Library of Congress Conference 2000 Action Plan Forum
American Library Association 2002 Annual Conference
Discussion Highlights

Beacher Wiggins, Director for Cataloging, Library of Congress, welcomed everyone to the meeting, an opportunity for work item leaders, principal investigators, and other stakeholders in "Bibliographic Control of Web Resources: A Library of Congress Action Plan" to share their progress to date. He introduced the three members of the Library of Congress Cataloging Management Team who are working with him on the LC Action Plan Steering Committee: John Byrum, chief of the Regional and Cooperative Cataloging Division; Judy Mansfield, chief of the Arts and Sciences Cataloging Division; and Susan Morris, assistant to the director for cataloging. Wiggins encouraged work item leaders to contact their CMT liaison or one of the steering committee members about any problems they encounter.

Wiggins said that from the beginning of the planning for the Bicentennial Conference on Bibliographic Control for the New Millennium, held November 15-17, 2000, he and the Cataloging Management Team had not wanted the conference and resulting action plan to be "LC-centric," and he was gratified that so many individuals and organizations from the larger community had accepted lead or collaborative roles for work items.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to updates on each work item.   Summaries are presented below.   In closing, Wiggins said that the Action Plan on the Bicentennial Conference Web site (URL <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/bibcontrol/>) would be updated very soon to reflect progress reported at this meeting. He expressed his pleasure at the progress and coverage that had been made to date.

Summaries of Work Item Updates
Wiggins presented updates on the following work items, either because the Cataloging Directorate is the lead organization or because the work item leader could not attend the Forum:

Work items 3.6 ("Convey and reiterate the need for the continuing development of AACR2 to provide principles and practices for bibliographic access to and control of the full array of electronic resources on a timely basis and in harmony with other descriptive cataloging standards") and 6.5 ("Conduct research on how AACR2 might incorporate greater 'event awareness' into the catalog;" work item leader is Judy Mansfield): To accomplish work item 3.6, Wiggins sent a letter to Ann Huthwaite, chair of the Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR, urging that JSC consider the points made at the Bicentennial Conference. Ms. Huthwaite responded that she intended to reply more fully after the May meeting of the JSC, which took place at Yale University May 13-15. Progress on work item 6.5 is also dependent on JSC decisions.

Work item 4.2 ("Develop specifications for a tool that will enable libraries to extract metadata from Web-based resources in order to create catalog records and that will detect and report changes ... "): The work item leader is Michael Kaplan of Ex Libris. He was unable to attend the meeting but reported by email that he was identifying the right "people types" to move forward with it.

Work item 4.3 ("Develop specifications for embedded metadata that can be used by software

developers to incorporate usable metadata into the output of their products ...”): The work item leader is Stu Weibel of DCMI (Dublin Core Metadata Initiative)/OCLC. He did not attend ALA Annual, but reported by email that work was underway: “DCMI is pursuing the objective of promoting the incorporation of metadata creation facilities into content creation software, and progress is being made there. Adobe is building into their entire line of products a utility for creating Dublin Core metadata as well as extensions to support additional elements beyond DC. This metadata will be exportable in Adobe's subset of RDF, which they call XMP.”

Work item 4.4 (“Develop specifications for a resource selection, evaluation and user feedback tool. Communicate the specifications to the vendor community and encourage their adoption”): This work item is on hold until work item 1.3 is substantially completed.

Work item 6.1 (“Support relevant Library of Congress research and development on digital initiatives”):   The work item leader is Susan Morris. To report to the larger community about the vast range of digital initiatives that LC supports, Susan will post a summary, based on LC’s annual report to the Digital Library Federation, on the Conference Web site and update it twice a year.

Work item 6.2 (“Research user needs and approaches in accessing the catalog and other discovery tools in a networked environment to develop user tools for customization”): The work item leader is Lorcan Dempsey of the OCLC Office of Research.

Work item 6.4 (“Support research and development on the changing nature of the catalog to include consideration of a framework for its integration with other discovery tools”): This item, for which John Byrum is the work item leader, will be carried out in conjunction with work item 2.1 and is temporarily on hold pending LC decisions regarding 2.1.

The work item leaders presented their own updates for all the other work items. Their reports are summarized below, in order by work item.

Work item 1.1: (“Develop a plan to increase the creation and availability of standard records for electronic resources to include authority control and subject analysis”): The Library of Congress Cataloging Directorate is the lead organization; Susan Vita, chief of the Special Materials Cataloging Division at LC, is the work item leader. She said that work item 1.1 is a very tall order. Within LC, progress has been made in increasing the number of staff who are trained to catalog electronic resources. Four senior catalogers have been detailed to the Computer Files & Microforms Team (CF/M) in SMCD for 120 days to learn from the experts in that team. The Cataloging Directorate is authorized to hire eight new digital resources catalogers from outside LC this fiscal year (ending September 30). The Cataloging Directorate is coordinating its digital resource cataloging efforts with the QuestionPoint Team at LC to optimize the use of expertise about digital content among catalogers and reference librarians.

Vita said that to enlarge the pool of standard records for electronic resources further, it might be wise to consider adopting a cooperative structure similar to the Program for Cooperative Cataloging. Her staff had also expressed a need to have four to six criteria for selecting excellent Web sites that justified the expense of cataloging (related to work item 1.3). They were investigating possible cataloging simplifications (related to work items 4.2 and 6.3)

and harvesting tools. In view of the many factors influencing libraries' ability to create and share cataloging for digital resources, she expected that the Cataloging Directorate's next major step for work item 1.1 would be to contract with a principal investigator to conduct an environmental scan of such cataloging projects.

Work item 1.2 ("Explore ways to re-purpose/reuse metadata received under programs for registration, acquisitions, cataloging, copyright, and related activities"): The Library of Congress Cataloging Directorate is the lead organization; John Celli, chief of the Cataloging in Publication Division at LC, is the work item leader. He pointed out that cataloging units have repurposed data for decades, if copy cataloging is viewed as a form of repurposing. He offered this definition: "Repurposing is the reuse of data created for one purpose for another purpose in order to yield greater value." Successful repurposing uses minimal additional resources compared to the value gained, uses automated techniques, and depends on human imagination to link clusters of data created for various purposes. Examples of successful repurposing include CORC; the LC Bibliographic Enrichment Advisory Team's project using publishers' ONIX files to create digital tables of contents and link them to and from catalog records; and BEAT's explorations in linking existing electronic texts with catalog records. Celli said he intended to identify other repurposing projects and investigate ways that the Library of Congress can assist in them. He asked for expressions of interest from individuals and other institutions to join the work group for this item. They may contact him via email at: jcel@loc.gov

Work item 1.3 ("Compile/review/disseminate selection criteria for electronic resources to supplement traditional selection criteria ..."): RUSA (Reference and User Services Association, a division of the American Library Association) is the lead organization and RUSA President Carol Tobin is the work item leader. The Library of Congress has arranged for Amy Tracy Wells, digital projects coordinator at the MATRIX, Michigan State University Libraries, to serve as principal investigator. Wells said that she had begun the planning for her investigation and conceived of electronic resources very broadly: specifically, bibliographic, full-text, image, archive, geospatial, instructional objects, sound, physical, dataset, service, software and collection. She intended to begin with an environmental scan, informed by classical selection criteria as they have been applied to digital content. To this end she asked that other Action Plan participants send her their institutions' selection criteria (email wells@msu.edu). Following the formation of the task force for this work item and input into timeframe, the TF will seek to commence a dialogue with other interested parties.

Work Item 1.4 ("Design mechanisms to archive and provide access to selected electronic government publications through partnerships with government agencies and/or academic institutions"): OCLC's Digital and Preservation Resources Division is the lead organization, and OCLC Vice President Meg Bellinger is the work item leader. She announced that on May 26, the Digital and Preservation Resources Division launched the Web Document Digital Archive, the culmination of two years' work by OCLC with the U.S. Government Printing Office, Library of Michigan, Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records, Edinburgh University Library, Connecticut State Library, and the Joint Electronic Records Repository Initiative, a consortium of the State Library of Ohio and other state libraries and archives in Ohio.

This combined effort created a sustainable service, providing long-term access to Web documents. In its first phase, the Web Document Digital Archive complied with the Open

Archival Information System (OAIS) functional model. It accepts digital objects in seven file formats, ingesting digital objects one at a time by means of CORC-based software. At this point, the archive cannot ingest entire Web sites and accepts only born-digital content, primarily in the public domain. Digital-object owners control access and can make their objects viewable from the URL in the WorldCat record and elsewhere.

Phase Two of the WDDA project, involving several new participating institutions, ran from April through June 2002. Bellinger said that in order to complete Work Item 1.4, OCLC Digital and Preservation Resources would develop further partnerships and incorporate user feedback in enhancing functionality.

Work item 2.1 ("Define requirements for a common interface for searching, retrieving, and sorting across a range of discovery tools ..."): The Library of Congress Cataloging Directorate is the lead organization; John Byrum, chief of the Regional and Cooperative Cataloging Division at LC, is the work item leader. He noted that the work item itself needed updating because a good deal of work in this area had been done since the Bicentennial Conference eighteen months earlier. Fretwell-Downing, Ex Libris, Endeavor, and Epixtech are all now marketing portals, and the ARL (Association of Research Libraries) Scholars' Portal Working Group recently concluded its work. Thus the real work remaining is to monitor portal development, determine what common enhancements are needed to existing portals, and provide a community forum for these concerns. He mentioned two groups that could undertake this: The ARL Scholars Portal Applications Group, which had not yet been completely populated, and the LITA (Library and Information Technology Association, an ALA division) Portals Interest Group, which held its first meeting at this ALA Annual Conference in Atlanta. Byrum expected to reconceptualize the work item, identify a new lead organization, and publicize a work plan for 2.1 by early September.

Work item 2.2 ("Promote the international sharing of authority records/files starting with names (personal, corporate, geographic) and uniform titles, utilizing various models"): The Library of Congress Cataloging Policy and Support Office is the lead organization; Barbara Tillett, chief of CPSO, is the work item leader. She reported that CPSO would be working with OCLC and Die Deutsche Bibliothek on a prototype virtual international authority file to link authority record databases at DDB and LC. This is a proof of concept using the Open Archives Initiative model, and many other models are possible. A virtual international authority file could be one of the building blocks of the emerging "Semantic Web."

Tillett mentioned other authority control projects, including LEAF (Linking and Exporting Authority Files, to run from 2001-2004 under the auspices of the European Commission), Interparty (an authority control project arising from the needs of electronic commerce, funded by the European Union and coordinated by EDItEUR), and the FRANAR (Functional Requirements and Numbering of Authority Records) Working Group, under the auspices of the IFLA Division of Bibliographic Control and Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC Programme. She said that under its new chair, Glenn Patton of OCLC, FRANAR is tracking about a dozen other international authority control projects and developing an entity-relationship conceptual model for persons, families, and corporate bodies.

Work item 2.3 ("Explore ways to enrich metadata records by focusing on providing additional subject and other access mechanisms (e.g., front-end user thesauri) and increasing granularity of

access and display (e.g., by enabling progression through hierarchy and versions and by additional description information including summaries)"): The ALCTS Task Force on the LC Action Plan is the lead organization, and the work item leader is Judy Ahronheim, metadata specialist at the University of Michigan Graduate Library, who will chair the Metadata Enrichment Task Force that the ALCTS TF has charged with carrying out this work item. Other members of the METF are Priscilla Caplan and/or Diane Vizine-Goetz (for the National Information Standards Organization), Shelby Harken, Sara Shatford Layne (for CC:DA), Mary S. Woodley, Amy Tracy Wells, and possible representation from the LITA Internet Portals Interest Group. Carolyn Larson, business reference specialist in the Science, Technology and Business Division, Library of Congress, will have an advisory role. Professor Marcia Bates of the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles, has agreed to serve as principal investigator.

Ahronheim said that the METF had sorted this very large work item into three distinct but related functionalities that could be applied via front-end mechanisms across systems: front-end user thesauri; access mechanisms that represent relationships among resource versions and formats; and additional descriptive information, including relating summaries to records for digital objects. For each of these functionalities, the task force wishes to specify, communicate, and increase awareness of the kinds of front-end mechanisms that will best support them, the kinds of metadata to support them that are currently lacking in metadata records, and how the metadata that are currently lacking can be added or linked to records. The METF noted points of convergence between work item 2.3 and work items 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 6.2, and 6.3. Bates will conduct an environmental scan and draft recommendations for best practices by November 15, 2002. The METF will produce an action agenda for the ALCTS Board's approval by January 29, 2003. Ahronheim expected that the action agenda would include submission in June 2003 of proposals for ALA programs and/or workshops on metadata enrichment during 2004.

Work item 2.4 ("Define functional requirements for systems that can manage separate records for related manifestations at the global level and consolidate them for display at the local level ..."): Please see Sally McCallum's report under work item 3.4 below.

Work item 2.5 ("Investigate making Library of Congress Classification and Subject Headings available at no cost on the Internet") : The Library of Congress Cataloging Distribution Service is the lead organization; Kathryn Mendenhall, acting chief of CDS, is the work item leader. She said that since CDS is a cost-recovery unit of the Library of Congress, it needed to pursue this work item while remaining mindful of its revenue stream. She saw the purpose of this work item as the encouragement of nontraditional applications of LCC and LCSH in networked environments. At present LCC and LCSH are distributed to two audiences, vendors/developers and cataloging practitioners, the hands-on users of cataloging tools; the Bicentennial Conference on Bibliographic Control for the New Millennium had shown that the Web developer community was potentially a major audience for these tools. Mendenhall said that fostering the Web developer community's awareness of the classification and controlled subject vocabulary and improving the representation of the data from a technical viewpoint were both important. The most effective way to encourage use of these tools by the Web development community, she said, was to build on an existing model: CDS already distributes test files at no charge. It was now considering ways to send the full LCC and LCSH files via FTP as demonstration or test

files and would work with the LC Cataloging Policy and Support Office and Network Development and MARC Standards Office to accomplish this while meeting cost recovery requirements.

Work item 3.1 ("Develop and disseminate a widely-understandable paper that sets forth library principles for data content and structure for use by the metadata community. Disseminate it to the metadata community and encourage its use"): The Library of Congress Cataloging Directorate is the lead organization, and the work item leader is Susan Morris. Dr. Sherry Vellucci, Director, Division of Library & Information Science, St. John's University, will serve as prinicipal investigator and author of the paper. Vellucci presented her vision of how the principles paper will take shape, saying that the biggest challenge lies in making it "widely understandable." She intends the paper to describe principles of librarianship such as description, authority control, access, record structure, record interchange, and level of description in terms of granularity and is beginning by looking for common terminology. She plans to involve members of the metadata community as well as library leaders. She hopes to complete the principles paper by April 2003 and looks forward to presenting it to a panel of invited reactors from the library and metadata communities at the Library of Congress. Vellucci encouraged those who attended the Action Plan Forum to send her any input they might have to the principles paper.

Work item 3.2 ("Identify key metadata schemes to establish points of convergence among them, promote the consistent labeling of fields, and facilitate mapping of fields. Publicize mapping of fields"): The Library of Congress Network Development and MARC Standards Office is the lead organization; Sally McCallum, chief of NDMSO, is the work item leader. McCallum said that the IFLA Section on Cataloguing's Working Group on the Use of Metadata Schemes, chaired by Lynne Howarth (Dean of the Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto) will investigate and compare ten to twelve descriptive metadata schemes. Both Lois Chan (School of Library and Information Science, University of Kentucky) and Glenn Patton are members of this working group. From that work, guidelines for best practices might also emerge. For extended metadata, beyond descriptive-only schemes, she strongly recommended METS, the Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard, which will register various schemes.

Work item 3.3 ("Describe how AACR2 and MARC 21 provide for explicit linking from a record to the resource; from record to record for related resource (bibliographic relationships); and from record for one manifestation to a record for another manifestation"): The Library of Congress Cataloging Policy and Support Office and Network Development and MARC Standards Office are the lead organizations; Barbara Tillett, chief of CPSO, is the work item leader. Tillett said that CPSO was preparing a table indicating the explicit linking techniques already provided by AACR2 and MARC 21.

Work item 3.4 ("Enhance MARC 21 to support display of hierarchical relationships among records for a work, its expressions and its manifestations (based on the IFLA Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR))": The Library of Congress Network Development and MARC Standards Office is the lead organization; Sally McCallum, chief of NDMSO, is the work item leader. She explained that NDMSO wished to combine work items 2.4 ("Define functional requirements for systems that can manage separate records for related

manifestations at the global level and consolidate them for display at the local level. ..") and 3.4 ("Enhance MARC 21 to support display of hierarchical relationships ...") and consolidate the result as: "Develop functional requirements to enable the interchange of manifestation records that support internal configurations for FRBR displays for multiple versions; determine supportive cataloging practices; determine any needed MARC 21 enhancements; communicate these to the vendor community." McCallum said that NDMSO would not do all the work in this item itself, but would ensure that the work was carried out. She mentioned numerous initiatives that are based on FRBR or incorporate its entity-relationship model: research by Ed O'Neill of the OCLC Office of Research; the recent release by VTLS, Inc., of integrated library system software that includes FRBR support; and publication by LC of draft specifications ("Displays for Multiple Versions from MARC 21 and FRBR," URL <http://www.loc.gov/marc/marc-functional-analysis/multiple-versions.html>). McCallum said there were two main ways to apply FRBR in a library catalog: either by "FRBR-izing" the database, or by applying FRBR to a retrieval set for display. Delsey's work took the latter approach, and NDMSO will publish some tools to enable experimentation with this approach.

McCallum saw the PCC Standing Committee on Automation and ALA as key in communicating progress on these work items. She mentioned that CC:DA (the Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access, Cataloging Section, Association for Library Collections and Technical Services, an ALA division) and MARBI (Machine-Readable Bibliographic Information, an interdivisional committee of ALA) had held joint meetings in Atlanta and would do so again at the 2003 Annual Conference in Toronto. The MARC Formats Interest Group had also offered to be a sounding board related to these work items.

Work item 3.5 ("Prepare guidelines for deciding when to create separate bibliographic records and when to create a single record for manifestations"): The Library of Congress Cataloging Policy and Support Office is the lead organization; Barbara Tillett, chief of CPSO, is the work item leader. Tillett said a lot of work for this item had been done by many people over the past 20 years (including a CPSO document prepared for Big Heads, the Directors of Technical Services of Large Research Libraries Discussion Group of ALCTS, in 2001). The latest was Tom Delsey's analysis of AACR2 and then his paper "Functional Analysis of the MARC 21 Bibliographic and Holdings Formats," which was done on contract for the Library of Congress Network Development and MARC Standards Office. His work looks beyond MARC 21 and AACR2 and considers the FRBR entity-relationship model presented by the IFLA Study Group on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records. This model provides for many ways of displaying multiple versions. Tillett said that the Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR was also considering the "multiple versions problem" and the FRBR entity-relationship model. This work item also involved an exploration of the MARC 21 Formats, both in terms of what is already provided in the formats and what provisions ought to be there. She envisioned one work product for 3.5 being a table showing various techniques now available for showing manifestations. She said that whereas work item 3.3 would present the current state of the art, work item 3.5 would involve both a current table and a look to the future.

Work item 3.7 ("Evaluate feasibility of assigning a persistent identifier or a naming system on an international scale. Develop and promote guidelines for shared resolving systems"): The Library of Congress Network Development and MARC Standards Office is the lead organization; Sally McCallum, chief of NDMSO, is the work item leader. McCallum said that shared resolver

systems were still a very difficult area. The OCLC PURL (Persistent URL) and the DOI (Digital Object Identifier), as well as several European initiatives, have made a start in this area. McCallum presented the conflicting points of view that exist. She said that the Library of Congress and a few other library-related organizations are members of the World Wide Web Consortium, which controls work on the URI (Uniform Resource Identifier), but that group is not focused on this topic currently. She looked forward to involving a LITA group.

Work item 4.1 ("Develop specifications for the creation and maintenance of records for titles contained in aggregator packages ... that will enable vendors to produce high-quality bibliographic data ... communicate to the library community ... about the importance of securing appropriate bibliographic control and maintenance as a component of subscribing to an aggregator package") : The lead organization is the Program for Cooperative Cataloging's Standing Committee on Automation, and the work item leader is SCA chair Gary Charbonneau, systems librarian, Indiana University. He explained that although the SCA had considered a radical recasting of this work item to make it more investigative, in the end it had decided to pursue the work item in its original form with some modification to add the task of communicating with the library community, especially public service and acquisitions librarians, about the importance of considering bibliographic control when selecting an aggregator package. The SCA had already accomplished much of this work item through two of its earlier task groups. To complete the tasks remaining for this work item, the SCA has formed a third task group. Members will include John Riemer, head of cataloging, Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles; Matthew Beacom, catalog librarian for networked information resources, Yale University; Oliver Pesch, EBSCO Information Services; Jina Wakamoto, cataloging coordinator, California State University, Northridge; Chris Roberts, Ex Libris, USA; and Ruth Haas, serials cataloging team leader, Harvard College Library. [On July 24, Adolfo Tarango, University of California, San Diego, agreed to chair the task group.] The task group intends to conduct a survey to learn how libraries are loading aggregator packages in their local systems. It will also encourage vendors to create record sets for aggregators and will consider whether to develop a recommended standard.

Work item 4.5 ("Promote convergence of standards for harvesting metadata"): The Library of Congress Network Development and MARC Standards Office is the lead organization; Sally McCallum, chief of NDMSO, is the work item leader. She said that the Open Archives Initiative, which had been underway for about three years, was the recognized standard for harvesting. It is a very good standard, and a new version is expected in June 2002. NDMSO has issued a MARC XML schema that will be used with the OAI protocol, instead of the "oai_marc" schema initially used.

Work item 5.1 ("Improve and enhance curricula in library and information science schools ... "): The lead organization is the ALCTS Task Force on the LC Action Plan, and the work item leader is Beth Picknally Camden, director for cataloging services at the University of Virginia and chair of the ALCTS CCS Committee on Education, Training, and Recruitment to Cataloging. Camden chairs the LIS Education Task Force, charged by the ALCTS TF to carry out this work item. She said that Dr. Ingrid Hsieh-Yee, Associate Professor, Catholic University of America School of Library & Information Science, is serving as principal investigator to prepare a model curriculum for teaching cataloging and metadata to new librarians. Hsieh-Yee submitted a substantial

preliminary report on May 24 that focused on the technical competencies in the proposed model curriculum. The LIS Education Task Force also plans to consider the curriculum for softer competencies and expects to complete its work, including its recommendations for operationalizing the proposed model curriculum by encouraging schools of library and information science to adopt it, by the ALA 2003 Midwinter Meeting.

Work item 5.2 ("Sponsor a series of open forums on metadata needs to support reference service ... "): RUSA (Reference and User Services Association, a division of the American Library Association) is the lead organization and RUSA President Carol Tobin is the work item leader. Tobin said that the RUSA Board was assisting her in identifying the right group to carry out this work item. She hoped that a report or forum would be ready for the ALA 2003 Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia.

Work item 5.3: ("Address continuing education needs for library technical services practitioners ... "): The ALCTS Task Force on the LC Action Plan is the lead organization, and Carol Hixson, head of the Catalog Department at the University of Oregon and chair of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging's Standing Committee on Training, is the work item leader. Erik Jul, executive director of the OCLC Institute, reported in her absence. The ALCTS Task Force on the LC Action Plan asked Hixson to chair the Continuing Education Task Force to carry out this work item. The CETF had begun by studying Ingrid Hsieh-Yee's preliminary report to the LIS Education Task Force (see work item 5.1 above), since the two work plans should be closely coordinated. In the CETF's deliberations to date, the following themes had emerged: (1) What content should be delivered in a continuing education program for bibliographic control of digital resources? (2) "Soft skills," or competencies in addition to technical knowledge, are essential, because uptake and action processes have to change in order for the new knowledge to have optimal impact. (3) What is the process of continuing education in the community? The task force plans an environmental scan, balanced by a sense of the future objective. (4) Objectives of a continuing education program must be delineated. Competencies might be segmented according to the learners' responsibilities in the library, whether they be vendors, library managers, line workers, or traditional and nontraditional employers of librarians. The objectives must be refined along with the process.

  Jul said that the Continuing Education Task Force was on track to meet all deadlines in its work plan, with a first interim report due to the ALCTS TF on the LC Action Plan and to the LC Cataloging Directorate in March 2003.

Work item 6.3 ("Support research and development to improve controlled vocabulary mediating tools, including a simplified LCSH"): The lead organization is the OCLC Office of Research, and the work item leader is Dr. Ed O'Neill of that office. O'Neill manages the FAST (Faceted Application of Subject Terminology) project, which will fulfill this work item by creating a subject schema that retains the very rich vocabulary of the Library of Congress Subject Headings while being easy to maintain, apply, and use. He acknowledged the work of the other FAST team members, including OCLC staff members Eric Childress, Rebecca Dean, Kerre Kammerer, and Diane Vizine-Goetz; Dr. Lois Chan of the School of Library and Information Science, University of Kentucky; and Lynn El-Hoshy of the Library of Congress Cataloging Policy and Support Office. FAST originated with the ALCTS SAC (Subject Analysis Committee) Subcommittee on Metadata and Subject Analysis, which reported in 1999 that a subject analysis

schema for digital resources should be simple, scalable, intuitive, and logical. FAST will minimize the construction of new headings and simplify the syntax but retain the richness of the LCSH vocabulary. In FAST, all headings and facets will be fully established. As of June 16, the Form and Period (chronological) facets had been completely established, and the Geographic facets were in progress. O'Neill reported that at this ALA Annual Conference, MARBI had approved the modifications to the MARC 21 Authorities Format that were needed to accommodate FAST.