

Daniel Kinney
Report on the 2003 ALA Midwinter Meeting
Philadelphia, January 24-28, 2003

OCLC presented several programs at Midwinter. The OCLC Institute Symposium “Growing the Digital Library: From Projects to Programs—Tips, Tools, Collaborative Activities” dealt with the organizational aspects of the digital library, the kinds of skills needed by staff, and the role of the preservation department in a digital environment. Two examples of digital repositories were demonstrated: MATRIX: The Center for Humane Arts, Letters, and Social Sciences Online at Michigan State University (<http://www.matrix.msu.edu/>) and Virtually Missouri (www.virtuallymissouri.org/), which is sponsored by the Missouri State Library and designed to provide centralized access to the digital resources of Missouri cultural institutions. Jay Weitz, Consulting Database Specialist, led the Enhance Sharing Session. He discussed changes in subfielding and cataloging continuing resources. A revised edition of “Cataloging Electronic Resources: OCLC-MARC Coding Guidelines” has been published in conjunction with the implementation of new practices for cataloging integrating resources (www.oclc.org/connexion/documentation/typr.htm). OCLC users will need to move to Connexion or to CATME by December 2003.

A number of web resources were described at the meetings of the ACRL Western European Specialists discussion groups. At the meeting of the Romance Languages Discussion Group, Ann Marie Mitchell discussed the Portuguese Women Authors project at Berkeley, and Sebastian Hierl described The Italian Women Writers Projects at the University of Chicago (www.lib.uchicago.edu/efts/IWW/). Jennifer Vinopal gave a presentation on the Humanities Computing Centers in Libraries at NYU. *Feminae: Medieval Women and Gender Index* (www.haverford.edu/library/reference/mschaus/mfi/mfi.html) and Chawyck-Healey’s web publication of the *Acta Sanctorum* (<http://acta.chadwyck.com>) were demonstrated at the meeting of the Medieval and Renaissance Discussion Group. Thea Lindquist, University of Colorado, Boulder and Ann Snoeyenbos, NYU, gave a joint presentation entitled “Favorite German History and Social Science Reference Sources” at the meeting of the Germanists Discussion Group. A group report on the WESS Study Tour of Germany sponsored by the German Cultural Center New York-Goethe Institute and a report on the Frankfurt Book Fair were also given at the Germanists Discussion Group’s meeting. Tom Kilton, University of Illinois, gave an update on the German Resources Project, which is part of the AAU/ARL Global Resources Program (<http://grp.lib.msu.edu/>). The recently published German edition of AACR2 was also discussed. There is a debate in the German cataloging community about abandoning the current German cataloging code (RAK) and adopting AACR2. The chief issue is whether or not the advantages of sharing cataloging among Anglo-American and German libraries outweigh the expense of adopting a new cataloging code.

As the chair of the Margaret Mann Citation Committee, I reported the committee’s decision to award the 2003 Margaret Mann Citation to Tom Delsey, National Library of Canada (retired) to the ALCTS Cataloging and Classification Section Executive

Committee and the ALCTS Board. Dr. Delsey will be presented with the citation in Toronto at the joint conference of the American Library Association and the Canadian Library Association in recognition of his lifelong contributions to cataloging and in particular for the impact that his analysis of the logical structure of the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules and his work on the IFLA Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) have had on both Anglo-American and international cataloging standards and on the rule revision process. I am also the Cataloging and Classification Section representative on the ALCTS Publications Committee. I worked with the CCS Executive Committee and the ALCTS Publications Committee to help the Cataloging and Classification Section establish a separate Research and Publications Committee to develop and promote the publication of theoretical and practical works on cataloging and classification.

I attended the RLG Systems Administrators Group as the Stony Brook representative. The main topic of discussion was RLG's implementation of its new Windows-based technical services client to replace the current RLIN terminal software. There will also be a new Web interface for searching and exporting RLIN bibliographic and authorities records. The client software should be released before the end of 2003. RLG will support both the new client and RLIN during a transition period, which will be determined in part by how long Stanford University continues to support its mainframe computer. I also met with some of our vendors at the exhibits and saw a demonstration of MetaLib, the Ex Libris library portal.