



Serials Spoken Here

Reports of Conferences, Institutes, and Seminars

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A B S T R A C T

This quarter's column features a report from the Ohio Valley Group of Technical Services Librarians (OVGTSL), held May 15–17, 2013, in Richmond, KY; the 29th Annual North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG) Conference, held June 5–9, 2013, in Buffalo, NY, including a separate report on the June 6 RDA & Serials preconference; and, the American Library Association's Annual Conference, held June 27–July 2, 2013, in Chicago, IL.

OVGTSL 2013 Conference, “Meeting Challenges, Leading Change”

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1. Introduction

Each spring the Ohio Valley Group of Technical Services Librarians (OVGTSL) holds an annual conference which focuses on issues in technical services of interest to all types of libraries in Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio. The 2013 conference, “Meeting Challenges, Leading Change,” gave colleagues within the region a chance to meet and exchange ideas and information about current trends in cataloging, acquisitions and collection development. A preconference on RDA (Resource Description and Access) rules and examples preceded the conference.

2. Opening Session

On Thursday, the conference began with an opening session by Ted Fons (executive director of Data Services and WorldCat Quality Control at OCLC). Fons gave a succinct and humorous history of the various ways librarians have educated users about their collections, including what is available to them from the book catalog to current integrated library systems. He then focused on how networks provide libraries with new

opportunities to reveal their collections to the world and meet the user at the point of interest.

3. Concurrent Sessions

Afterwards, the first concurrent sessions began, including the “Library as Open Access Publisher,” presented by Mary Beth Thomson and Adrian Ho (University of Kentucky); “Using the Tools in the CollaboraTeS Toolbox to Get Work Done,” by Margaret Maurer (Kent State University); and, “The Best of Times? The Worst of Times? Implementing Blacklight at Indiana University Libraries,” by Tina Baich (Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis) and Courtney Green (Indiana University, Bloomington). The session on implementing Blacklight, an open source discovery tool, highlighted the importance of including technical services staff in the process as the discovery tool uncovered records that required updating.

4. Business Meeting

Next, attendees gathered for lunch and the OVGTSL business meeting. The 2013 scholarship winners were recognized. Elections were held and bylaws amended. Kathryn Lybarger (University of Kentucky) was elected the first archivist for the group. The new officers included

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chair, Margaret Foote (Eastern Kentucky University); vice-chair, Carrie Preston (Ohio University); secretary, Valentine Muyumba (Indiana State University); treasurer, Michael Farmer (Ohio University); past-chair, Dianne Grayson (University of Southern Indiana).

5. Concurrent Sessions

The afternoon continued with concurrent sessions on a variety of topics. Lois Schultz (Northern Kentucky University, NKU) presented on “The Transformation of Technical Services to Knowledge Management Services.” Schultz outlined NKU’s effective approach to providing what their patrons wanted in a timely manner and how the library reorganized itself to facilitate this goal. Two other sessions also addressed changes in organizations to address new challenges and trends. The last sessions of the day were panel discussions on three topics. One panel presented on three RDA related topics: Name–Authorized Access Points, FRBR/RDA Serials Cataloging and Talking to Public Service Staff about RDA. Taemin Park (Indiana University) covered the changes in serial records as RDA is implemented. Her presentation was full of examples and details as she outlined the various similarities and differences between the two sets of rules. The other panels covered new roles and workflows for technical services and deselecting materials from library collections.

6. Vision Session

Friday morning, conference attendees gathered to hear the second vision session, “There’s a Goat in my Keynote: What a Baby Goat Taught Me about ‘Network Power’ and Implications for Libraries,” by Kathryn

Hamish (director for Network Experience at OCLC). The star of this session was Buttermilk Sky, a baby goat. Hamish humorously described how Buttermilk Sky accidentally became an Internet sensation via a YouTube video thus giving Hamish a perfect lead in for discussing how libraries can leverage networks and connections to their advantage.

7. Concurrent Sessions

After the break, there were two more rounds of concurrent sessions. In the first round, Stephanie Faulkner (ProQuest) presented on “Forging Collaboration Outside the Library and into the Alumni Office: Increasing Alumni Engagement by Meeting a Growing Information Need.” Faulkner explained a new service from ProQuest that can be licensed by libraries or universities to provide information resources to their alumni. More and more libraries are getting requests from alumni and this is one way to respond to their needs. Other presentations included information about mobile apps that would be of interest to technical service librarians and using existing metadata for the discovery of collections. The final round of concurrent sessions included topics such as “Z-books: Hunting Down Zombie Ebooks Hiding in your Catalogs,” by Kathryn Lybarger (University of Kentucky); “Digitizing and Describing History for Curricular Use: Opportunities and Challenges for Technical Services Staff,” by Diana Nichols (Ohio University); and, “120 to 12: Reducing Days to Shelf with Vendor Services, Cat-on-Receipt and Automated Bib Overlay,” by Sherle Abramson-Bluhm (University of Michigan).

As always the OVGTSL annual Conference provided a good opportunity for colleagues to gather together to learn and network and have some fun.

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RDA & Serials: Transitioning to RDA within a MARC21 Framework (Preconference Workshop, NASIG 2013 Conference)

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1. Introduction

To better prepare workshop registrants, presenters Les Hawkins and Hien Nguyen (Library of Congress) posted links to self-study training modules on CONSER’s RDA & Serials: Transitioning to RDA within a MARC21Framework Web page. Registrants were asked to complete the assigned prerequisite modules before the preconference and actively encouraged to register for a live Webinar on “FRBR Fundamental Concepts and RDA Toolkit,” on May 29, 2013. This interactive online class served as an extended question-and-answer session for topics covered in the prerequisite modules.

2. Day 1: Welcome and Logistics

To kick start the proceedings of the first on-site session, co-presenters Hawkins and Nguyen invited attendees to share their thoughts and experiences with Resource Description and Access (RDA)

as well as their expectations about training objectives. It was observed that, to date, most RDA training has been geared towards cataloging monographic works and Nguyen took this opportunity to remind the group that the preconference would focus exclusively on cataloging serials. The presenters emphasized that the educational framework for both on-site sessions was patterned according to the “learning as you train” model espoused by the Cooperative Online Serials Program (CONSER) of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PPC).

Nguyen pointed out that RDA testers were initially trained without the FRBR model and that all subsequent training materials were specifically designed for Library of Congress (LoC) users. Hawkins emphasized that the learning process relies heavily on figuring out how to navigate the RDA Toolkit. Nguyen reviewed the planned agenda and schedule before introducing the class to the contents of the folders provided. Said packets consisted of presentation handouts, quizzes, exercises, and surrogates. Additional documentation included appendices comprised of links to supplemental documentation, a glossary, cheat sheets for MARC21 Tagging and Serials, and Working with Copy – Changes over Time, answer-key sheets, an evaluation, and information regarding free toolkit access. Several parties were acknowledged and heartily thanked for contributing their subject expertise and for granting

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