Library of Congress
Report of the Children's and Young Adults' Cataloging (CYAC) Program to SAC

The Children's and Young Adults' Cataloging Program (CYAC), at the Library of Congress, is responsible for the creation of metadata for the wide range of fiction material available in the United States for children and young adults, which is used by publishers, researchers, school libraries, and public libraries.

Through its activities, it develops and monitors standard policies and practices for providing access to juvenile literature.

Administrative (Staff and workload)
The CYAC team is currently comprised of four librarians. Stacey Devine, Program Manager, Kim Caulder, Kristina Doyle, and Trina Soderquist.

We had several staffing changes this past year. Robert Spalding continues to catalog CYAC material but is now taking over other cataloging duties due to a retirement in the section.

In August 2021, Ann Sullivan (CYAC cataloger) passed away suddenly from a very brief illness. Ann was an integral part of the Children's and Young Adults' Cataloging team and her leadership and insight will be missed. This is a huge loss for the Library of Congress and for the children's cataloging community. Ann joined the Library of Congress on January 26, 1981, and celebrated 40 years this year.

Notable activities
July 2021, over 11,500 CYAC subject headings were added to the online Children's Subject Authority file, in cooperation with the Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division. Users can find the headings in ClassificationWeb and id.loc.gov. These headings were previously located in a card file onsite at the Library of Congress, but are now available to the entire library community. The new headings were automatically generated and currently contain a MARC 667 field: Machine-derived authority record. The CYAC team is currently evaluating each heading and adding relevant scope notes, when necessary. When an evaluated heading is approved the Machine-derived authority record note is deleted. All proposals are placed on the CYAC Subject Headings Tentative Lists and the CYAC Subject Headings Approved Lists, which are available at https://lcconline.info/.

The CYAC team has started creating and distributing policy and procedure documents (C memos) for CYAC cataloging. Two C memos are now available at at: https://www.loc.gov/aba/publications/FreeCYAC/freecyac.html. The current policies provide guidance on how to write summaries and how to catalog toy and movables.

Cataloging Policy Decisions

CYAC Technical Meetings are held monthly, and all CYAC catalogers attend. The meetings include discussions of new policies, new CYAC headings that need to be proposed or modified and new or modified LCSH headings that relate to CYAC headings. Other matters related to CYAC cataloging and policies are also discussed.

We currently have seven approved subject lists and we have started to review the headings that were automatically loaded. We are also reviewing and establishing subject hierarchies--specifically a network of BTs, NTs, and RTs--when necessary, for many of the subject headings. The CYAC's subject headings previously relied on referring to LCSH for such relationships.

Since July we have approved 49 new subject headings, modified 108 subject headings, and cancelled 5 subject headings.

Current Projects

We are testing CYAC records in BIBFRAME and working with developers to ensure the appropriate subject headings are displayed and labeled correctly.

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