OPAL CATALOGING COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

OHIONET (1500 W. Lane Avenue, Columbus, Ohio) or via Go to Meeting

Noreen Mulcahy, Chair; Aija Bjornson, Vice-Chair; Betsy Salt, Secretary

Attendance:

Baldwin-Wallace (Tim Keller), Bluffton (Kathleen Aufderhaar), CCAD (Leslie Jankowski), Defiance (Barb Sedlock, Michelle Blank [director]), Heidelberg (Linda Warren), Malone (Janice Anderson), Mercy (Deb Johnson [director], Methodist Theological School (Dave Powell), Mt. Carmel (Noreen Mulcahy), Otterbein (Amy Parsons, Betsy Salt [retired]), Trinity (Aija Bjornson).

Virtual Attendance:

Findlay (Jean Kastner), Franciscan (Jack Wu, LuAnn Boris), Lourdes (Karen Mohar), Mercy (Sharon Rienert), Muskingum (Kristin Cole), Wilmington (Lee Bowman).

Ohionet Attendance:

Susan Furniss, Matt Polcyn

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Noreen Mulcahy, Chair.

Approval of the Minutes from the October 22, 2014 Meeting

Noreen asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the October 22, 2014 meeting. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2014 meeting. Aija Bjornson moved that the minutes be approved. Amy Parsons seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

Old Business

Withdrawal of Superseded Items

The group had a discussion about whether all old editions of a title should be withdrawn from a library’s collection when they have been superseded by a new edition. It was noted that records can be withdrawn from the OPAL catalog, but they don’t automatically get withdrawn from the EDS. There are some cases in which OPAL libraries may want to keep older editions of some materials for historical reasons. This might be particularly true in the case of textbooks so that education students can study
what was covered in elementary and secondary textbooks in previous decades. A question was raised about outdated Ebsco e-book records in the OPAL Catalog. Matt Polcyn said that removing Ebsco e-books from the OPAL catalog is largely out of OPAL’s control. He doesn’t see any easy way to deal with outdated Ebsco e-book records at the moment.

It was pointed out that there are a variety of discarding and withdrawing practices that are being carried out by different OPAL libraries. In order for OPAL administrators to be able to provide the most accurate statistics to OPAL libraries, the OPAL administrators need to know about unusual withdrawal practices. One example would be libraries that remove a title but don’t delete the item record from the OPAL catalog right away. It was suggested that for cases like this, a status of “w” (for withdrawal) be placed in the item record status field. Libraries that just need a number of withdrawals and those which need a list of what they are withdrawing would both be able to deal with their withdrawals and their withdrawal statistics more effectively if this new status were added. Kathleen Auferheraar moved that the OPAL catalogers implement the use of a status “w” to be used for items being withdrawn from a library’s collection but not being deleted from the OPAL catalog immediately. Linda Warren seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed. The vice-chair, Aija Bjornson, will enter this change into the OPAL Cataloging Standards and Procedures Manual.

**RDA (Resource Description and Access) Update**

Jack Wu made a report on the current status of the RDA cataloging code. A year ago, there were 2.2 million RDA records in OCLC, and now there are 3.2 million RDA records in OCLC. The Joint Steering Committee has indicated that no major changes to the RDA cataloging code will be made in the next two or three years. However, minor changes are being made all the time. The use of RDA for cataloging continues to be ongoing and is expanding. PCC (Program for Cooperative Cataloging) has determined that it will no longer be cataloging any records using the AACR2 cataloging code. Their standards say that all records that they create must now follow the RDA cataloging code. OCLC is globally updating many of their AACR2 records and adding certain RDA fields (3xx, etc.) to them.

A short discussion took place concerning the RDA Toolkit. Jack Wu moved that the OPAL Cataloging Committee recommend to the OPAL Directors’ Council that the RDA Toolkit subscription for all of the OPAL libraries be renewed when it comes up for renewal during the summer of 2015. Tim Keller seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**New Business**

**OPAL Administrator’s Report**

Susan Furniss reported that duplicate OCLC records are still a problem in the OPAL catalog. She reminded catalogers to be sure to search the OPAL catalog by OCLC number before exporting a record from OCLC into OPAL. She also reminded OPAL catalogers to check their settings and constant data in OCLC Connexion. If constant data is being used, catalogers should make sure that they have the correct location code in their 949 fields.
Matt Polcyn recently attended the IUG (Innovative Users Group) Annual Conference. He reported that Innovative is continuing to promote its new products and services – such as SkyRiver. Innovative hopes to release Version 3.0 of Sierra by the end of 2015. Innovative also plans to expand the number of itypes and ptypes that member libraries can use. They are planning to introduce a browser version of Sierra that can be bought as an add-on. At the conference Innovative also demonstrated something new called Mobile Worklists which allow libraries to scan barcodes into an IOS device. Matt reported that in Sierra 3.0 “Create Lists” will be re-done, and it will have “wizard type” functions.

Matt and Susan explained about a problem in the OPAL catalog that needs to be fixed. There are records that have multiple subfield “a” subdivisions in a single 020 (ISBN) field. There are 10,249 records with this problem. There is no easy way to use a global update to fix this problem. Matt queried the group on whether catalogers from the group would be willing to divide up all of these records and fix them manually. The records are in Review File #480. To fix these records, a cataloger would need to cut the second ISBN and insert a separate 020 (ISBN) field in which to paste the second ISBN. The following OPAL catalogers volunteered to help with this: Lee Bowman, Jean Kastner, Leslie Jankowski, Linda Warren, Barb Sedlock, Amy Parsons, Aija Bjornson, Dave Powell, Kathleen Aufderhaar, and Noreen Mulcahy. Susan Furniss will write up a document with instructions for doing this, and send it, along with part of the list, to these volunteers.

Matt also mentioned that the end of life for FirstSearch will be in December 2015. OCLC has a lot of information on its website now about WorldCat Discovery which will replace FirstSearch.

**OPAL Strategic Plan**

Michelle Blank (Defiance), Deb Johnson (Mercy) and LuAnn Boris (Franciscan) presented an introduction to the newly proposed OPAL Strategic Plan. A task force (including these three librarians and others) was created eighteen months ago to work on developing a strategic plan for the future of OPAL. The White Paper which was circulated via the listserv for the OPAL catalogers to read prior to this meeting was also developed by this task force. One of the charges of the task force is to try to determine what is best for OPAL’s future while looking from a broad perspective. One of their recommendations is the possible restructuring of OPAL committees in order to align the committees with the new directions proposed for OPAL in the White Paper. The new proposed committees would include: Access Services Committee, Collections and Resource Sharing Committee, and Training Committee. Under this plan, the Cataloging Committee and Circulation Committee would be merged into the Access Services Committee which would be the committee responsible for dealing with all issues related to the ILS (Integrated Library System). This proposed new committee structure is not yet set in stone, and the plan is to have discussions about it at all of the OPAL committee meetings this spring, via the OPAL listserv, and through break-out sessions at the OPAL Conference in August. If the new committee structure is approved, it would be implemented in April 2016.

A large discussion ensued among the members of the Cataloging Committee concerning this proposal. It was acknowledged that cross-communication among committees has been a problem. Kathleen Aufderhaar suggested that maybe we should resurrect the use of liaisons between committees (as was
done a few years ago) or ask the Communication Coordinator to facilitate better communication among the OPAL Committees. It was also suggested that perhaps it would be helpful if library directors shared the highlights of each committee meeting (perhaps by distributing the minutes of each committee meeting) with their staffs. Noreen Mulcahy proposed that we should keep our original committees, but perhaps add the newly proposed committees to the OPAL committee structure as well. Noreen also suggested that we could try to have an inter-committee topic-driven meeting online on a case-by-case basis as issues affecting multiple committees come up. A major concern of many of the catalogers in attendance was that the Cataloging Committee and the Circulation Committee don’t really have enough cross-over to work effectively as one committee. Another issue raised was that both the current Cataloging Committee and the current Circulation Committee already have all day meetings to address their own issues, and that it wouldn’t be practical to have an even longer meeting with both committees merged to address both cataloging and circulation issues in the same meeting. Also many of the topics and technical information that are relevant to cataloging would not be relevant or of interest to circulation and vice versa. Half of the attendees likely would be bored or would not understand what was being discussed by the other half. In general, the consensus of the Cataloging Committee members was that it would be very problematic if our committee were merged with the Circulation Committee. Most of the catalogers felt that it would not be a good fit and are in favor of the Cataloging Committee remaining its own stand-alone committee.

**OPAL’s Participation in NACO**

NACO is the name authority cooperative program of the PCC (Program for Cooperative Cataloging). It involves member libraries being able to contribute name authority records in NACO. Tim Keller suggested that we might consider joining NACO as a consortium. Jack Wu was concerned because he stated that all NACO members are required to create at least one hundred new name authority records every year. Matt Polcyn said that he didn’t know whether participation in NACO would really be viable for OPAL libraries as a consortium. Tim will send more details about NACO via the opalcat listserv.

**BibFrame**

The OPAL catalogers held a discussion of BibFrame, a new encoding standard being developed to potentially replace the MARC encoding standard. BibFrame is based upon FRBR (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records) principles, just as RDA is, but BibFrame is an encoding standard, while RDA is a cataloging code. Tim Keller wondered if OPAL might want to consider being a tester of BibFrame. Tim reported that Kent State University is going to be a pilot site for BibFrame. BibFrame is still in development. It is estimated that it may be available within two to three years. Tim will send a link to information about BibFrame to the opalcat listserv so that OPAL catalogers can become more familiar with what it is and how it would work.

**Committee Representative Reports**

Kathleen Aufderhaar reported on news from the DMS (Database Management Standards) Committee of OhioLINK. The OhioLINK central catalog has added the UTF-8 character set that improves searches for items containing diacritical marks. Kathleen also said that the roll out of the EBSCO full-text finder has
been postponed until May 2015. The state has mandated that OhioLINK check out other ILS systems every few years, so OhioLINK will be doing that in the upcoming year. The DMS Committee is also evaluating the need for a genre/form index in the central catalog. Kathleen is on a sub-committee to re-evaluate material types in the central catalog.

*Poster or Presentation*

Andrew Whitis, University of Findlay library director, would like to encourage the Cataloging Committee or some of its members to consider doing a poster session or a presentation related to cataloging or metadata at the OPAL Conference in August.

*Election of Officers*

The slate of Cataloging Committee officers nominated for 2015-2016 is:

Vice-Chair: Amy Parsons
Secretary: Barb Sedlock

Linda Warren moved that this slate of officers be elected. Aija Bjornson seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed. At the time of the OPAL Conference in August, Aija Bjornson will move from Cataloging Committee vice-chair to chair, while Amy Parsons will become vice chair, and Barb Sedlock will become secretary.

*Date for Next Cataloging Committee Meeting*

Wednesday, November 4, 2015 was scheduled as the date for the next OPAL Cataloging Committee meeting.

*Adjournment*

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Salt
Secretary