

Slavic Cataloging and Metadata Committee

**Slavic & East European Studies (SEES) group of the
European Studies Section (ESS)**

Association for College and Research Libraries

2019 ALA Annual Meeting, June 22nd, 2019 (Washington DC)

Present: Larisa Walsh (U of Chicago), Alla Kroychik (U of Colorado-Denver), Mira Nezar (Library of Congress), Brenda Carter (U of Pittsburgh), Leigh Billings (U of Michigan), Masha Stepanova (Miami University), Diana Brooking (U of Washington), Thomas Keenan (Princeton), Leszek Czubik (Stanford), Sarah Theimer (U of New Hampshire), Cammeron Girvin (Library of Congress), Walter Slater (U of Michigan), Jim Kalwara (U of Colorado-Boulder)

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Approval of meeting notes from the ALA Midwinter 2019
3. Slavic Funnel report
4. Macedonian Romanization Table proposal update (Cameron Girvin)
5. Slavic Cataloging Manual update
6. Slavic cataloging listserv
7. Guberniias project
8. Linked Data for Production Non-Latin-Script Materials Affinity Group update
9. Reports from the field
10. Membership news, other business.

1. Introductions

2. Approval of meeting notes from the ALA Midwinter 2019

Moved by Cammeron, Seconded by Alla. Approved with no amendments

3. Slavic Funnel report

Slavic SACO Funnel https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/saco/Slavic_Funnel.html

The Slavic Subject Authority Funnel was formed in 2010 by the Automated Control Committee (old name of the Slavic Cataloging and Metadata Committee) and falls under the Library of Congress SACO Program. The goal of the funnel is to promote and facilitate the creation of subject authority records for all subjects relating to the cataloging of Slavic materials. The Funnel is a venue for catalogers who either do not have language and area expertise but would

like to propose a Slavic related subject heading, or they work in the library which is not a SACO member, so they are not authorized to propose a new subject heading.

Current participants include:

- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- University of Toronto
- University of Michigan
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Chicago

List of new proposals:

Subject headings:

1. Berdiāev family (Brenda Carter, University of Pittsburgh)
2. Women authors, Azerbaijani (Feyza Sayman, University of Michigan)
3. Elizaveta (Name) (Brenda Carter, University of Pittsburgh)
4. Comparative literature \$x Byzantine and Macedonian (Leigh Billings, University of Michigan)
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Class numbers:

1. DK511.K157 for Kaliningradskaia oblast in Local history class schedule for Russian Federation (Leigh Billings, University of Michigan)
2. KLB5820 - for local laws of Voronezh (Leigh Billings, University of Michigan)

During last ALA Midwinter Committee's meeting members were informed about a new wiki - **The Cataloging Lab** - at cataloginglab.org, created and administered by Violette Fox. It is designed to be a collaborative space for working on proposals for new LC subject headings. One of the features of this wiki is an option to advertise SACO funnels and to open them for a broader audience. For example, it already has a separate space for LAIPA, the Latin America and Indigenous Peoples of the Americas SACO Funnel. Larisa contacted Violet Fox and she was excited about this opportunity to host the page for the Slavic Funnel. Larisa is waiting for further instructions.

4. Macedonian Romanization Table proposal update (Cammeron Girvin)

Cammeron gave an update on the Macedonian Romanization Table Task Force that has completed its work last Fall. The proposal to revise the Macedonian Romanization Table is pending since the Library of Congress put a moratorium on any changes to Romanization Tables. The Proposal has been posted on the Slavic Cataloging Manual "What's New" page <https://sites.google.com/site/seesscm/home/what-s-new> so that it could be accessible to others.

5. Slavic Cataloging Manual update

<https://sites.google.com/site/seesscm/home>

The Manual became a valuable resource for many catalogers, in the US, as well as abroad. The Google Analytics Service sends monthly reports on the site's usage and there are some impressive numbers from month to month. Summary of the Google Analytics for May: Manual was visited 836 times, with average visit time - 1 min. 14 sec. The average time is interesting; why so low? Either somebody really knows what he/she is looking for, and finds it quickly, or the opposite - looking around and leaving within a minute without finding desired information?

A new Google Drive space has been created for the Editorial Board and for those who work on individual chapters

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Z9aXKcx3jmA_wpZzr0Hmc5dnGSuulUcm

Last Fall several people volunteered to contribute 11 new chapters to the Manual. One chapter, on Polish Personal Names, is ready to be mounted on the website. It was contributed by Leszek Czubik, and is an excellent addition to the Manual. 4 other chapters: Distinguishing diacritics in Romanization tables, Cursive script, Authorized access points for Slavic conferences, and Academic degrees in different languages are currently being worked on.

Manual is a work in progress. It already requires revision of several chapters that deal with scripts to reflect changes in OCLC that is (almost) fully Unicode compliant. So, chapters that explain how to handle characters not supported in OCLC are not relevant anymore, but probably need to be saved for historical purposes.

6. Slavic cataloging listserv (SlavCat)

The idea of the Slavic Cataloging listserv is not new. It's been bouncing around among Slavic catalogers for several years, but with the SEES/WESS merger and other changes in the SEES organization it was put on the back burner. The idea was revived last Spring by Adrienne Seely from the Chicago Public Library who felt strongly that catalogers ought to have their own listserv dedicated to cataloging issues. Adrienne did a survey on the usefulness of the listserv and received a very positive response from the Slavic cataloging community. Adrienne kindly agreed to give an update on the listserv today, but she couldn't come to the ALA.

Where are we with establishing a listserv? Research was done on the suitable host for the listserv, and the winner seems to be the ACRL's Sympa Electronic Discussion Lists service. Copy from Adrienne's email here: "Having looked at it a bit, it seems to me that ACRL makes it easy to create and manage a listserv through Sympa. A few particular advantages: it would be a stable long-term home for the list; it's not managed through a private for-profit company that can suck up all our data; and it's easy to change administrators/moderators regardless of the outgoing or

incoming admins' institutional affiliation. There's a FAQ with more information on creating an ACRL list here: http://lists.ala.org/sympa/help/admin#create_list."

It was agreed that the best option for the listserv administration would be if the Slavic Cataloging and Metadata Committee will take it under its wing, similar to the Slavic Funnel and Slavic Cataloging Manual. The listserv will need three people to administer it: listmaster, owner, and moderator. One person, presumably, can serve all three roles. But the overall administration should be in the Committee's hands.

An advantage of the list is that, whereas the listmaster, owner, and moderator must be members of the organization sponsoring the list (in our case, ACRL), it is possible to allow subscription by any interested party, even if he or she is not ACRL member.

The Committee unanimously voted last February on taking on the listserv's administration and the name of the listserv will be - SlavCat. We could have already had a listserv up and running but we encountered a stumbling block which is the ACRL rules that state that in order for an ACRL section to administer a listserv, it must be included in the Committee's charge and approved by the ESS Executive Committee.

A new sentence was added to the Committee's charge (in purple): The SCM Committee studies and disseminates information about cataloging, metadata and classification of Slavic and East European materials in the online environment, and advises on and develops best practices for Slavic cataloging. *The committee sponsors the administration of the Slavic Cataloging Listserv, SlavCat-list, which serves as a platform for the discussion of issues related to Slavic cataloging and metadata and is open to all.*

There was a hope that the ESS Executive Committee will meet between the ALAs and it would approve the revised Committee's charge, but it didn't happen. The Exec Committee will be meeting on Monday, June 24, and hopefully, the new charge will be approved, and we can start working on starting SlavCat. Look out for the announcements of the SlavCat's launch.

7. Guberniias project

This item is a follow up on the Slavic Cataloging Manual Task Force Final report, which identified several issues in Slavic cataloging that could be addressed by the Committee. One of the issues was the **inconsistent application of the qualifiers (Russia) and (R.S.F.S.R.) in the authorized forms of names for Russian guberniias**. Guberniias were administrative divisions of the Russian Empire, many of which continued to exist under the Soviet government until 1929. Some guberniias which fell into this category were established in the LC National Authority File with the qualifier **(Russia)**, despite the fact that the qualifier for geographic entities should be the latest form of name of the country in which the entity existed. This is also an issue for some Soviet cities.

Currently there are 102 records in the LC Authority file where guberniia names are either authorized access points or related name in field 551. After consultations with the Policy and

Standards Division of the Library of Congress this issue was clarified, and appropriate explanation added to the Slavic Cataloging Manual chapter [Guberniias](#). Further consultations with the PSD staff led to an agreement to undertake a cooperative project – between SCMC and the Library of Congress - on reviewing the authority records for all guberniias in regard to the validity of the qualifiers. The dates and details of this project are to be determined.

8. Linked Data for Production Non-Latin-Script Materials Affinity Group

<https://wiki.duraspace.org/display/LD4P2/Non-Latin+Script+Materials+Affinity+Group>

There are some interesting developments on the vernacular scripts in linked data environment front. The [Non-Latin Script Materials Affinity Group](#) was formed in April, 2019 and is intended to provide a forum for Sinopia Editor Linked Data cataloging community that deal with native scripts, and to explore different models of cataloging in non-Latin scripts in the linked data environment. Currently the group has 44 members from PCC institutions. The first kick-off conference meeting was held on April 30th. Group meets virtually twice a month, and had four calls so far. The meeting notes are stored in the LD4P2 Public Google folder and are open to anyone who is interested.

Link to the Group's Minutes:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oqZvIxnSeiWZMgWWD9uZTnVqmWxdc_bMOIDYrrQoVHM/edit

The group identified use cases for native scripts in BIBFRAME editor, compiled a list of existing transliteration tools and known issues with machine transliteration in MARC. It held a few demos on transliteration tools/macros for Arabic, Korean and Cyrillic scripts, and a demo on LC cataloging of non-Latin materials using the LC BIBFRAME editor.

The group has come up with the following questions:

1. Is transliteration still needed for all fields? (planning to conduct a cross-institutional survey). It seems that Library of Congress is moving towards limited transliteration. Quote from the Kate James' report to CC:DA: **“Development of a policy decision on inputting non-Latin script with limited romanization is a goal for the 2019 fiscal year”**.
2. Will any transliteration tools/macros be made available to use in Sinopia?
3. Is it possible to have one agency that is responsible for maintaining existing transliteration tools? Would the Library of Congress be an ideal candidate since LC is the home of all the transliteration tables?

9. Reports from the field

The meeting's attendees shared some news from the institutions where they work. Several universities - University of Michigan, University of Chicago, University of Washington - are migrating to new ILSs and/or experimenting with Linked Data. It's interesting but challenging time to be in cataloging!

Leszek mentioned the Stanford's participation in LC BIBFRAME and Sinopia editors testing as well as the participation in Non-Latin Script Materials Affinity Group.

10. Membership news

Current roster indicates that for the next year Committee has 5 members: Larisa Walsh (chair), Leszek Czubik, Cammeron Girvin, David Anthony Morris and new member - Brenda Carter (U of Pittsburgh). If any of you would like to continue to be on the committee or volunteer for the committee, please let me know and I will ask Megan Griffin to add you.

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/ess/acr-essabc?year=2019>