

**ONLINE AUDIOVISUAL CATALOGERS  
CATALOGING POLICY COMMITTEE (CAPC)  
ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
Washington, D.C.  
June 26, 1998**

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Diane Boehr, CAPC Chair, at 8:05 PM. All CAPC members present were: Diane Boehr (Chair), Michael Esman, Marcia Evans, Catherine Gerhart, Marlyn Hackett, Meredith Horan, John Attig. There were 16 guests.

1. Members and guests introduced themselves.
2. The [minutes](#) of the CAPC meeting of Jan. 10, 1998 were approved as published in the March 1998 *OLAC Newsletter*.
3. CAPC Chair Diane Boehr gave the floor to OLAC President Sue Neumeister, who presented the 1998 OLAC Award to John Attig. Normally, the OLAC award is presented at the Sunday evening Membership Meeting, but an exception was made because John was not going to be able to attend that meeting. A complete [description of the citation](#) can be found elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter.
4. Announcements/ Updates

At the last CAPC meeting, it was mentioned that catalogers could not apply the latest amendments to *AACR2* as they were not published yet. On the advice of Kay Giles from the Library of Congress, Diane had planned to write a letter to the Joint Steering Committee of *AACR2* asking that these amendments be released. Since then she has learned that the electronic version of *AACR2* will soon be available from ALA and does contain all the current amendments. A new printed edition is also supposed to be released, possibly in August. The electronic version will also be included in the Cataloger's Desktop CD-ROM product for current subscribers at no extra charge.

The Core Record for computer files is still waiting for final approval from the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC). It is available on the [PCC website](#) and some cataloging agencies are using it unofficially. Some CAPC members explained that the PCC wants to make some minor updates to the standard to reflect recent changes before the standard is released.

5. NACO Funnel Project update

This item was postponed to the Membership Meeting because the Funnel Project coordinator, Ann Caldwell, was not present to make a report.

6. MARBI Proposals and Discussion Papers

John Attig reported on selected proposals and discussion papers that are on MARBI's agenda at this conference. (His complete report with an explanation of the documents and

MARBI results can be found elsewhere in this issue.) CAPC did not have any strong recommendations on any of the proposals for J. Attig to take to the MARBI meetings.

## 7. Questions on cataloging of Internet resources

Meredith Horan brought up for discussion several problems she has been having in cataloging Internet resources. The first question was about determining the date of publication. Many Internet resources do not have any kind of date. One solution is to use an estimated date, such as [199-?] A common practice is to include a 500 note giving the date the material was viewed for cataloging, such as "Description based on..." or "Item consulted on..." or something similar. This note is also useful because a web resource can change significantly after it is cataloged. Sometimes the only date available is a copyright date, which may apply to the content of the material, and not its current publication as an electronic entity.

Another problem in cataloging databases is that it is often difficult to find a stated updating frequency or even a date of the last update. Discussion participants seemed content to provide that information if available and leave it out if not.

The third problem area is about the source of title. CONSER guidelines say not to use "welcome screens" as a source of title, but why not? Why is a welcome screen not a home page! What is meant by "source data"? Diane proposed that a useful activity for CAPC would be to draw up a standardized list of the places we take the title from and how we are defining them as a group. Such a list would also help catalogers who find something that they know is a legitimate source of the title but just don't know what to call it. John Attig suggested that any work we do on this be forwarded as suggestions to the ISBD-ER task force of CC:DA, because they are already working on this sort of thing and there may be some rule change proposals resulting from their work. CAPC members agreed that this would be a worthwhile endeavor. Diane gathered names of volunteers to serve on a subcommittee to work on this, and will also write a formal charge to the subcommittee.

Meredith also made an announcement concerning the National Library of Medicine (NLM). In January, NLM announced that they were going to begin cataloging databases as serials, rather than monographs, as an experimental approach stemming from principles emerging from the Toronto Conference. They also announced that they would not be supplying the 538 Mode of access note for these materials. Although the serials approach was in conflict with LC/CONSER policy, NLM had obtained agreement from OCLC to do this. However, when the NLM serial records were loaded into the OCLC database, OCLC changed all of them to monograph records. OCLC also added a 538 note for Mode of access. NLM is now cataloging databases as monographs, but they are still not adding the 538 Mode of access note.

## 8. Using the new definition for Type of computer file (006 byte 9)

Diane Boehr initiated a discussion of the difficulties in applying the new definition of MARC field 006 byte 9 (Type of computer file) which was implemented in March, 1998. The definitions of these types now apply to the predominant content of the work rather than the physical format in which it is issued. Purely textual content is supposed to be cataloged on a books workform rather than as a computer file. Diane has come across very few instances where the content seemed to be purely textual. An example is a CD-ROM issued by the Veterans Administration that contained all of their government forms. Other types of publications, such as the Atlas of Cardiology issued on CD-ROM, seem to contain enough interactivity and added features to make them more than just text. Someone on Autocat posted a question about how to catalog a digitized poster collection containing text for each poster, because it could have fit under graphic materials (Chapter 7), or it could be considered a digitized form of a book, such as that which would accompany an exhibition, or it could be a computer file. The person got three different answers from different people, so it's obvious that these guidelines are very unclear.

Some CAPC members pointed out that the same problems exist for printed materials but that when you add the digitization factor we seem to get more confused. We are very comfortable cataloging an art catalog as a "book" rather than as graphic material, even if it consists of all pictures with very little text. In many libraries, the format chosen in which to catalog it depends on workflow and which group of catalogers catalogs it. One participant noted that at her institution, all the catalogers have been training to catalog Internet resources. The book catalogers are much less concerned than the media catalogers over which type code to use. If it looks anything like a book, it gets cataloged as text. Sometimes they will use an 006 to code for pictorial content, etc.

Does it matter? How much time can catalogers afford to spend determining the predominance of the content? What difference will it make to users of the library? In most cases, the records will look no different to the user, but it could affect retrieval if a search is limited by type of material. In RLN it's a huge issue because the different formats are in completely different files, so if you search in the wrong file you won't find it.

One audience member asked what ever happened to format integration? The MARC format is as integrated as it can be, because of its limitations. The 008 does not define itself. The data in the 008 means different things depending on that byte that indicates record type. Fixing this would require rebuilding of all existing MARC databases.

## 9. Old Business

There was no old business.

## 10. New Business

Since the meeting was ending early, John Attig used the available time to give a preview of the upcoming issues on the CC:DA agenda. A complete [CC:DA report](#) is printed elsewhere in this Newsletter issue.

## 11. Adjournment

Diane announced that since this meeting is the last of the "year" for CAPC appointees, the next CAPC meeting in Charlotte, NC at the OLAC Conference would have a different set of CAPC members. Marlyn Hackett and Ann Caldwell will continue their terms through 1999. Meredith Horan is leaving CAPC to become OLAC Secretary, and Mike Esman is leaving to become OLAC Vice President. Marcia Evans and Diane Boehr's terms have expired. Cathy Gerhart will be the new CAPC Chair, and two new members are Sheryl Horner and Brad Eden. Diane thanked everyone she had worked with for the past three years. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Thompson  
OLAC Secretary