

## REPORT FOR LIBRAS CONTINUING EDUCATION COORDINATOR

I attended the national meeting of the Music Library Association that was held in Dallas, TX on February 16-18, 2012. MLA is the primary professional organization for music librarians in the United States and Canada. At its annual national meeting, there are sessions on all aspects of music librarianship: cataloging, reference, circulation and reserves services, music collections, buildings, music bibliography, historical research in music, and copyright. When I attend the MLA annual meeting, I concentrate on sessions that apply to my primary areas of responsibility as music librarian at Wheaton College: music cataloging, music reference, collection development, reserves, and copyright.

A plenary session that I attended showcased music special collections from the University of North Texas. UNT has one of the largest university music schools in the country, and was a pioneer in jazz education. They have acquired numerous collections of jazz and dance band music, from both radio stations and prominent jazz bandleaders. Student musicians from UNT performed different arrangements of jazz standards, demonstrating a range of musical styles and arranging techniques. It was an inspiring example of the basic mission of libraries: preserving materials in order to promote study, research, and (especially for music libraries) performance.

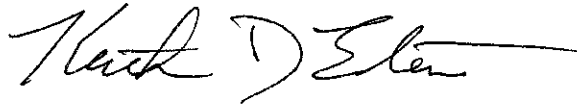
A well-attended session that I saw was on the Code of Best Practices in Fair Use for Academic and Research Libraries, presented by Brandon Butler of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and Patricia Aufderheide of the American University School of Communications. They discussed the results of a project to codify "the library community's current consensus about acceptable practices for the fair use of copyrighted materials" and "how those rights should apply in certain recurrent situations." Brandon Butler's portion of the presentation was particularly helpful. He emphasized that how important it is to document the consensus of a particular group of copyright stakeholders, and that judges when ruling on fair use disputes "consider expectations and practice in assessing what is 'fair' within that field." The report is available online at <http://arl.org/fairuse>. The same people will be presenting this session in April at Northwestern University. Anyone with an interest in copyright issues would benefit from studying this report.

I attended a presentation of the results of a survey of music students at a large university school of music, that tried to determine where they obtained scores and recordings for their study or performance (either through resources that the library purchased and cataloged or sources that were free and available to all). The knowledge gained from this kind of survey would be valuable for any library in planning for purchases, but also for directing teaching and outreach activities. Another session presented some library's uses of new social media products, such as Spotify or other Internet radio products. Another session presented the results of an MLA committee's work to compile a "music discovery requirements" document, which is a document that explores "discovery needs specific to and especially important for music materials, particularly scores and recordings." It is geared specifically to the developers of new web-scale discovery tools such as World Cat Local or Primo. It is obvious that there is much that needs to be done to make these web-scale discovery tools retrieve music materials even adequately, since they appear to have the average undergraduate or even high-school student in mind as the target user, not the experienced searcher or scholar.

I attended two sessions that discussed the upcoming switch in descriptive cataloging from the AACR2 standard to the RDA standard. Several committees in MLA have been involved in the

writing and editing of RDA, and these sessions presented the current state of thinking for the description of music materials. Another session on cataloging that I attended was a speculative discussion of possible ways for library cataloging to link to data from other expert groups, in order to enrich catalog descriptions while reducing duplicative work. For instance, rather than maintaining geographic data in Library of Congress Subject Headings, library catalog records could link to the geographic data maintained by the GeoNames geographical database.

It was a good conference, which has stimulated my thinking on a number of issues. I thank the LIBRAS Continuing Education Committee for its support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Keith Eiten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

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