reducing the section to 5 staff members, we were able to authenticate 288 records, and do maintenance on 430 CONSER and 492 OCLC records.

Northwestern University

In 2006, Northwestern embarked on a project to update all local serial records with appropriate OCLC control numbers. A computer program was used to find matches in WorldCat for all of the serial records in our local catalog that lack OCLC numbers. Several thousand matches were found, and the WorldCat records were updated and the OCLC numbers added to our local bib records. In addition, OCLC attempted a match from another tapeload and added records when no match was found. Sampling of the approximately 6500 still-unmatched records showed that perhaps up to 40% would be able to be matched by manual searching the remaining unmatched records would be added as new records. The manual searching began in summer 2006, with the part-time help of a one-year librarian position shared with our Catalog Dept. By the end of August 2007, we had matched 2165 records and uploaded 470 new records. Progress is slower than originally anticipated, because the varying quality of records (in both databases) requires shelf checks for many materials. When the project is finished, we look forward to having all of our serial holdings represented in WorldCat, providing volume-specific holdings data through regular updates.

We have been weeding the print serials collection, withdrawing many volumes that are covered in JSTOR. Purchase of large collections of online serials continues, with increasing cancellation of print titles. After a one-year trial of loading Serials Solutions full bibliographic records into our local catalog, we resumed loading records from the Ex Libris MARCIt! service. These records cover mostly the titles we receive from aggregator services, but also include some individual titles as well. In our OPAC, these records contain unique URLs for each source from which the title can be obtained.

Effective September 1, 2007, the Serials Dept. at Northwestern University Library is no more. As part of a large, library-wide reorganization, the Serials Cataloging section moved to the Bibliographic Services Dept. (which had until then been named Catalog Dept.) and the Serials Acquisitions section joined the Acquisitions and Rapid Cataloging Dept. (formerly the Monographic Acquisitions and Rapid Cataloging Dept.). The remaining staff of the former Serials Dept., along with another staff member from a different unit, formed a new

department called Electronic Resources and Collection Analysis Dept., headed by John Blosser (formerly head of the Serials Dept.). While reporting lines, and in a few cases some job duties, have changed, no bodies have yet been relocated. Physical reorganization is not expected until a new library-wide space study is conducted.

Pennsylvania State University Libraries

Penn State handed its application for Full membership in CONSER to coordinator Les Hawkins at the CONSER Open Meeting, Sunday, January 1 2007, at the Seattle ALA Midwinter convention. The PCC Policy Committee accepted the application on the Ides of March 2007. Penn State's Serials Cataloging Team has since been working with Steven C. Shadle, Serials Access Librarian at the University of Washington Libraries, on a review of records submitted to the CONSER database.

Rebecca Mugridge, Head of the Cataloging and Metadata Services Dept., will represent Penn State on the Policy Committee, and is currently incoming Chair-Elect of the PCC Steering Committee (serving as one of the representatives from the NACO Program).

Serials Cataloging Librarian Christopher H. Walker represented Penn State at the May 2007 Operations Committee meeting and attended the May 2 training day on the new CONSER standard record. Christopher also serves (with CONSER Operations Committee colleagues Tina Shrader, Kevin Randall, Bonnie Parks, and Naomi Young) on the ALCTS CRS Continuing Resources Cataloging Committee.

The Penn State Serials Cataloging Team is currently short one member since the retirement of full-time cataloger Hi Soo Hoo. We are completing the training of two new team members who will predominantly be working on in-house record maintenance, added volumes, the processing of government documents, and other work in the local catalog, freeing veteran team members for more new cataloging and bibliographic record maintenance work in the CONSER database.

Texas A&M University, College Station

The Texas A&M Serials Cataloging Unit continues to be understaffed, but we are "hanging in there." The vacant professional cataloging position has been posted as of mid-September, and we are looking forward to meeting talented applicants and selecting a new cataloger. We were very sorry to say goodbye to Marina Shipova, who has relocated to Louisville. Svetlana Poltoratski, formerly on the monograph cataloging staff, has taken over Marina's copy cataloging duties sorting out titles needing CONSER attention, as well as she is able to do so working part time. Her language skills permit us to continue contributing records for Slavic materials and to add Cyrillic characters. Again, during the coming year we will have to invest substantial time and effort on providing training in CONSER serials cataloging and policy, serial holdings, series authority work, local workflow, and the use of Voyager for her and the incoming professional cataloger.

As well as authenticating and updating records for print serials, we hope to contribute records for microfilm reproductions of serial titles, since this is a substantial part of the serials backlog. The management of e-serials continues to be a major part of the unit's current workload. While there are at least minimal records for all e-serial titles available at A&M in the catalog, we do have a backlog of these titles requiring either original records in OCLC or authentication of existing records.

Tulane University

At Tulane University Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, we were fortunately able to remain open and continue cataloging throughout the 2006/2007 LC fiscal year, an improvement over the previous two years.

Still, part of our resources and time continued to be needed to help the library's recovery from the effects of Hurricane Katrina and subsequent flooding. We anticipate that this will continue to be the case for next several years. In addition, our Serials and Electronic Resources Catalog Librarian resigned effective June 15 to take a position at another institution.

As of 31 August 2007, we had contributed 65 CONSER records for the fiscal year, both original cataloging and upgraded CONSER copy. For the future We plan to fill the vacant Serials and Electronic Resources Catalog Librarian position as quickly as possible, preferably with an experienced cataloger with CONSER training.

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Between October 2006 and September 2007, UCLA contributed 496 original and 210 authenticated records. UCLA completed subsequent authentication of another 4 records and maintenance of 515 CONSER records.

In July 2007, Peter Fletcher joined the UCLA Cataloging & Metadata Center as Cyrillic script cataloger and metadata specialist. Peter Fletcher, formerly of Tulane University, will be working half-time in the Continuing Resources Cataloging Section as a CONSER cataloger; and half-time for the Monographic Cataloging Section, as a BIBCO cataloger.

Cindy Shelton, our Associate University Librarian, Collection Management and Scholarly Communication, and former CONSER representative to the PCC Policy Committee retired during this past fiscal year. Our new Associate University Librarian, Collection Management and Scholarly Communication, Sharon Farb, began her duties on August 1, 2007.

PCC Task Groups: Melissa Beck participated in the CONSER Standard Record Task Group and the PCC Working Group on Authentication Codes and Encoding Levels for Serials and Integrating Resources. She is currently participating in the Task Group to develop MARBI proposals related to the CONSER standard record. Peter Fletcher chairs the Integrating Resources Task Group on the Provider Neutral Record; the group is completing a final report. He also is also the PCC liaison to CC:DA.

Melissa Beck developed several versions of an SCCTP training session for the CONSER standard record, including one for the ALA Midwinter meeting, several versions of the SCCTP face-to-face session, and several versions of the Centra live-online distance learning sessions. Melissa Beck & Valerie Bross co-taught five Centra live-online sessions of the SCCTP CONSER standard record update session (2-hour version) and one live session at the CONSER annual meeting. Melissa Beck also co-taught a 2-part version of the SCCTP CONSER standard record live-online session with Linda Geisler, and a four-hour session as a pre-ALA workshop at Library of Congress in June 2007. Peter Fletcher completed a Train-the-Trainer session (via Amigos) using the Centra Live-Online platform. He is currently preparing to use his new skills to co-teach an SCCTP CONSER standard record update session with Steve Shadle in November 2007.

University of California CONSER Funnel

The UC CONSER Funnel, established March 2006, provides a mechanism for UC serials catalogers to share cataloging work through permanent enhancements to OCLC master records for serials. FY2006/2007 saw significant growth of the Funnel. Here are some highlights:

Statistics: Excluding UCLA and UC San Diego, during FY2006/2007, UC catalogers authenticated or enhanced over 925 OCLC Master records for CONSER serials and also enhanced over 275 additional non-CONSER records.

Site visits: On June 7, 2007, Elaine McCracken hosted a site visit at UC Santa Barbara, presented by Melissa Beck and Adolfo Tarango.

Review and independence: During the previous year (FY2005/2006), two campuses (UC Davis and UC Irvine) had begun maintenance activities; both gained independence in FY 2006/2007. At UC Irvine, Todd Butler was liaison; Valerie Bross served as reviewer. At UC Davis, Sarah Gardner is liaison; CONSER work was reviewed initially by Melissa Beck. In winter 2007, Adolfo Tarango and Margaret Christean took over and completed UC Davis's maintenance review. In June, UC Santa Barbara began review in June. Elaine McCracken is liaison at UCSB; Adolfo Tarango and Margaret Christean are the reviewers. Also this past summer, UC Davis began "phase two" review for authentication and entry of original CONSER records with Melissa Beck as reviewer. Finally, on August 13, Peter Fletcher, Melissa Beck & Valerie Bross completed a site visit to UC Irvine. Since that time, Peter Fletcher has been serving as the reviewer.

Web activities: During FY2006/2007, Renee Chin (UCSD) served as Web designer/coordinator and listserv discussion group maintainer for the UC CONSER Funnel.

Training: Melissa Beck and Valerie Bross presented a pair of Live Online sessions (on the CONSER standard record), to test the use of distance learning within the UC CONSER Funnel.

University of Chicago

We have been very active in this year's implementation of the CONSER standard record, and continue to be active in the CONSER PURL Discussion Group. Renette Davis was active again this year in providing feedback on RDA through the CONSER Ad-Hoc RDA Comment Group. In addition, she has been working on the PCC Ad Hoc Series Review Task Force.

Renette was also involved in a CONSER/CIC/PARS task group which informed the Digital Library Federation/OCLC Registry of Digital Masters Working Group's revision of the Record Creation Guidelines, and we started contributing CONSER records to the Registry of Digital Masters following these guidelines this year. Renette reported on these activities at the ALA Midwinter CONSER At Large meeting and also at the CONSER Operations meeting.

Most of our CONSER records were created by a serials cataloger, Renee Martonik, a monographic Slavic cataloger, David Bade, and a monographic Arabic cataloger, Akram Khabibullaev. David and Akram began adding Cyrillic and Arabic characters to CONSER records this year. Our two serials copy catalogers, Mark Kennel and Jim Server, also created some CONSER records for electronic and microform serials by deriving from print version records. They are also responsible for some of our maintenance of CONSER records.

University of Georgia

Between October 2006 and August 2007, UGA contributed 54 original records, authenticated 430 existing records, and performed maintenance on 1286 authenticated records. This represents a slight increase over last year's statistics.

In June we said goodbye to a long-time staff person, Carolyn Towner, who moved to Australia. She will be missed! When she left, she took a great deal of institutional history with her. Her position has been filled from within, and we are getting ready to post the vacancy left by this. Then Serials Cataloging will be fully staffed. In addition, we have a library school intern working in Serials Cataloging this semester.

Very recently a major change has happened in the organization of UGA Libraries. When the Head of our Serials Department, Dana Walker, left the libraries, the Serials and Acquisitions Departments were combined. We are currently looking to fill a new position: Head, Acquisitions and Serials Services.

Beth Thornton taught 5 SCCTP Basic Serials Cataloging and 2 e-serial cataloging workshops in the Southeast. She and Sophie Dong will present a pre-conference on the CONSER standard record in October at the Georgia Libraries Association meeting.

UGA implemented the CONSER standard in July. We find it saves time when creating original records. We are still learning how to work with copy using the new practices. We have created some preliminary in-house documentation, which will no-doubt continue to evolve as we become more comfortable.

University of Texas at Austin

The good news: University of Texas Libraries has finally implemented its first ILS, which went live in June 2007. The bad news: CONSER productivity plummeted this year, because the serials catalogers were too busy implementing a new ILS. The same old news: CONSER activity is still primarily centered on Latin American serials.

University of Florida

The University of Florida CONSER team was running at a full complement of staff for much of this year. Patricia Dana joined the group in May, when all our active catalogers were given training in the CONSER standard record; Trish is also our video cataloging specialist, and we look forward to her contributions once she has mastered serials. Nancy Poehlmann began as head of our Humanities and Special Collections Cataloging Unit in early June; she has previous experience with legal serials.

We were able to make 430 contributions to CONSER this year, of which 273 were original records, and 120 were maintenance. This more than doubles our maintenance total of last year, and is only a very slight decline in original records. Again, most of our contributions came from our areas of subject emphasis, notably Florida agriculture, Latin American studies, and East Asian studies (through the addition of vernacular fields to existing records). Our cataloging this year has made substantial inroads into our print serial backlogs.

Jackie Brown, Hank Young, and Naomi Young reviewed the draft documentation for the CONSER standard record (CSR) early in the year, passing their feedback on to the larger working group. Naomi continued her work as a liaison to the Florida State University

Libraries' Cataloging and Access Guidelines for Electronic Resources subcommittee. This dovetailed with CONSER's exploration with the Digital Library Federation on how best to express locally-digitized reproductions in OCLC. She also contributed to the CONSER comments on the draft chapters of RDA.

Naomi attended the CONSER Operations Committee in May, including the CSR cataloging training provided by Melissa Beck and Valerie Bross, and presented that training to UF staff later in the month. She also made brief presentations for branch serials staff and the libraries' cross-divisional meeting explaining the CSR, and asking for reports on whether the changes were helpful, unhelpful, or perhaps even unnoticeable. UF began cataloging according to the CSR documentation on June 4 for most materials.

We are still reclassifying materials from Dewey into LC and LC-based classifications, now focusing on annuals and less-frequent serials, and non-Florida newspapers.

Reorganization of the Acquisitions and Licensing Department led to modified workflows. Added volumes and LC/CONSER copy cataloging will be handled in that department unless a need for record maintenance is noted. We hope this will free up time for catalogers to do more CONSER work, as well as encouraging Acquisitions staff to keep an eye out for records eligible for CONSER maintenance or upgrades.

UF has implemented an Endeca-based "front-end" for the public catalog (it can be seen at <http://uf.catalog.fcla.edu/uf.jsp>), and upgraded our Aleph ILS to version 18. The Florida Center for Library Automation programmers were able to create a search algorithm that brings single-word journal titles into a prominent place in search results – you can find Science and Nature in our catalog! We are still working out problems in the item and holdings displays, but we see continual progress, and are excited about the prospects for this new interface.

University of Maryland

Carlen Ruschoff served as a member of the CONSER Policy Committee and as a CONSER representative to the Program for Cooperative Cataloging Policy Committee. She also served as PCC's Strategic Plan Advisor. On May 31, 2007, Jeanne Baker taught the SCCTP Electronic Serials Cataloging Workshop as a pre-conference to the annual meeting of the North American Serials Interest Group in Louisville, Ky.

University of Washington

Personnel news: Jim Stickman, Head, Serials Services Division, has announced his retirement effective November 1, 2007 -- having served in that position since February 1992. He served as the CONSER Policy representative from 1996 until it was absorbed into the PCC and was a member of the PCC Policy Committee 2001-2004. Bill Jordan, Associate Dean of University Libraries, Resource Acquisition and Description/Information Technology Services, will serve as Acting Head of the Serials Services Division for the upcoming year.

In late spring 2007, implementation of the CONSER standard record (CSR) resulted in a significant change in how we catalog and should result in cost savings over time. We have found it encouraging to see the results of much CONSER Committee work and pilot project testing by section staff begin to be used with the new guidelines.

The University of Washington began participation in the OCLC WorldCat.org

2.0 Pilot to test the possibility of OCLC WorldCat as our "public catalog". As part of that effort, the Serials Cataloging Section began to do serials retrospective conversion work again with the use of .5 FTE temporary staff. Also, preparations were begun for OCLC to do recon on the bulk of the remaining brief records in our OPAC; files were sent off in late spring 2007 for machine or manual processing.

Other efforts this year in the Serials Cataloging Section included: cataloging titles for a preservation microfilm project for important Washington state agriculture, fisheries and forestry titles, "Preserving the History of United States Agriculture and Rural Life: State and Local Literature, 1820-1945"; beginning to add vernacular data to catalog records for titles in Cyrillic scripts; implementation of the MARC holdings format in processing work.

CONSER Committee work included:

Steve Shadle: electronic discussion list owner (for CONSERPURL, PCC-IRCAT, CONSER-URI, Access Level Record); CONSER Reviewer, Pennsylvania State University, April 2007- ; CONSER Access Level Record for Serials Working Group, October 2005-July 2006; CONSER Standard Record MARBI Proposal Working Group, January 2007-

Kristin Lindlan: CONSER Operations Committee, UW representative; Chair, CONSER Ad-Hoc RDA Comment Group (January 2006-); CONSER Access Level Record for Serials Working Group, October 2005-July 2006; CONSER Ad Hoc Group to Comment on ISBD 2006 Consolidated Edition, September-October 2006; CONSER Standard Record MARBI Proposal Working Group, January 2007- ; PCC Ad Hoc Series Review Task Force, June 2007-

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