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# Committee on Technical Processing Meeting

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## REPORTS

### I. Committee on Technical Processing Meeting

The 1996 CEAL Committee on Technical Processing met on April 5 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Mid-Pacific Conference Center of the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Honolulu. Charles Wu began the meeting with a brief report on the program of the day, noting that because the second scheduled speaker, John D. Byrum, Chief of the Regional and Cooperative Cataloging Division, Library of Congress, was unable to attend, his paper would be read by Ms. Sarah Elman, Head, Special Projects, University of California at Los Angeles.

Mr. Bob Wolven, Director of the Bibliographic Control and Processing Division of the Columbia University Libraries, was the first speaker. His topic was "Cataloging in the 21st Century: Processing Workflow Change and Reorganization." Mr. Wolven began with several warnings about trying to predict the future: first, some of the most promising technologies of today will go nowhere, or will develop much more slowly than now seems likely. Second, the technology that will bring the biggest changes over the next decade probably has not been thought of yet. Third, just because something can be done doesn't mean that it will be.

He then reviewed the greatest changes in the past decade or so, beginning with the effects of the major bibliographic utilities--RLIN, OCLC, and WLN--on cataloging. First, shared cataloging on these utilities has led to a greater emphasis on shared standards. The second change has been the proliferation of local integrated systems such as NOTIS, INNOPAC, and GEAC and the spread of campus Ethernet records. These two changes have resulted in shifts in staffing and a changed view of the role of cataloging departments.

Mr. Wolven's view of things to come centered on the influence of new sources of records, such as those available from non-Anglo-American libraries, and the increasing role played by book vendors and vendor services, such as shelf processing--spine labels, barcodes, and security strips--along with bibliographic records for the books. He foresees a gradual transformation of processing procedures toward centrally-supplied full catalog records such as OCLC is beginning to develop, completed CIP records such as Blackwell North America is attempting, and advanced search techniques for sharing copy such as RLG's Diogenes. He discussed the economic, technical, and cultural changes related to these developments.

Mr. Wolven concluded by emphasizing the necessity of using cataloging skills in new ways, giving as an example the problems of cataloging materials in electronic form: catalogers must use the principles that underlie the rules to explore and develop the aspects of description and access that are important for managing these huge and diverse sources of information.

The second paper, that of John D. Byrum, Chief of the Regional and Cooperative Cataloging Division of the Library of Congress, was read by Ms. Sarah Elman. It reported on the activities and projected developments of the CJK teams at LC. In fiscal 95 the Chinese cataloging staff received 8,587 titles

and completed processing of 9,677, thereby reducing their working backlog. The decision made in 1990 by LC to switch from Wade-Giles to Pinyin romanization for Chinese materials is being re-examined, and no final decision has been made. The Korean team received 4,594 items and processed 4,278. The Division's two Japanese teams were assigned the responsibility of cataloging more than 90,000 monographic items held by the Asian Division and have targeted the year 2000 as the deadline by which all of these will be brought under bibliographic control.

Under the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC), cooperative cataloging programs have grown due to the contributions of NACO and the cooperative programs for contributions to LCSH. In the past year several new libraries joined NACO and have begun contributing authority records for CJK materials. The PCC is seeking innovative ways to increase the quality and quantity of bibliographic data, and the Executive Council urges libraries to increase their level of commitment to cooperative cataloging. LC's cooperative cataloging team is ready to assist any library in need of training and materials for NACO expansion efforts. Any comments and suggestions concerning this report can be sent to Mr. John D. Byrum by email at [jbyr@loc.gov](mailto:jbyr@loc.gov).

Abraham Yu, Head of East Asian Cataloging at the University of California at Irvine, made a presentation on online CJK authority problems. He stated that current CJK authority headings, which are roman only, do not always provide successful access to the name authority records searched because many CJK personal names share the same romanization, and there is no vernacular script in the record to distinguish one name from another. (Reference: *CEAL Bulletin* No.106 [June 1995], pp. 1-7)

(Charles Wu)