

1999 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 1999. The report has been prepared by the Chair, Ann Huthwaite.

Membership

At the end of the year, the composition of the committee was as follows:

American Library Association:	Brian Schottlaender (University of California at San Diego)
Australian Committee on Cataloguing:	Ann Huthwaite (Queensland University of Technology)
British Library:	Sally Strutt
Canadian Committee on Cataloguing:	Margaret Stewart
Library Association:	Sue Brown (Library Association)
Library of Congress:	Barbara Tillett

Ann Huthwaite became Chair on 15 January 1999. Jacqui Norfolk (State Library of Queensland) agreed to perform secretarial duties.

Meetings

The 19th meeting of JSC was held at the State Library of Queensland in Brisbane, on 18-20 October 1999. Mary Ghikas, Chair of the Committee of Principals, was also in attendance. The next meeting will be held in San Diego on 22-24 March 2000.

Relationship with the Committee of Principals

Communication between the Committee of Principals and the Joint Steering Committee has remained very effective. The Chair of JSC attended a meeting of the Committee of Principals in March 1999, and the Chair of the Committee of Principals attended the October 1999 meeting of JSC.

International Conference on the Principles and Future Development of AACR

The following is a report on progress with the items for immediate action that were developed by JSC after the International Conference.

Action: Pursue the recommendation that a data modeling technique be used to provide a logical analysis of the principles and structures that underlie AACR.

Comments from the international community were invited on Tom Delsey's papers on the logical structure of Parts One and Two of AACR2, with responses due by 30 September 1999. Five responses were received, in addition to formal responses from the constituencies. There was insufficient time at the October 1999 meeting for JSC to consider the reports in depth, but time will be set aside at the March 2000 meeting for further discussion on the application of the models.

One of the recommendations, which proposes that the model be used to assess options for restructuring Part I of AACR2, is being pursued as part of the follow-up to decisions made at the October 1999 meeting on accommodating seriality in the rules (discussed later in this report).

Action: Create a list of the principles of AACR2

JSC has compiled a list of principles based on members' submissions. Barbara Tillett is doing further work on refining this list, and her report will be completed in the second half of 2000.

Action: Formalize the recommendations on seriality endorsed during the Conference and introduce them into the rule revision process.

The report commissioned by JSC (*Revising AACR2 to Accommodate Seriality: Report to the Joint Steering Committee on the Revision of AACR*) was prepared by Jean Hiron, CONSER Coordinator, Library of Congress, with the assistance of Regina Reynolds and Judy Kuhagen (Library of Congress) and the CONSER AACR Review Task Force. It was made available on the JSC Web site for review and comment by the international community, with all comments to be submitted by 30 September 1999. Fourteen responses were received, in addition to formal responses from the member bodies of JSC. JSC discussed the recommendations at the October 1999 meeting, and approved a large majority of them.

Four major initiatives are being pursued as a result of these decisions.

- The Library Association/British Library Committee on AACR (LA/BL) was asked to prepare a draft of an expanded introduction to AACR2. This work is in progress.

- Jean Hirons was asked by the Chair to coordinate the preparation of a revision of Chapter 12 and other relevant parts of AACR2 to incorporate the changes agreed to by the JSC. These revisions have been completed and will be discussed at the March 2000 meeting.
- JSC agreed to pursue the development of a prototype to test the feasibility of the recommendations proposing changes to the structure of Part I of AACR2 according to ISBD areas. Following the October 1999 meeting, Bruce Johnson (Library of Congress) led a team to develop the first stage of this prototype, using Cataloger's Desktop to rearrange the current text of Part I into a text that groups the rules appropriate to each area. The prototype was made available to JSC in December 1999, and will be discussed at the March 2000 meeting.
- The ALA Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA) has been asked to prepare a draft of an appendix to AACR2 containing lists of major and minor changes.

Action: Solicit a proposal to revise rule 0.24 to advance the discussion on the primacy of intellectual content over physical format.

The CC:DA Task Force on Rule 0.24 prepared a proposal and associated report (*Overview and Recommendations Concerning Revisions of Rule 0.24*). The report was considered by JSC at the October 1999 meeting; two of the three recommendations were accepted, pending additional input from the constituencies. The second recommendation stressed that the format variation question must be resolved, and that cataloguers would benefit from specific guidelines for the creation of new records. JSC agreed that a new appendix to AACR2 would be the best vehicle for providing such guidance, but reserved judgement on the best approach for resolving the format variation question.

Action: Maintain an AACR Web site, and publicize and reaffirm, on the AACR Web site, JSC policies, procedures and activities as well as the current processes for submitting rule revision proposals emanating from within or outside AACR author countries.

John Attig (Penn State University Libraries), in consultation with the Chair of JSC, is coordinating the establishment of a new Web site. The National Library of Canada will continue to host the site.

Meanwhile the existing site has been used to make selected documents widely available, and for announcements.

Action: Develop a mission statement for JSC

A mission statement was developed by the committee at the November 1997 meeting in Leeds. At the request of the Committee of Principals a reference to user needs was incorporated. The revised statement has been sent to the Chair of the Committee of Principals for the committee's approval.

Action: Determine if there are any existing surveys on the extent of use of AACR2 outside the Anglo-American community and if no such survey exists, conduct such a survey.

JSC discovered that such a survey had been conducted in Italy in 1998. In his work *La catalogazione dopo Parigi: attività normative e strumenti per il controllo bibliografico universale, 1961-1997*, Pino Buizza identified those countries other than the 'author' countries using AACR2.

Rule revisions

Three major areas of potential revision were pursued in 1999: changes to the rules to accommodate seriality; proposals to change the rules (in particular, rule 0.24) to give emphasis to intellectual content over physical format; and, revision of Chapter 9 to harmonise with ISBD(ER).

Information on progress with the first and second of these initiatives has been supplied previously in this report.

The third initiative, harmonisation of AACR2 with ISBD(ER), has been led by the CC:DA Task Force on ISBD(ER) Harmonization. A detailed set of proposals was considered by JSC at its October 1999 meeting, and discussion will continue at the March 2000 meeting.

At the same time a number of other rule revision proposals were considered by JSC and its constituencies. These included a set of proposals from the British Library on changing the rules for headings for persons with titles of nobility and terms of honour, and other simplification and clarification of rules for the names of persons. Agreement was reached on a proposal from the Library of Congress - first made in June 1996 - to include a list of initial articles as an appendix to AACR. A number of concerns raised by the other member bodies were resolved, and JSC decided at the October 1999 meeting that the new appendix would go ahead.

Latest rule revision package

A compilation of rules revisions containing revisions agreed to by JSC at its Toronto meeting in October 1997 and its Leeds meeting in November 1998, but not yet published, was sent to the co-publishers in November 1999.

Review of the Concise AACR2

JSC reviewed the text of the latest revision of the Concise AACR2, and as a result several changes to the text were requested.

Communication with the cataloguing community

JSC is aware of the widespread interest in the major revision proposals before the committee, and has used various means to communicate its activities to the cataloguing community. Documents for comment have been placed on the Web site, and an announcement was made following the October 1999 meeting on the most important decisions taken at the meeting. This announcement was placed on the Web site, and was posted to key Internet discussion groups.

Financial transactions

Expenses for JSC activities are included in the AACR Common Revision Fund Report, prepared by Don Chatham for presentation to the Committee of Principals.

Summary

1999 was an extremely busy year for JSC, with all members making significant contributions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their dedication and enthusiasm.

Ann Huthwaite
Chair, Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR
27 February 2000