SAC20-MW/1.6

**ALA ALCTS CaMMS Subject Analysis Committee**

**Report from the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA)**

**Midwinter Meeting, Philadelphia, January 2020**

The ARLIS/NA Cataloging Advisory Committee has discussed a variety of subject issues over the past few months.

A question came up about geographic subdivision of architecture headings. The basic documentation of practice is in the scope note in LCSH for Architecture. CAC prepared a posting for Catablog: ARLIS/NA Cataloging Section.

Folks had noticed that chronological subdivision for Christian art and symbolism in records on WorldCat was following at least two patterns: fine art and general practice. We discussed the matter and worked with Libby Dechman of the LC Policy, Training and Cooperative Programs Division to add text and examples to SHM H 1250. These revisions have now been added to SHM including on Cataloger's Desktop. This was also written up for posting on Catablog and a notice sent to some lists. The right practice is to follow H 1250 for Christian [etc.] art and symbolism, and establish the centuries explicitly.

Work on the update of Cataloging Exhibition Publications continues to go slowly as we await the release of the new version of RDA.

We have been discussing how "black and white" should play out in cataloging records, i.e., description, subject heading, genre/form terminology. Or not. For example, the subject heading Color photography goes back decades. The subject Black-and-white photography was only established in 1999. It's somewhat like other privileged headings, e.g., male, American and western, orientalism, white, vinyl records. We don't need to mention the supposed obvious. This privilege plays out in classification as well. (Personally, I don't see this as necessarily problematic so much as something that we need to understand as part of knowledge acquisition, organization, and access, over time.)

A concern which we have only begun to discuss and which will probably be a broader ARLIS/NA discussion is the WorldCat policy of not displaying holdings for libraries that don't have First Search subscriptions. A significant number of specialized art libraries contribute records on which they are the only holding, or one of a few. That resource will appear to have no holdings if the holding library/libraries are not subscribers.

Sherman Clarke

sherman.clarke@gmail.com