

2002 ANNUAL REPORT

This document contains the report of the Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR (JSC) to the Committee of Principals for AACR for the calendar year 2002. The report has been prepared by the Chair, Ann Huthwaite.

Membership

The membership of the committee was as follows:

American Library Association:	Matthew Beacom (Yale University)
Australian Committee on Cataloguing:	Ann Huthwaite (Queensland University of Technology)
British Library:	Sally Strutt
Canadian Committee on Cataloguing:	Margaret Stewart (National Library of Canada)
CILIP:	Sue Brown (CILIP) until September Robert Atkinson (University of London) from September
Library of Congress:	Barbara Tillett
Chair:	Ann Huthwaite
Secretary:	Nathalie Schulz

Meetings

Two meetings were held in 2002. The first was a special planning meeting to develop a strategic plan for AACR and JSC. It was held in New Haven, Connecticut on 13-15 May 2002, and was hosted by the American Library Association. The second, hosted by the British Library, was held in York on 9-11 September 2002. Mary Ghikas, Chair of the Committee of Principals, attended both meetings.

A meeting between JSC and the co-publishers of AACR was held in York on 12 September 2002.

Ann Huthwaite attended a meeting of the Committee of Principals in York on 13-14 September 2003.

Strategic plan for JSC and AACR

A draft of the strategic plan for JSC and AACR prepared in New Haven was presented to the Committee of Principals for approval. Some changes were proposed by the Committee of Principals at its meeting in York. The revised draft, comprising these changes, is awaiting final approval by the Committee of Principals before the plan can be mounted on the JSC Web site.

2002 Revision of AACR

The production of the new loose-leaf revision of AACR was a major activity. Extensive communication took place between JSC and the co-publishers on the format and layout of the volume, followed by a detailed proof-reading process by the national agency constituencies. All deadlines set by the co-publishers were met.

A summary of rule changes incorporated in the 2002 Revision was prepared for inclusion in the text. It was agreed that the compilation of a complete list of changes would be a complex and time-consuming task, given the extensive changes to chapters 3 and 12. A list of changes to the rules in the 2002 Revision (excluding the changes to chapters 3 and 12) was mounted on the JSC Web site.

Discussion took place between JSC and the co-publishers on the content and structure of the index, leading to a special meeting held at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in January 2003 with the indexer, Janet Russell, and representatives from JSC and ALA Publishing. Attending this meeting on behalf of JSC were Margaret Stewart, the Canadian Committee on Cataloguing representative, and Bob Ewald from the Library of Congress.

2003 revision package

A small number of amendments were approved at the meeting in September 2002 for incorporation in the 2003 update. These include a change to the rules relating to the addition of names or dates to heads of government, and some changes to chapter 12 (Continuing Resources). A revised index will also be included in the update.

The revision package prepared by the Secretary includes a table of changed rules for incorporation in the checklist of changed rules that will accompany the package when it is released.

Ongoing proposals (included in the strategic plan)

A number of significant proposals are in progress. All of these are included in the strategic plan, and it is intended that they will be finalised for the next edition of AACR.

Revision of the general introduction and the introductions to parts I and II

At the September 2002 meeting JSC discussed a draft of the revised introductions, prepared by the British Library and CILIP. A number of changes were suggested, and these were incorporated into a second draft. Although JSC had agreed to aim for the revised introduction to be included in the 2003 revision package, it was later decided that it should be deferred until JSC has had time to discuss it more thoroughly, and until FRBR terminology is incorporated into AACR.

Incorporation of the concept of authority control into AACR

A proposal from the Library of Congress for incorporating the concept of authority control into AACR has been deferred until JSC has completed its deliberations on cataloguing principles, and the impact of incorporating the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) into AACR has been assessed.

Incorporating FRBR concepts and terminology into AACR

Pat Riva from McGill University has been working on extensive and detailed proposals for incorporating concepts and terminology from FRBR into AACR. JSC discussed the first report at its meeting in May 2002 (with Pat Riva attending by teleconference), and the second report at its meeting in September 2002. Discussion about appropriate terminology is ongoing.

This work is being undertaken for several reasons. It will contribute to the clarification and standardisation of terminology throughout AACR. It will also help to make AACR more easily understood by other resource description communities and encourage interoperability with other standards. The use of FRBR concepts and terminology is a prerequisite for the changes being considered by the Format Variation Working Group.

Consistency across part I of AACR

When the alpha prototype of the reorganised part I of AACR was developed, ALA had suggested that it could be used as a tool to re-examine the rules as they are currently structured. Discrepancies, conflicts, and gaps could be identified and corrected, and all the truly general rules could be moved to chapter 1.

A Task Force of CC:DA has been working on this task, beginning with areas 2 and 3. Rule revision proposals have been prepared and will be considered by JSC at its meeting in April 2003.

Treatment of multipart items

The Library of Congress submitted proposals for the cataloguing of multipart items to the September 2002 meeting. The proposals followed on from a recommendation from an

earlier paper relating to the basis of description for, and seriality of, multipart monographs. Discussion is ongoing.

Review of chapter 21

JSC has agreed that there should be a wide-ranging review of chapter 21, taking into account the recommendations from Tom Delsey's paper on modelling part II of AACR, and the work done by ACOC on the "rule of three." The Chair of JSC has suggested to the Chair of the Committee of Principals that a consultant should be employed to undertake the review.

Work on the terms of reference for the review is in progress.

Other ongoing proposals

A number of other proposals are also under consideration. The following are some of the most significant.

Specific characteristics of electronic resources

There has been ongoing discussion on a proposal from ALA on expressing specific characteristics of electronic resources, including rules for type and extent of resource (area 3), physical description (area 5), and related notes (area 7). Recommendations included the elimination of 3 from chapter 9, and the relocation of this information to areas 5 and 7. It was also recommended that content and carrier information be combined in area 5. At the September 2002 meeting JSC agreed to attempt to have the revisions completed in time for the 2003 revision package. Unfortunately agreement was not reached, and discussion will continue at the April 2003 meeting.

At the September 2002 meeting JSC discussed some fundamental problems associated with chapter 9, and agreed with a suggestion to investigate the reconceptualisation of the chapter. This investigation would examine the feasibility of using chapter 9 for only very specific types of computer files, such as programs and data files. The British Library and ALA are working together on this investigation.

Changes to rules for Malay names

In 1996 the Chair of JSC wrote to members of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries asking them to submit comments on AACR and national usage. The National Library of Malaysia responded with a proposal for the revision of the rules for Malay names. Consideration of the proposal was deferred by JSC, which was addressing a number of urgent issues at the time. At the May 2002 meeting JSC asked ACOC to prepare rule revision proposals for Malay names, working with appropriate groups in the region. A proposal was submitted to the September 2002 meeting, but there was

insufficient time for the other constituencies to prepare responses. It will be considered at the April 2003 meeting.

Standard numbers

Two proposals relating to the rules for standard numbers and/or terms of availability were submitted to the September 2002 meeting, with one from the British Library and another from ALA. The ALA proposal and part of the British Library proposal were deferred, pending consultation with the ISBD Review Group. JSC suggests that it is time to evaluate whether there is any benefit in maintaining the distinctions between numbers recorded in areas 7 and 8.

Format Variation Working Group

The Format Variation Working Group continued its intensive program of exploration of the issues relating to format variation or “multiple versions.” Interim reports for JSC’s two meetings in 2002 were prepared by the Chair, Jennifer Bowen, who attended the JSC meeting in New Haven by teleconference.

As any changes to the rules to accommodate format variation are likely to have an impact on the MARC format, Jennifer Bowen prepared a discussion paper on the activities of the Working Group for the July 2002 meeting of MARBI. A draft of this paper was discussed at the New Haven JSC meeting. The final version was subsequently approved by JSC.

Jennifer Bowen met with Matthew Beacom, Paul Weiss, and British members of the Working Group in London on 6 September 2002. The meeting was also attended by Mick Ridley from the University of Bradford, who was later asked to join the Group. At the September 2002 JSC meeting, Matthew Beacom gave a verbal report of the London meeting, and JSC also discussed the third interim report of the Working Group. During the discussion on general material designations (GMDs) an additional charge was developed for the Working Group.

At the September 2002 meeting JSC agreed that it would be helpful to establish a reference group of system utilities and vendors that are either engaged with, or are considering incorporating, the data model from FRBR into the design of their products. Subsequently Jennifer Bowen made a call for liaison contacts on appropriate discussion lists. In January 2003 liaison contacts had been identified for Digibis, Ex Libris, Innovative Interfaces, OCLC, The Library Corporation, and VTLIS. Endeavour Information Systems and the Research Libraries Group had indicated that they each intended identifying a contact but had not yet named a person to fill the role.

Further reports from the Working Group will be considered by JSC at the April 2003 meeting. These include the reports from the Chapter 25 Subgroup and the Form of Expression Identifier Subgroup. Jennifer Bowen will attend the final day of the meeting

to discuss the reports with JSC and to provide an update on the activities of the Working Group.

JSC Web site

Further development of the JSC Web site took place, including a redesign of the internal Web site. The content on the public site was regularly updated. As a decision had been made to include only the current preface in the 2002 Revision of AACR, the previous prefaces were mounted on the public site. John Attig is currently working on a redesign of the public site for consideration by JSC at the April 2003 meeting.

The Secretary, Nathalie Schulz, has taken over most of the tasks associated with the maintenance of the site.

Coordination with the ISBD Review Group

The members of the ISBD Review Group were provided with access to the internal JSC Web site, containing all JSC documents except those restricted to JSC members.

The Chair of JSC provided comments to the Chair of the ISBD Review Group on the proposals for changes to the ISBD(M) to accommodate resources published in more than one format.

Program of work

The program of work of the Joint Steering Committee continues to be very demanding, with tight deadlines. Many of the current proposals under consideration are complex, and require close scrutiny by the constituencies.

The program of work developed at the September 2002 meeting in York may be found in the minutes for that meeting (item 524).

At the September 2002 meeting JSC agreed on a timetable for submission of proposals and responses prior to a meeting to allow sufficient time for perusal and the preparation of responses. It was agreed that new rule revision proposals would be required two and a half months prior to meetings, and responses, one month before meetings.

JSC membership

Robert Atkinson has replaced Sue Brown as the CILIP representative on JSC. The Chair, Ann Huthwaite, will step down from JSC at the September 2003 meeting. A Chair Elect will be elected at the April 2003 meeting. The new ACOC representative on JSC will be Deirdre Kiorgaard (National Library of Australia).

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all JSC members and members of constituent bodies for their ongoing work on the development of AACR. I would like to acknowledge the work of the JSC Secretary, Nathalie Schulz, who has performed the duties of the position at a very high level.

I would also like to thank others who have made significant contributions. These include:

- John Attig (for providing invaluable support for the development of the JSC Web site);
- Jennifer Bowen (for chairing and providing leadership to the Format Variation Working Group);
- All other members of the Format Variation Working Group;
- Pat Riva (for her work on incorporating FRBR into AACR).

Ann Huthwaite

Chair, Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR