Announcement from Maureen Landry, LC Serial Record Division Chief, 1 Sep 2004:

In October 2004, the Serial Record Division (SRD) begins a significant change in our approach to "copy cataloging." The philosophy behind this change seeks both to address tight budgets and to recognize that the cataloging done outside of LC, e.g., OCLC and RLIN, has been prepared or reviewed by professional catalogers. The change will allow us to better cope with growing acquisitions in electronic serials and the rising cost of cataloging.

The implementation represents a significant shift in the Division's approach - both in what is to be considered "copy" cataloging and in how it is to be performed. Prior to this time, only primarily English-language materials with CONSER copy were in scope for the copy cataloging workstream; other CONSER titles remained in the regular cataloging workstreams with the expectation that foreign language catalogers would complete the title according to the procedures for copy cataloging.

Now copy cataloging in SRD will generally be applied to all Roman alphabet languages and be performed by cataloging technicians. Catalogers will catalog non-Roman alphabet languages (when sufficient technician staff with skills in those languages is lacking) according to the copy cataloging guidelines. With few exceptions, copy cataloging is completed "whole serial," meaning both descriptive and subject cataloging are done within SRD.

Historically, LC has authenticated copy at the same level of cataloging as that done for original cataloging, i.e., "lc" in the 042. With the shift, SRD will retain the "lcd" authentication used by CONSER institutions, and we will authenticate non-CONSER copy as "lccopycat." The "lccopycat" code signifies that the Library of Congress has used another organization's record as the basis for its cataloging. All name and LCSH subject headings will be verified against the relevant authority files and established if not found. LC will not perform further verification, such as addressing the appropriateness of
pre-existing subject headings. LC will correct obvious typos and egregiously misleading errors, i.e., 1) they result in seriously misleading description (e.g., someone might regard the item to be a different one were a change not made); and/or 2) they might result in seriously misleading access (e.g., the item is classified under a number for an artist's painting when in fact the work is about the artist's sculpture).

The CONSER Editing Guide (CEG) is being updated to reflect these changes.

LC is interested in hearing your questions or concerns and will attempt to mitigate those, when possible, within our new copy cataloging parameters. Please send your comments to CONSRLST.