Cornell University Library
Big Heads Round Robin Report
June, 2011

Vendor record improvement pilot for Ebooks
Historically, Cornell technical services has asserted that the costs associated with maintaining a local program to improve existing metadata associated with large sets of ebooks was unsustainable. However, with our trend to replace several physical collections with virtual libraries, the need for scoping our electronic content relying on controlled subject terms and LC class numbers has encouraged us to examine the true costs associated with such activity. We have initiated a pilot to evaluate the workflows and costs associated with massive massage of ebook record sets associated with a major STM publisher. Specifically, we will look at routine deduplication of catalog records received from multiple suppliers, develop a protocol for adding LC classification and some kind of subject access to those records that lack these elements, and track the costs associated with these efforts. We would be interested to hear what others are doing in this space to compare methods and costs. For those who have evaluated the direct benefits of such records, we would appreciate data on improvements in user outcomes. Depending on our findings, we might be interested in participating with others to enhance such records as part of a collective effort or to pursue other avenues collectively.

RDA Training
While Cornell did not officially participate in the national RDA testing initiative, the cataloging staff formed the RDA Training Committee to develop and deliver a series of training sessions. CUL catalogers are building a solid foundation with regard to the principles underlying RDA and are prepared to transition to the new rules once the national picture for implementation is clear. In addition to the training program, we have put together a wiki site that hosts an array of RDA-related documents, presentations, and an archive of "RDA Q-Tips" (questions and tips) that we send out to catalogers by e-mail every week. I want to express thanks to many cataloging colleagues at your institutions who provided direct feedback on our training plan and specific suggestions for our training sessions or who created excellent reference materials available from local websites for all to enjoy.

ARTstor
Metadata staff are continuing to participate in the development of the ARTstor Shared Shelf image management and cataloging system. They are currently working on four new digital projects within the beta (0.3) system, collaborating with catalogers and collection curators to create metadata. Cornell plans to begin migrating digital collections from LUNA to ARTstor Shared Shelf this summer.

For broader Library details with special emphasis on the Collections side, check the Cornell CCDO report.

2CUL

The 2CUL collaboration between Cornell and Columbia continues, building on initiatives begun in the first year and extending to new areas.

POOF!: After over a year in the making, the Pre-Order Online Form, POOF!, is in production. A new web tool to facilitate the workflow for firm orders, POOF! empowers selectors to execute firm orders with minimal keying (either for their own institution or in collaboration with the other 2CUL partner). For technical services, the tool rearranges ordering metadata into a standard form, allowing firm orders to be submitted through our existing tools, automating several manual steps required to review and place them.

Korean cataloging: Following successful pilots in which Cornell catalogers provide original cataloging for Turkish and Korean books from Columbia, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being developed that will formalize this arrangement for Korean on a continuing basis. We continue to explore opportunities for sharing staff expertise in other language areas.

Chinese purchasing plan:
Cornell and Columbia are piloting a three-party collaboration that supports a purchasing plan for Chinese monographs in economics, law, and fine arts. The approach is very similar to an approval plan, except no books will be returned. The vendor selects the books according to our profiles and performs physical processing. Hong Kong University Library provides preliminary "on-order" records for immediate load after selection, followed by full cataloging records to accompanying the shelf-ready books. We expect to start production July-Sept. this year and will review the pilot in a year.

Shared selection: For the past year, Columbia and Cornell have shared a single Slavic Studies librarian who provides selection, reference, and outreach services for both institutions. A new MOU extends this arrangement to Southeast Asian studies, and similar plans are under development for Latin American studies.

Next-gen Library Management System: Recognizing that deep collaboration in technical services will benefit from working in a shared library management system, 2CUL has initiated a joint exploration of opportunities for a next-gen LMS to replace our separate Voyager systems and the suite of systems supporting e-resource management. Initial meetings have taken place with three candidate systems, and a consultant has been engaged to provide detailed analysis and facilitate the process.

E-journal preservation: A joint task force provided an assessment of our participation in LOCKSS, and a detailed analysis of coverage of our e-journal holdings in LOCKSS and Portico. As a follow-up, we are exploring strategies to expand coverage of ten broad categories of e-serials.

Web Archiving: With Cornell's completion of an agreement for use of Archive-It, we have negotiated an agreement with Internet Archive that allows for joint management of Columbia's and Cornell's Archive-It accounts, and are exploring ways we might collaborate on policies and procedures.

E-books: A joint task force has just been appointed to examine all aspects of the ebooks landscape from collection building and management in an environment with an increasing emphasis on collaborative collection building and sharing to discovery to forms of use to preservation.

Reciprocal Borrowing: Along the lines of Columbia's MaRLI initiative, Cornell and Columbia students, staff, and faculty will have reciprocal borrowing privileges effective July 1, 2011. Direct borrowing through ILL channels will be expedited for each partner.