# ALA/CORE Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access

February 2025

**Library of Congress Report**

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This document covers selected initiatives undertaken at the Library of Congress since the June 2024 virtual meeting of CC:DA, with a primary focus on descriptive cataloging activities. A fuller report for the Library of Congress is available at the [LC Update for ALA](https://www.loc.gov/librarians/american-library-association/annual/lc-update/).

## Staffing Changes in *Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division*

* Heidy Berthoud started as the Assistant Section Head within PTCP on January 27. This is part of a minor reorganization of PTCP for internal HR requirements.

## General Cataloging

### MARC

* Update No. 39 (December 2024) of the [MARC 21 Format for Bibliographic Data](https://www.loc.gov/marc/marc21_update39_online.html) has been published.

### Descriptive Cataloging Manual

* Quarterly DCM update packages: <https://www.loc.gov/aba/publications/FreeDCM/freedcm.html>
* Descriptive Cataloging Manual, Z1 section
  + Removed prohibition on using relationship designators in field 551 (Aug. 2024)

### Classification Web Plus

* No changes have occurred in the system.

### Cataloging In Publication (CIP)

* The Cataloging in Publication (CIP) Program received almost 126,000 print and e-books FY24 and through September 30, 2024. The CIP Program also created 24,193 e-book records, receiving 65,389 e-books, and ingesting 20,406 e-books, with significant support from the Digital Content Management Section.
* The CIP Program began making preparations to [PrePub Book Link](https://www.loc.gov/programs/prepub-book-link/about-this-program/) (PPBL) for the upcoming migration to FOLIO.

### ISSN

* **ISSN’s 50th anniversary year**: an ISSN Network celebration will take place in Paris in early October. A presentation highlighting ISSN history is planned for the NASIG annual meeting, to be held virtually in May. Plans for a commemoration at LC are being made. A special issue of *Serials Review* will be guest-edited by Regina Reynolds, Director of the US ISSN Center, and Tainá Batista de Assis, Director of the Brazil ISSN Center. A call for papers has been posted and will be shared on relevant lists.
* **ISSN Uplink**: A completely rebuilt version of ISSN Uplink, the U.S. ISSN Center’s customer service portal, was launched on August 12. Uplink is now providing faster and more efficient service to U.S. applicants for International Standard Serial Numbers (ISSNs). Developers for Uplink 2.0 succeeded with the aid of ISSN Section staff who provided ongoing input, testing, web page instructions for publishers, and staff documentation. First launched in November 2020, ISSN Uplink is popular with ISSN applicants and staff alike because it replaced a manual process that relied on emailed application forms. The ISSN Section in USPRLL manages the U.S. ISSN Center and interacts with serials librarians in USASH and the U.S. Serial and Government Publications Division who also assign ISSNs.
* **ISSN International Centre (ISSN IC)**: released an assessment of the 2020-2024 strategic plan as well as the new Action Plan 2024-2029. Achievements of the completed plan include the creation of cluster ISSNs for better resource tracking, the expansion of the Keepers Registry to 20 agencies for the preservation of digital and print serials, and the opening of 6 new ISSN Centers.  Key initiatives of the future plan include expanding the ISSN network, improving metadata quality, and fostering preservation through the Keepers Registry. Sustainability goals focus on reducing environmental impacts, while leveraging AI and international standards to ensure modernized identifier systems. https://www.issn.org/rubrique/actu-en/

### Romanization tables

* Revised table proposed for [Balinese](https://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/romanization/romguide/balinese-2024.pdf)

### BIBFRAME

* Held BIBFRAME Update Forum: July 2024 and in January 2025
* Released [version 2.8](https://www.loc.gov/bibframe/news/source/Conversion%202.8%20announcement.docx) of MARC-to-BF and BF-to-MARC Conversion Specifications: Dec. 2024
* BF Production cataloging at LC began.
  + Started Aug. 2024
  + Started with a small group; gradually adding more catalogers every month
  + Inputting BF work and instance descriptions in Marva system only (no double keying)
  + BF instance descriptions converted to MARC bibliographic records, loaded to Voyager system, and distributed
  + Resulting “[Modern MARC](https://www.loc.gov/cds/downloads/ModernMARC.pdf)” records may differ from past practice (e.g. some ISBD punctuation omitted, greater use of URIs and identifiers, etc.)
  + Limited to textual monographs for now (excludes rare materials)
  + Holdings/Item records still being created in MARC in Voyager
  + Authority records still being created/updated in MARC in Voyager
  + Serials cataloging still being done in MARC in OCLC/Voyager

### Library Collections Access Platform (LCAP)

* Phased implementation of new Folio-based system began in Fall 2024.
  + Phase 1 (order-based acquisitions) began Oct. 2024
  + Phase 1.5 (electronic resources management) began Dec. 2024
  + Phase 2 (full transition from Voyager system): anticipated June 2025
  + Will subsequently retire Voyager system and make continuous improvements to Folio system

## Descriptive Cataloging

### Serial Cataloging Training

* Steve Shadle did a CONSER serials training session for newer LC employees in August 2024. The sessions were recorded for future reference by LC catalogers.

### RDA and related Documentation

Implementation and Timeline:

* LC/PCC implementation: Rolling implementation from May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2027
* Currently, LC intends to implement in early 2027, after we have fully transitioned to LCAP
* PCC RDA Communication Committee [feedback form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdSXHgduC1TnjXS7ERb0ggGyaIr3Z5xVeqUWyQ2fzEHioQR_w/viewform) (may use to submit questions and propose revisions)

LC-PCC Policy Statements (published in Official RDA Toolkit):

* Reminder: Do not use yet; further revisions expected; may use error report form to report problems with grammar, punctuation, spelling, bad links
* Analysis of the policy statements based on the report of the PCC RDA Test Task Group is finished. The final changes are available in the February 2025 update. Further updates will happen as the MGDs are revised. This includes links to the developing string encoding scheme MGDs and the revised relationship labels MGD.

LC-PCC [Metadata Guidance Documents](https://www.loc.gov/aba/rda/mgd/):

* Analysis of the MGDs based on the report of the PCC RDA Test Task Group is completed.
* Updates are in process and each MGD is uploaded as it is updated. The update history at the bottom of each MGD will indicate the date of the most recent update and a summary statement of the changes.
* The first MGDs related to string encoding schemes (i.e. use of punctuation, normalization, etc.) were uploaded as part of the February 2025 update. New ones will continue to be added as they undergo final review. Once they are uploaded and added, policy statements will be added to link to them.

## Controlled vocabularies and Classification

### LCSH

* The quarterly Subject Editorial meetings are open to those who are interested; guidelines are established and available on the [SACO Calendar](https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/saco/saco-calendar.html). Notes and presentations that occur at these meetings will be available after each meeting on [Meeting News, Events, Reports - SACO](https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/saco/subject-editorial-meetings.html).
* A new instruction sheet on [Offensive words](https://www.loc.gov/aba/publications/FreeSHM/H1922.pdf) has now been published. As this is a newly established policy and instruction sheet, we strongly request input from the community on how it might be improved.
* Recent special lists that have been processed or are in process: **Multiracial people; Odia** to **Oriya**; deletion of headings with the subdivision **–Anglican Church** in favor of the existing headings for Church of England; new headings for subdivided forms of **Biographical comic books, strips, etc.** to use as the basis for the pattern headings.
* Heidy Berthoud, as SACO lead, developed a project process to better handle the special lists. This has now been implemented and instructions are on the SACO Projects page for how to propose a project. To know the status of an approved project, follow the [SACO Projects](https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/saco/projects-signboard.html) page.
* A current iterative project continues to address the Religion/Religions/Cults headings. The most recent change has updated *Afro-Brazilian cults* and **Afro-Caribbean cults** to **Afro-Brazilian religions** and **Afro-Caribbean religions** with all related updates. These are the first steps to change the use of **Cults—[Place]** to **[Place]—Religion**. PTCP is also examining the *Subject Headings Manual* for possible updates in the instruction sheets that discuss religious topics.
* The next steps for the project to address the form subdivisions in relation to full implementation of LCGFT continues to be under discussion.
* The newsfeed formerly called “LCSH Approved Lists” was modified to serve all announcement needs. It is now the “Library of Congress Vocabularies Announcements” and will include announcements relating to tentative lists, approved lists, summaries of decisions, updates to documentation, online quarterly editorial meetings and office hours, etc. for all LC controlled vocabularies and LC Classification.
  + Everyone is strongly urged to sign up to receive these announcements, as this will be our sole channel for communication via email. [[announcement](https://www.loc.gov/aba/cataloging/policy/LC-Vocab-Newsfeed.pdf)]

### LCGFT

* For FY2024, 175 proposals for changed or new headings were submitted and 125 were approved. Any comments on genre/form proposals should go to genreform@loc.gov.
* The April 2024 list started the process of developing genre/form terms for dance. Further proposals continue to appear on a list as they are ready. This project is establishing a hierarchy that works for types of dance and would welcome comment.

### LCC

* The project to revise classification schedules for the Former Soviet republics and related history section impacts continues with a current focus on the Kyivan Rus.
* The project to relocate and expand the classification of comics by other regions or countries from PN6790.A-Z to PN6800+ and to create a special topics number for comics at PN6715.A-Z continues with the development of documentation and related subject proposals.
* Caption clean-up related various subject heading changes is in process for: Slaves to Enslaved persons, Mormons to Latter Day Saints; Aliens to Noncitizens; and Deaf to Deaf people. These changes to captions must be evaluated in order to decide which ones need proposals related to potential change of Cutter.

### LCDGT

* LCDGT received 137 proposals and approved 118 new and changed terms.
* The membership of the LCDGT Advisory Group was updated to include members from: American Theological Library Association, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census Bureau, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, IPUMS, Kinsey Institute, Library of Congress, National Association of Scholars, National Library of Medicine, SAMHSA and, SIL International.

### LCMPT

* Four proposals were approved for LCMPT.

### CYAC

* The process of reviewing the automatically loaded headings continues. For 2024, CYAC approved 259 new, modified 581, and cancelled 146 subject headings.
* The CYAC team created a new cataloging memo for Fiction. The new memo C 1790 Fiction is now available at <https://www.loc.gov/aba/publications/FreeCYAC/freecyac.html>
* CYAC cataloging includes LCDGT in bibliographic records and created a list of the most frequently used LCDGT headings for CYAC.

### Dewey

* The Dewey Program assigned Dewey Decimal Classification numbers to 119,301 titles.