National Library of Medicine (NLM) Update
ALA Annual Meeting, June 2013
ALCTS Technical Services Directors of Large Research Libraries
ALCTS CMDS Chief Collection Development Officers of Large Research Libraries

Resource Description and Access (RDA)
On March 31, 2013 NLM began using RDA for all original cataloging, replacing the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd edition*. Bibliographic records distributed by NLM will continue to contain a mix of RDA and AACR2 records as NLM will accept AACR2 copy without upgrading these records to RDA. Any new authority records created by NLM will follow RDA guidelines, regardless of the rules used to create the bibliographic data.

Extensive training for RDA took place in the January-March 2013 timeframe. Catalogers trained with materials from NLM’s own collection and utilized the product RIMMF (RDA in Many Metadata Formats), developed by the company “The MARC of Quality” (TMQ). RIMMF is a visualization tool which can be used to help think about RDA concepts outside of the MARC framework. Cataloging Section staff performed a number of other tasks including reviewing LC-PCC PS (Library of Congress-Program for Cooperative Cataloging Policy Statements) and PCC decisions on RDA options; updating documentation; creating new RDA Voyager templates; and revising statements of work for contractors. Policies and guidelines concerning RDA use at NLM are at [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/cataloging/mainpge.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/cataloging/mainpge.html).

NLM Classification
In April the online NLM Classification was issued in a newly revised edition. The QU (Biochemistry. Cell Biology and Genetics) schedule was the major area of focus for 2013. Thirty two new class numbers were added and no class numbers were canceled. For more information see [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/mj13/mj13_classification.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/mj13/mj13_classification.html).

Other Cataloging News
Diane Boehr, Head of the NLM Cataloging Section, received an NLM Director’s Honor Award “In recognition of substantial and innovative contributions to the NLM cataloging operation and its impact on libraries worldwide.”

BIBFRAME (Bibliographic Framework Transition Initiative)
As reported in an earlier ALA update the NLM is a member of the BIBFRAME Early Experimenters Group in an effort to transition from the MARC 21 format to a new bibliographic framework. Nancy Fallgren, metadata specialist librarian, is the NLM representative, helping to review and develop the overall BIBFRAME model. NLM participation includes experimentation with modeling of NLM’s bibliographic resources and researching the possibility of publishing NLM’s authoritative data sets in a linked data format. NLM is leading the subgroup investigating the treatment of serials in BIBFRAME and a member of the subgroup investigating the treatment of holdings and items. Discussion papers on these topics are in process and eventually will be released for public comment on [http://bibframe.org/](http://bibframe.org/).

Digital Collections
NLM is continuing to digitize its collection, focusing on historical and out-of-copyright material. Staff will soon begin a long-term project to digitize monographs from the general collection that were published between 1914 and 1922 that have not been microfilmed. Approximately 13,000 monographs in English, Spanish, Portuguese and other indigenous American languages that were published from 1866 to 1900 will be scanned as part of phase II of the Medicine in the Americas project. A [Scan on Demand program](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/mj13/mj13_classification.html).
was recently launched in which pre-1923 monographs that are requested for inter-library loan will be scanned. The digitized version of the monograph will then be delivered to the requester and incorporated into the NLM Digital Collections repository for broader preservation and access. To commemorate the 100th anniversary of WWI in 2014 NLM will scan and make available a set of U.S. monographs, images, AVs and serials related to WWI.

NLM is also piloting the selection and ingest into the NLM Digital Collections repository of monographic titles and technical reports published within the Department of Health and Human Services and which comply with NLM’s general collection development guidelines. These monographs are either electronic only or available in print and electronically, but only the electronic version will be acquired.

In an effort to make its collections virtually accessible and “shareable” NLM released a new search-based Web Service that provides access to the Dublin Core metadata and full-text OCR of every resource in the NLM Digital Collections repository in XML format. Developers can use the Web service to build applications that query and link to these resources. The Web service is free of charge and does not require registration or licensing. More can be found at http://collections.nlm.nih.gov/web_service.html.

NLM also announced that Extensible Markup Language (XML) data from the IndexCat database is now available for free download at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/indexcat/indexcatxml.html. This new XML release includes the digitized content of more than 3.7 million bibliographic items from the printed, 61-volume Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General’s Office, originally published from 1880 to 1961. The XML describes items spanning five centuries, including millions of journal and newspaper articles, obituaries, and letters, hundreds of thousands of monographs and dissertations, and thousands of portraits. Together, these items cover a wide range of subjects such as the basic sciences, scientific research, civilian and military medicine, public health, and hospital administration.

NLM launched a small, operational program to collect and archive born digital Web sites and documents, following a pilot effort that resulted in the release of a Health and Medicine Blogs collection available from http://www.nlm.nih.gov/webcollecting. Using standard harvesting tools, program staff will determine workflows and procedures for building, maintaining, preserving and making accessible collections of born-digital Web resources, including NLM institutional Web sites.

Related, NLM is participating in the inaugural year of the National Digital Stewardship Residency (NDSR), a ground-breaking new program created by the Library of Congress in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Beginning in September 2013 NLM will host a Master’s program graduate to create a collection of Web content on a specific theme or topic of interest to the resident and relevant to NLM collecting strategies, such as medicine and art or the e-patient movement. More on the program and NLM project is at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/news/NLM_Digital_Stewardship.html.

Technical Services Division Strategic Planning
As reported previously the Technical Services Division (TSD) has been engaged in an extensive operational analysis of NLM cataloging and acquisitions activities. The Division’s goals are to streamline activities and operations by better aligning staff with current and anticipated workloads; expand its ability to acquire, license and process electronic/digital resources; support more technology to automate routine work while also undertaking innovative services; push tasks to lower level staff and contractors where appropriate and free up managers to focus on strategic issues; and increase data driven decisions for the operation and collection building.
Two years ago the R2 consulting firm delivered a report containing over 100 recommendations, including fairly straightforward things like “eliminate paper and manual transcription” to more complex issues such as “consider merging serials and monographs into a single acquisitions section.” In the interim Division staff have served on working groups to examine a host of issues and recommend areas for change and improvement. One group developed 85 flowcharts documenting where work is handed off from one person to another; where work moves from one organizational unit to another; and the type of staff position responsible for specific tasks. These diagrams provide a concrete way to analyze each procedure and discuss how it might be streamlined. The flowcharts will be maintained as standard documentation and revised, as needed, over time. Much staff time and effort were spent on the working groups but by spreading it out over approximately 9 months the impact on Division productivity was minimized.

Over the past few months Division managers have used the flowcharts and working group recommendations to propose a reorganization of TSD. This reorganization has received general approval but formal sign-off is required before any administrative changes can be made. The Division is now engaged in transition planning. While some less complex workflow changes have already been made supervisors and staff in the reorganized areas will be best able to undertake revision of the majority of workflow changes after the reorganization has been finalized.

**ARL Code of Best Practices in Fair Use for Academic and Research Libraries**

NLM staff are working on a policy to adopt the ARL Code of Best Practices in Fair Use, published by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) in 2012. The code is organized around eight principles of fair use best practices. NLM believes that adopting the principles that are relevant to its activities will open the door to exciting opportunities for new projects and allow NLM to create efficiencies in the work that it’s already doing. Adopting this code should allow the Library to use its collection materials to promote NLM programs and activities, preserve items in the NLM collection that are likely to deteriorate, and add relevant Web content to the NLM collection.

**Library Systems Planning**

NLM installed Voyager release 8.2 in April. In an effort to replace aging software and in some cases gain efficiencies by supporting fewer systems and platforms, NLM is undertaking a number of system replacements and/or consolidation. These include a replacement for the Meridian Electronic Resources Management System; a replacement for the WebVoyage Classic online public access catalog, named LocatorPlus; consolidation of the IndexCat data (mentioned above) from the ENCompass digital library system to an NLM Fedora repository; and testing of both Islandora and Blacklight to replace the Muradora software and provide administrative, search and browse functionality for the NLM Digital Collections Fedora-based repository.

The Technical Services Division (TSD) and other areas of NLM’s Library Operations have been utilizing Microsoft Sharepoint collaboration software in a number of ways. TSD has been examining how to automate its internal work processes and now uses Sharepoint to reduce paper forms, enable more efficient workflows and assist with project collaboration. Staff have been using a Sharepoint Knowledge Management (KnowMan) documentation system for creation, review, maintenance, and storage of procedures, policies, and workflows related to building, processing, and managing the NLM collection.

**MedPrint Update**

MedPrint, the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) Medical Serials Print Preservation Program, launched in September 2011, continues to grow. As a reminder, the program is an initiative to
ensure that multiple copies of important biomedical journals are preserved in print form across the U.S. and Canada. There are currently 18 signed agreements from all eight NN/LM regions and 42 libraries have committed to retain MedPrint titles. Of the 250 titles originally slated for preservation 244 have firm commitments, with 51 MedPrint titles having 13 or more commitments. Seventy-eight libraries have agreed to retain 1,174 titles. More at: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/psd/printretentionmain.html.

**National Survey of DOCLINE use and Resource Sharing Trends**

NLM chartered a strategic working group to investigate the decline in DOCLINE use, NLM’s interlibrary routing and referral system, which had a 49% decrease from 2002-2012. The group conducted three focus groups and a national survey of medical librarians to investigate what network librarians were doing – or what systems they were using to meet the needs of their users – outside of a traditional ILL model. The group had a 68% (n=2,405 invitations, 1,653 completed responses) response to the survey; most of the respondents (60%) identified their organizations as hospitals. The group also had almost a quarter identify themselves as academic institutions. Over 40% reported working in a one-person library and spending about 10 hours a week total on ILL activities. While slightly less than half of the respondents stated that their electronic journal license generally permitted ILL, almost 40% reported that it was difficult for library staff to know the specific license terms for a title. Those reporting a decline in borrowing activity attributed this mostly to their patrons choosing resources immediately available, whether in an electronic journal package or free on the Web. Still, 71% of the survey respondents predict that they will use ILL as the primary method to obtain sources for patrons over the next two years. NLM’s next task is to complete the analysis of data and the final report. NLM has no plans to eliminate DOCLINE but is trying to understand NN/LM needs. Details of the study can be found at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/mj13/mj13_mla_docline.html.

**PIE-J: Presentation & Identification of E-Journals**

NLM has a deep interest in the publishing models used by scientific journals, from the viewpoints of practical and efficient use of titles that are indexed for MEDLINE, and the clear and accurate preservation of the scientific literature for use by future generations. As such, it has been a partner in the development of a new Recommended Practice: **PIE-J: Presentation & Identification of E-Journals** (NISO RP-16-2013). This Recommended Practice was developed to provide guidance on the presentation of e-journals—particularly in the areas of title presentation, accurate use of ISSN, and citation practices—to publishers and platform providers, as well as to solve some long-standing concerns of serials, collections, and electronic resources librarians.

**Personnel and Budget**

**Appointments:**

- Dianne Babski began serving as the deputy associate director for Library Operations (LO) on April 22. She was Head of the MEDLARS Management Section in the Bibliographic Services Division in LO since 2008. The ADLO office oversees approximately 300 staff in seven divisions/offices/centers including the Technical Services Division.
- Dr. John Kilbourne began as the head of the Medical Subject Headings Section (MeSH) on March 25. Dr. Kilbourne had been a Medical Officer in MeSH Section since 2005, serving as the lead on RxNorm, NLM’s resource providing normalized names for clinical drugs using drug vocabularies commonly found in pharmacy management and drug interaction software.
- Don Jason, Nicole Lehotsky, Katherine (Kate) Masterton, Christian Minter and Holly Thompson were named to the 2013-2014 NLM Associate Fellowship Program.
Retirements/Departures:
• Paul DeAnna, Head of Cataloging Unit 1, Cataloging Section, Technical Services Division, retired on January 31.
• Paul Theerman, Head of the Images and Archives Section, History of Medicine Division, left on April 18 to take up the position of Associate Director of the new Center for the History of Medicine and Public Health at the New York Academy of Medicine.
• Loren Frant, Deputy Chief, Public Services Division, resigned from NLM on May 17.
• Margaret Byrnes, Head of Preservation and Collection Management Section, Public Services Division, retired on June 19.

Recruitments underway:
• NLM is currently interviewing candidates for deputy chief of the Public Services Division.

Recruitments expected in the next few months:
• Head of Cataloging Unit 1, Cataloging Section, Technical Services Division
• Head of the Preservation and Collection Management Section, Public Services Division
• Head of the MEDLARS Management Section, Bibliographic Services Division
• Head of the Images and Archives Section, History of Medicine Division


The NLM FY13 budget stands at $326.3 million, minus 5.5% or $19.2 million from FY12 and reflecting reductions from sequestration imposed on federal agencies March 1, 2013. NIH employees have not been furloughed to meet sequestration levels but travel, staff cash awards, hiring and contract spending have been limited. The impact of sequestration on the NIH can be found at [http://www.nih.gov/news/health/jun2013/nih-03.htm](http://www.nih.gov/news/health/jun2013/nih-03.htm). The FY14 budget will likely bring additional reductions. No reductions are expected to the NLM literature budget but NLM is considering programs to significantly reduce or cut in FY14.

Prepared by Jennifer Marill, Chief, Technical Services Division