

Press Release: 10 August 2009

Joint Steering Committee (JSC) for Development of Resource Description and Access (RDA): New CILIP representative

The Cataloguing & Indexing Group is pleased to announce the appointment of Alan Poulter to the role of CILIP Representative on the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) for Development of Resource Description and Access (RDA).

Alan Poulter takes over from Hugh Taylor, Head, Collection Development and Description Cambridge University Library who has represented CILIP on this international bibliographical standards committee for the last 5 years. Hugh has given an unstinting contribution to the JSC at a time of great change in the world of descriptive cataloguing standards. RDA is the new incarnation of AACR – taking a print based cataloguing code, established in 1967, into the electronic era of metadata standards, placing it alongside Dublin Core as a resource description tool for use by all.

Alan started his professional career as a Sconul Trainee at the British Library and, after library school at Sheffield, was a cataloguer at the British Library's Bibliographic Services Division for many years, working on BNB. At BLBSD, his interest in the problems of cataloguing software led to a report on the revision of Chapter 9 which was presented to the Library Association/British Library Committee on the Revision of AACR2 back in 1986. After a stint as Deputy Systems Manager at the Science Museum, running a database holding the library collection, museum objects and archival records, Alan entered academia and collaborated on a book, 'Using AACR2' (LA Publishing, 1993), which was unique in applying expert systems to explaining cataloguing rules. He has maintained a teaching interest in the topic ever since. Alan will be well known to CIG members from his past column for *Catalogue & Index* which dealt with the then emerging issues around metadata, and a series of jointly-authored books from Facet explaining the Internet to librarians. Currently a lecturer at Strathclyde University, as well as teaching on the Masters in librarianship, he now also teaches on a specialist Masters in digital forensics.

Outside of work, Alan is a noted authority on the Internet on games (board games to be precise) and produces an annual listing of specialist games. He also reads and collects science fiction, and is active in the collaborative cataloguing going on, on LibraryThing.

Alan's appointment has been welcomed by the the current Chair of JSC Alan Danskin, who said: "I am delighted to welcome Alan Poulter as the CILIP representative to the Joint Steering Committee. His knowledge and experience will be a great asset in the future development of RDA."

Outgoing CILIP Rep Hugh Taylor said: "I am delighted to have had the opportunity to represent CILIP on the JSC for the past five years and to have been able to contribute to the development of RDA. I am leaving shortly after

the delivery of the text of RDA to its publishers, an almost ideal moment to hand over to Alan, who I am sure will relish - and be more than equal to - the challenges of implementation and further development in the years to come.”

Note to editors: *The constituent organisations represented on the Joint Steering Committee are:*

*The American Library Association
The Australian Committee on Cataloguing
The British Library
The Canadian Committee on Cataloguing
CILIP: Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals
The Library of Congress*

RDA is the new standard for resource description and access designed for the digital world. Built on the foundations established by AACR2, RDA provides a comprehensive set of guidelines and instructions on resource description and access covering all types of content and media.

JSC Website <http://www.rda-jsc.org/>

CIG: 6 August 2009