

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

This document contains the report of the Joint Steering Committee for the Revision of AACR (JSC) to the Committee of Principals for AACR for the calendar year 2000. The report has been prepared by the Chair, Ann Huthwaite.

Membership

The membership of the committee was as follows:

American Library Association:	Brian Schottlaender (University of California at San Diego)
Australian Committee on Cataloguing:	Ann Huthwaite (Queensland University of Technology)
British Library:	Sally Strutt
Canadian Committee on Cataloguing:	Margaret Stewart
Library Association:	Sue Brown (Library Association)
Library of Congress:	Barbara Tillett
Chair:	Ann Huthwaite
Secretary:	Jacqui Norfolk (State Library of Queensland)

Meetings

Two meetings were held in 2000. The first, hosted by Brian Schottlaender for the American Library Association, was held in San Diego on 22-24 March. The second, hosted by the Library Association, was held in London on 13-15 September.

JSC had agreed that two meetings should be held in order to deal with the large amount of urgent business.

Mary Ghikas, Chair of the Committee of Principals, attended both meetings.

Rule revisions

JSC moved ahead with revisions in a number of areas. The most significant of these are described below.

Electronic resources

Chapter 9, currently titled “Computer Files,” will be renamed “Electronic Resources,” in line with ISBD terminology. The chapter has been revised substantially, bringing it in harmony with ISBD(ER) and making it more applicable to the description of contemporary electronic resources, particularly Internet resources. The revised chapter will be included in the next rule revision package.

Accommodating seriality in the rules

Jean Hiron, CONSER Coordinator at the Library of Congress, continued her work for JSC on the revision of chapter 12 for serials and other associated rules. A set of proposals prepared for consideration by the JSC constituencies was discussed by JSC at its September meeting; subsequently the Library of Congress compiled a “clean copy” of chapter 12 and other rules for further review.

An important outcome of the revision will be the inclusion in AACR2 of explicit rules for integrating resources, e.g., loose-leaves for updating and some Web sites; up until now cataloguers have been relying on a separately published set of guidelines for describing loose-leaf publications.

The next task for JSC will be to decide how to improve the treatment in AACR2 of multipart items issued over time.

“Content vs carrier”

One of the greatest challenges facing JSC and its constituencies is finding a way of dealing with the so-called “multiple versions” issue. In its current form the code does not cater well for works published in multiple formats; multiple records in catalogues for different versions of the same work create problems for users.

JSC approved the new wording for rule 0.24 of AACR2 proposed by the ALA Task Force set up to advance the discussion on the primacy of intellectual content over carrier. The revised rule states that it is important to bring out all aspects of the item being described, including its content, its carrier, its type of publication, its bibliographic relationships, and whether it is published or unpublished.

JSC also agreed to establish a working group to explore ways that AACR2 can deal more effectively with issues relating to format variation. In particular, the group will be asked to identify the practical issues associated with creating bibliographic records based on expressions of works. The JSC Format Variation Working Group will begin its work in 2001, and an interim report is expected before the end of the year.

Appendix for major changes

The ALA was asked to prepare a draft of a new appendix for AACR2 that would provide cataloguers with guidance in determining when to create a new record for a resource (major changes) and how to describe changes in an existing record for a resource (minor changes).

An interim report was submitted to JSC at its September meeting, at which JSC agreed that the appendix should include major changes only. Although rules for dealing with such changes are already present in the rules, the new appendix will pull all these together and greatly improve the usability of the code.

The ALA is preparing a follow-up document for discussion at the April 2001 JSC meeting.

Appendix of initial articles

A new appendix containing a list of initial articles in different languages has been compiled, and will appear in the next revision package.

Names of persons

Various revisions, originally proposed by the British Library, for the simplification and standardisation of certain name headings were approved, and will be incorporated in the next rule revision package. Included are headings for persons bearing British terms of honour and terms of address of married women. The changes will be welcomed by the cataloguing community, as the rules had been causing problems for MARC format alignment and record exchange.

Cartographic materials

A number of revisions originating from the Anglo-American Cataloguing Committee for Cartographic Materials were approved by JSC at its London meeting; further revisions, including those for describing scale, will be considered at its April 2001 meeting. A number of outcomes will result from the revised rules. Firstly, some issues that have been long-standing problems will be corrected. Secondly, the rules will be updated to deal with contemporary cartographic materials, especially electronic cartographic resources. Thirdly, AACR2 will be in alignment with the new revision of *Cartographic materials: a manual of interpretation for AACR2*.

Rule revision packages

The 1999 amendments, sent to the co-publishers in November 1999, were made available mid-year on the co-publishers' Web sites.

The next rule revision package is undergoing a final review by the constituencies. It is quite substantial, containing both the revised chapter 9 for electronic resources and the new appendix for initial articles, as well as a number of other revisions. The JSC Chair has advised the co-publishers that the index will have to be revised before the revisions are issued.

JSC intends to produce another package in the second half of 2001. Assuming agreement by the constituencies, it will contain a revised chapter 12 for serials and integrating resources.

As changes to the rules are more extensive and occur more rapidly than in the past, the co-publishers may wish to consider a form of integrating issuance for the hard copy version of the rules. Although the practice of cutting and pasting changes into the rules works effectively for minor changes, it will be much more difficult when the changes are significant, such as the issuing of revised versions of chapters 9 and 12.

Principles of AACR2

Barbara Tillett prepared a draft of a statement of the principles underlying AACR2 for discussion at the September meeting, based on the work of Elaine Svenonius in her book *The intellectual foundations of knowledge*. A revised version of the document will be placed on the JSC Web site. Ultimately it will be included in the expanded introduction to the rules.

Reorganisation of AACR2

There have been a number of calls for a reorganisation of part 1 of AACR2 according to the ISBD areas of description, starting with a recommendation from Tom Delsey following his analysis of the rules. It is felt that such an organisation would more easily accommodate new types of material than the current structure.

At the March 2000 JSC meeting in San Diego Bruce Johnson from the Library of Congress gave a demonstration of an “alpha” prototype of part 1 reorganised by ISBD elements, using LC’s Cataloger’s Desktop. The exercise demonstrated that more is required than a simple editorial reorganisation of the rules, and JSC agreed that before embarking on such an approach it should be certain of the overall benefit. It also agreed that users should be consulted before proceeding further, and have proposed that the “alpha” prototype be mounted on the JSC Web site to allow testing by practising cataloguers.

JSC Web site

One of the action items arising from the International Conference in 1997 was the establishment of an AACR Web site to “publicize and affirm ... JSC policies, procedures and activities as well as the current processes for submitting rule revision proposals ...”. JSC decided at its London meeting that there should be two sites (AACR and JSC), and that it would be responsible for the establishment of a JSC Web site.

John Attig (Pennsylvania State University) worked throughout the year on the prototype of the JSC Web site, in consultation with the Chair and other JSC members, and it is now publicly available. JSC will use the site to communicate with the cataloguing community on AACR developments and current activities of JSC. The purpose of the JSC Web site is to provide information on works in progress; it is not intended as a mechanism for making finished rule revisions available.

John Attig has suggested using the site as a working tool for tracking the status of JSC document series, and will present a prototype to JSC at its April 2001 meeting. This mechanism would be a very effective way of keeping groups such as the ISBD Review Group up to date with JSC decisions, and it is likely that JSC will pursue this suggestion, if it does not prove to be too labour-intensive.

Communication with the ISBD groups

JSC is aware that major changes to the rules may result in variance with the ISBDs, and in London it discussed mechanisms for communicating with the ISBD Review Group, which is currently chaired by John Byrum (Library of Congress). It agreed that the JSC Chair would send to the ISBD Review Group Chair a copy of finalised rule revision packages, annotated with potential conflicts between the two sets of standards. The mechanism on the JSC Web site for tracking the status of proposals, mentioned previously, would be another useful way of keeping the ISBD Review Group informed. Discussions were held in Washington at the time of the LC Bicentennial Conference on ways of improving communication between the two groups; it was agreed that in addition to more formal procedures there would be an increased level of informal communication between the two chairs.

The need to keep international standards for describing serials in harmony is particularly important, and a number of people, including Ingrid Parent, Jean Hirons, and Regina Reynolds, have worked hard to achieve this. In November 2000 a landmark meeting was held at the Library of Congress between representatives of JSC, the ISBD(S) Working Group, and the ISSN community. This was a timely meeting, as all three groups intend to issue revised versions of their standards in the near future. JSC is currently revising chapter 12; a draft of a revised ISBD(S) is about to be released for world-wide review; and, a new ISSN manual is being prepared. Areas for harmonisation were identified prior to the meeting, and after three days of discussion the three groups achieved very successful results.

LC Bicentennial Conference on Bibliographic Control for the New Millennium

A conference was held by the Library of Congress in November 2000 on the provision of effective bibliographic control of networked information resources, with invited participants from key groups and institutions. Three JSC members were present. The JSC Chair was asked to speak on the topic: "AACR2 and Its Place in the Digital World: Near-Term Solutions and Long-term Direction." Barbara Tillett delivered a paper on authority control on the Web, and Brian Schottlaender acted as a commentator for one of the papers.

Two of the nine topical discussion groups dealt with AACR, with one exploring solutions to the multiple versions issue, and the other examining short and long term directions for the rules. The recommendations from these two discussion groups (4a and 4b) may be found on the conference Web site, at this URL:
<http://lcweb.loc.gov/catdir/bibcontrol/recommendations.html>.

JSC's program of work

At the end of each meeting JSC documents a program of work for the following year, and in 1999 the agreed deadlines were met. Although this has been an effective forward-planning tool, JSC members have agreed that a more strategic, long-term approach to planning is needed. Strategic planning for JSC and AACR will be on the agenda for the April 2001 JSC meeting.

JSC policy and procedures

The Chair compiled a document outlining the current procedures of the committee, building on earlier documents and including new provisions to reflect current practice. The document (4JSC/Policy/4/Rev) was issued on 20 January 2001.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all the members of JSC for their tireless work throughout the year. I would also like to acknowledge the significant contribution made by Jean Hirons in her work on accommodating seriality in AACR2, and John Attig for his coordination of the development of the JSC Web site.

Ann Huthwaite
Chair, Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR
28 February 2001