Other Serials & E-Resources News

CONSER Operations Committee Meeting
Library of Congress, Washington, DC,
May 6-7, 2010
Reported by Naomi Kietzke Young

The CONSER Operations Committee (OpCo) discussed a variety of topics including new uses for metadata, cataloging procedure changes, ISSN updating, vendor cataloging workflows , and RDA testing at its annual meeting in Washington, DC.

The meeting opened with Dr. Barbara B. Tillett's presentation, "Building Blocks for the Future: Making Controlled Vocabularies Available for the Semantic Web." Dr. Tillett described a number of new and ongoing cooperative projects repurposing traditional bibliographic data for use in the broader semantic web. She showed the Virtual International Authority File (VIAF), http://www.viaf.org, a compilation of authority data from many national libraries and other sources around the world; the Simple Knowledge Organization System (SKOS) as applied at http://id.loc.gov/authorities; and the registry for RDA controlled vocabularies, http://metadataregistry.org/schemaprop/list/schema_id/1.html.

Regina Reynolds, of the US ISSN Center, updated OpCo members on OCLC's efforts to populate the OCLC database with ISSN-L information. Overall, the process has been successful, but because it is based on existing data in the bibliographic records, errors in the existing record may carry over into the linking ISSN information.

Melanie Watts of EBSCO Information Services, Kate Stewart of Proquest/Ulrich's, and Kara Killough of Serials Solutions gave a presentation detailing their workflows and explaining how their CONSER membership helps them to update bibliographic data more efficiently.

Elmer Klebs of the Library of Congress gave a demonstration of the RDA Toolkit, the web-based interface for Resource Description and Access (RDA), the proposed cataloging code to replace AACR2. Institutions participating in RDA testing outlined some of the decisions and options they will be using during the testing. They advised OpCo members that RDA records will be loaded in the OCLC and the CONSER database during the testing period. OpCo institutions were asked not to "reverse catalog" these records into AACR2 form. Part of the information needed to judge the success of the test is how well RDA records can coexist with legacy data in the catalog. Integrating RDA data into the CONSER database is one way to do this.

Some CONSER institutions will be participating in a project to provide CONSER-level records for all titles in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). This database has been selected as a pilot project because of the increasing support for open access publication models in the academic community, and the need to make these titles more visible as a result.

OpCo members also discussed protocol for editing records, coding changes to harmonize the CONSER Standard Record and the BIBCO Standard Record, and possible modifications to the editing of CONSER records with uniform titles. They also proposed best practices for dealing with linking records, especially the proper use of 776 fields in linking from print to electronic versions and vice versa.