



Building the Future of Libraries with BCMC

NJLA-CUS/ACRL-NJ Bibliographic Control and Metadata Committee

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Introduction

In the digital age today, changes are never-ending. This is especially true to the field of cataloging and metadata, with rapid evolutions in information standards and technology and growing calls for inclusive and reparative description practice. Also, due to a proliferation of electronic resources and platforms, the primary trend for the foreseeable future is toward developing workflows for processing vendor-supplied metadata from diverse sources and packages often requiring mass metadata management and remediation while technical services are often increasingly challenged with shrinking staff and resources.

The **Bibliographic Control and Metadata Committee (BCMC)**, under the New Jersey Library Association College and University Section (NJLA-CUS)/Association of College & Research Libraries NJ Chapter (ACRL-NJ), is comprised of academic librarians working in a cataloging or metadata capacity across the state of New Jersey.

Since its founding in 1996, the primary mission of BCMC has been to build a supportive professional community that provides a forum for sharing innovative ideas and practices and exploring common and challenging issues shaping the future of technical services in New Jersey academic and research libraries.

Vision and Goals

- To share information and best practices in cataloging, authority control, cataloging/metadata, database management, staff training, and department management
- To facilitate networking and provide technical and moral support to members in times of change and promote statewide collaboration
- To provide members with up-to-date information and opportunities in continuing education and professional development
- To promote innovative ideas, efficiencies, and effective measures for quality control of bibliographic and authority metadata
- To foster cooperative efforts in resource sharing among academic libraries in the field of cataloging and metadata services
- To support ACRL mission and its strategic plan in the five areas:
 - Value of Academic Libraries; Student Learning; Research and Scholarly Environment; New Roles and Changing Landscapes; Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Regular/Past Activities

- **Regular meetings three times a year (fall, spring, summer; now conducted via Zoom)**

Cover major updates and news relating to cataloging standards, Library of Congress and PCC (Program for Cooperative Cataloging) policies and practices, OCLC, special formats cataloging, etc.

Facilitate active conversation about shared issues, local initiatives, project experiences and perspectives, and practical use cases related to library cataloging and metadata. Recent discussion has focused on inclusive metadata practices, electronic resources cataloging, and library services platforms/management systems like Alma and OCLC WMS.

- **NJLA-CUS/ACRL-NJ Technical Services Award**

Form a task force each year to select a Technical Services Award recipient who has made significant contributions to enhance and advance technical services librarianship in the state of New Jersey, including but not limited to acquisitions, cataloging, metadata, collection management, preservation, electronic and continuing resources. The award is presented during the NJLA Annual Conference each spring.

- **PCC NACO/BIBCO New Jersey Funnel**

BCMC established the NACO (Name Authority Cooperative Program) New Jersey Funnel in 2007. Over a dozen institutions have been trained to contribute authority records for personal and corporate entities, including local authors and institutions, to the international name authority database. In 2015, the Funnel's role extended to include BIBCO (Monographic Bibliographic Record Cooperative Program); some BCMC member libraries were further trained to create and contribute high-quality, authenticated bibliographic records backed by complete authority work to shared international databases serving the larger library community. In 2018, the NACO and BIBCO funnels were joined by CUNY (The City University of New York) institutions.

NACO workshops, training, and review have been arranged as needed to guide new NACO participants on creating name authority records according to the latest PCC standards and guidelines.

- **RDA**

BCMC has been active in helping its members keep abreast of the changes in cataloging standards. It organized training sessions when RDA was adopted as the new standard in 2013. Training for the new IFLA LRM (Library Reference Model) and the beta (now Official) RDA Toolkit was conducted in 2019. Currently, BCMC has a full member on the PCC Standing Committee on Training and is committed to providing its members with the most up-to-date cataloging policy information and facilitating national-level training in applying the evolving RDA standard for ongoing bibliographic control and database maintenance needs.

Research Activities

Since its founding in 2003, the **Research Subcommittee** has the following accomplishments:

- Conducted surveys of technical services departments' demographics and functions in New Jersey academic libraries
- Analyzed trends in collection and staff size and budgets
- Provided practical data for strategic planning and needs
- Surveyed national and state cataloging assessment activities

The subcommittee is currently planning to conduct a new survey of technical services operations and management focusing on the post-Covid pandemic environment.

Future Goals

- Share best practices in implementing DEI initiatives in cataloging and metadata
- Increase awareness of quality control and mass metadata management
- Promote a culture of assessment in technical services
- Aim for effectiveness and efficiencies in workflows
- Establish a user-centered service mindset
- Focus on service impact and outcomes
- Collaborate on best practices in using library systems
- Explore statewide information-sharing opportunities

Presenters

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