DALNET
Database Standards Committee
Minutes
September 29, 1988

Present: Anaclare Evans, Chair (WSU), Helen Ma (DPL), Ann Pogany (OU), Anne Sargent (UD), Theresa Shen (WCCC), Charlene Wecker, guest (WSU/DALNET librarian), Barbara Whitney (MCC).

The meeting convened at 9:45 in Helen Ma's office. The group welcomed Barbara Whitney from Macomb Community College. The minutes of the September 16, 1988 meeting were approved as distributed.

The second draft of the DALNET Database Standards was reviewed. Several changes had to be made in light of the fact that Macomb Community College will not be using OCLC as its source file for NOTIS. Therefore in point 3 of the 9/28/88 document, the phrase at the end "appearing in the OCLC Online Union Catalog." was removed, point 4 was removed and the phrase "when selecting among multiple bibliographic records in the CCLC file," was eliminated from point 5. Our source file is really MARC records from whatever utility they are obtained.

In point 9 in the last sentence the verb "will" was substituted for "should." Points 11 and 12 were reversed in numbering. The phrase ", established and approved by the Database Standards Committee and the DALNET Board." was added at the end of point 14. Discussion ensued on point 11 regarding an individual library's responsibility to create authority records for its materials. It is absolutely and unequivocally the responsibility of each institution to do its authority work though of course we do not stipulate a time frame, i.e. pre- or post-cataloging, today, tomorrow, or three months from now. Only personnel and time can make that stipulation.

The draft with revisions will be reviewed at the next meeting. In the meantime libraries should give the powers that be at their institutions a preview peek to find out if there are any serious objections so that we can hold the number of drafts down to one encompassed by the Arabic number system.

The purchase and loading of LC subject authority tapes is on hold until NOTIS release 4.6 (which includes merged headings) is available next year. The Standards Committee will then have to address question(s) such as is it worth doing at all, what are the advantages, what if OCLC begins to charge for access to its authority database, etc., etc. BNA has promised a service that would apprise us continually of changes, splits, merges, etc. to subject headings and at a very reasonable price. C. Wecker will check with BNA if this service has indeed been made available and the costs involved.

Libraries' authority tapes stripped by BNA and now waiting for a disc drive at WSU will probably be loaded by mid-November. Until these tapes are loaded DPL is only transferring/creating series authorities. Other libraries are urged to consider the problem since we are in effect duplicating both effort and records by transferring.

A draft of "Proposal for Distributed Authority Control" was distributed. This draft will be reviewed at the next meeting after members have had a chance to read it carefully.

Theresa Shen reported slow response time, terminal transfer strangenesses, discomfort and unhappiness among staff and patrons at WCCC. The Standards Committee while sympathetic felt that these problems did not belong to its purview. C. Wecker will follow up on the response time issue, which will perhaps solve the unhappiness issue. Any institution having these sorts of problems should call Wayne and tell them so they can work on the problem.

Miscellaneous tips for traversing NOTISland:

If any library's terminals go down and if the WSU Computing Center cannot solve the problem, or the library cannot reach the Computing Center in two (2) hours, C. Wecker or L. Bugg should be called.

NOTIS will not accept a ǂb in an 082 or 092. So when transferring a record simply remove the offending subfield.

Next meeting will be October 20 at 9:30 a.m. in the WSU training room. Meeting adjourned at 11:20.

Submitted by

Ann Pogany