

## Core Technical Services Directors of Large Research Libraries Committee Columbia University Library Round Robin Report ALA Annual 2021

### **Return to Work**

All technical services staff handling physical materials now regularly work onsite. Work at home allowed us to complete numerous data clean up projects and long overdue recon for some special collections. We worked with curators to transform large gift inventories into brief MARC records. At this point all efforts are geared towards reducing book backlogs and paying invoices. We have had to suspend much of our NACO & BIBCO work. Columbia is planning to reopen the stacks mid-August and resume full services in September. We are developing a staffing model that, depending on assignments, will allow library staff to work entirely on site, at home, or a combination of both. Remote work is permissible if the essential job functions can be performed as well or better remotely.

### **Wikidata Pilot at Columbia University Libraries**

Columbia has been an active participant in the PCC Wikidata pilot. Over the past three years, the Columbia Libraries have been digitizing a large number of audiovisual materials from our collections as part of the [Mellon Audio and Moving Image \(AMI\) Project](#). Included in these materials are oral history interviews from the [Oral History Archives](#) at the Columbia Center for Oral History (CCOH). Oral histories are cataloged using individual MARC records, which are then fed into CLIO, the [Oral History Portal](#), OCLC WorldCat, and eventually in converted form, the [Digital Library Collections](#).

Initially, a trained cataloger created NACO records for individuals named in the interviews. With a staffing change, this was no longer possible but we realized that a highly trained paraprofessional could create Wikidata entries which capture the information about a specific interviewee at the time of cataloging. A NACO-trained cataloger could then use this information as a basis for minimal NACO records for use in our catalogs and databases. Both the Wikidata entry and the related name authority record contain their respective identifiers thereby linking the two descriptions.

## **Grant Projects**

Columbia continues to be involved in grant and University funded digitization projects which have had significant metadata and staffing components. We completed work on Manuscripts of the Muslim World and The Columbia-Princeton Electronic Music Center grants during the pandemic. Work continues on our multi-year [Mellon grant](#) to preserve and provide access to unique audio and moving image materials.

## **Diversity and Inclusion**

Catalogers are actively engaged in work on inclusive description. Most noteworthy was a cross divisional [project](#) to replace harmful terminology in our discovery system. To sustain this effort, Columbia, through its Diversity & Inclusion Committee, is developing plans for ongoing review, research, and institution-wide discussion on specific areas where further changes related to harmful language in the library's resource descriptions are needed.

## **Web Resources Collection Program**

Collections in Human Rights, New York City Places & Spaces and New York City Religions continued to grow. Of special note, we completed work on the Resistance Collection (2017-2021) and are beginning work on a new collection, Democracy Reform and Voting Rights in the United States. Columbia will shortly be advertising for a three year temporary Web Collection Librarian, serving the Ivy Plus Libraries Confederation.