**Travel/Training Report**

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<th>NAME</th>
<th>Laura Martinez</th>
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<tr>
<td>Training Attended</td>
<td>Texas Library Association (TLA) Annual Conference</td>
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<td>Location</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
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<td>Dates Attended</td>
<td>March 30 – April 1, 2009</td>
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**The Nuts and Bolts of RDA**

This session consisted of an all-day workshop conducted by Barbara B. Tillett, of the Library of Congress and the Joint Steering Committee for the Development of RDA (Resource Description and Access). Ms. Tillett is also one of the consultants who helped develop FRBR (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records), a conceptual model providing the framework that RDA is based upon. There are four parts to FRBR – work, expression, manifestation, and item.

The presenter discussed the basic structure of RDA, which will become the new standard for resource description and access of all resources. It will be designed for use as an online product. The goal is to include all types of materials, provide good description and access, as well as convenience to the user. RDA arose from the need to describe an increasing number of digital materials. FRBR and RDA help with linking all the bits and pieces of data that can be connected and linked.

There was discussion of RDA training and implementation and what it may take to prepare an integrated library system for such changes. MARC format adjustments may be needed in the template for cataloging, such as indexes for new data elements. Catalogers will still be working in the MARC format. There were also some bibliographic examples provided to help make a comparison between RDA and AACR2 in order to understand some of the differences between the two. Examples of RDA vs. AACR2 will be available on the Library of Congress website as well.

The Joint Steering Committee will be testing RDA with various types of libraries, vendors, and OCLC. When the testing has been completed, the results will be published. The study will provide feedback such as: 1) How long did it take to catalog the record using RDA as compared to AACR2; 2) Was the cataloger able to find what he/she needed in RDA web.

**Cataloging Reconsidered: Is LOC Still the Nation’s Cataloger?**

This session was presented by Beacher Wiggins, Director of Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access, Library of Congress. The presenter discussed updates and changes in the work flow for acquisitions and cataloging at the Library of Congress. He also discussed news regarding the status for implementation of RDA.

Some may ask: Is cataloging still necessary in the age of Google and the digital era? Mr. Wiggins presented his view: The answer is Yes – LC is still the nation’s cataloger, but not...
The Library of Congress established a working group that would determine how to make changes that may affect other libraries, such as the case concerning LC’s decision to stop producing series authority records.

We need to redefine the Library of Congress’s role. LC can no longer be expected to be all things to all libraries. Increased efficiency for LC production will mean increased production for other libraries. We also need to take into account how the world wide web is used both as an information source, how it may affect cataloging, and how can FRBR help us.

The Library of Congress will support testing of RDA as influenced by Barbara Tillett’s work and Mr. Wiggins’ work overseeing RDA implementation. Testing will involve the following components: Ease of use; impact on end-user access; and financial feasibility including altering work flow; training; cost of moving from paper-based to web-based documentation. The timeframe for testing will depend on completion of RDA online documentation. When the final version of RDA has been completed, then a nine month testing period will begin. Testing will take place on current systems. Testing will reflect digital and analog resources. Testers will also catalog their normal receipt of cataloging.

Viewed the exhibits.

Describe what you consider to be the most useful information you learned as a result of this training.

The most important session for me during this conference actually took place during the pre-conference: The all-day training session entitled, “The Nuts & Bolts of RDA”. It was very helpful in terms of gaining increased understanding from one of the authors of these new cataloging rules that are currently in development and knowing what to expect in regard to testing, planning, implementation and training.

Describe how you will apply what you learned in your work at the Bell Library.

I will continue to monitor the development of RDA.

What rating would you give this training session, on a scale from one to ten, with one meaning unsatisfactory and ten meaning excellent?

Of the sessions I attended, I would give the TLA Annual Conference a rating of 8.

Would you recommend this training for others in your library? What positions

Yes, I would recommend attending the TLA Annual Conference to others. I believe that librarians would benefit most from this conference, attending presentations and discussions relevant to their area of specialty or a specific department. It is also an
| in the library do you believe would benefit most from this type of training? | opportunity to meet other librarians in the field. |