2009 Annual Report of the BCLA Cataloguing and Technical Services Interest Group

By Linda Woodcock.

BCCATS, which has been in existence since 1978, became a formal Interest Group of BCLA in June, 2004. Membership currently stands at 76. Our group is open to anyone with an interest in Technical Services issues. If you are new to TS and are looking for support BCCATS offers a forum for both casual questions and formal learning.

BCCATS meets twice per year to discuss issues of mutual interest amongst Technical Services people. Our discussions range from cataloguing standards, to managing MARC records for electronic resources to Technical Services workflows.

As a group, BCCATS communicates with national and international standards groups on issues of cataloguing and the MARC format. This year we renewed connections with Library and Archives Canada, with Bill Leonard, Information Standards Specialist, establishing a more formal liaison with the Chair of BCCATS.

Our normal practice of holding training workshops once or twice per year was put aside for this year as we waited for the new cataloguing standard, RDA: Resource Description and Access, to be released. In February of 2010 BCLA Continuing Education sponsored a well-attended cataloguing-related workshop: Managing MARC Record Sets with MarcEdit, with our Chair, Linda Woodcock, as the instructor.

A very successful half-day pre-conference session on RDA: Resource Description and Access was held at the BCLA Annual conference in Penticton. The three speakers, Susan Andrews (University of British Columbia), Adam Schiff (University of Washington) and Linda Woodcock (Kwantlen Polytechnic University) provided a solid introduction to the new cataloguing standards. The afternoon's agenda included the background to RDA's development, a review of its underlying structure, an introduction to the concepts of FRBR and FRAD, a detailed look at the changes to the rules themselves, and a sneak peak at the new online RDA product.

The coming year promises to be a very interesting time with RDA's long-awaited release expected in June, 2010. Our members are working hard to keep abreast of the RDA implementation issues and will be involved with national efforts to roll out training to those in the field.

Linda Woodcock is the Chair of the BCLA Cataloguing and Technical Services Interest Group.