

Draft Agenda

**Technical Services Discussion Group (TSDG)**

ALA Midwinter Meeting, Dallas, TX

Sunday, January 22, 2012

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Sheraton Dallas Hotel - Trinity 4

1.) **Welcome and introductions.**

2.) **Backlogs of ephemera.** How are people handling large backlogs of ephemeral materials, such as collections of corporate pamphlets or of auction catalogs? Are catalogers creating collection-level MARC records in such cases or are other solutions being tried --for example, finding aids? In that regard, what are the relative advantages of collection-level MARC records versus finding aids? Does the size of a collection make a difference in which format is chosen?

3.) **Assessment.** How does one go about assessing cataloging? Special collections catalogers typically take time to make elegant and complete item-level records—how can we determine that it is worth the time/money it takes to make such records rather than minimal- or even collection-level records? Do our full records make a difference to patrons? To public services? How can we prove to our administrators the value of our full-level cataloging?

4.) **Cataloging foreign language materials:** Can we justify acquiring materials from non-English speaking communities and then providing access to them only in English? Are there institutions that have addressed this issue through creating bilingual finding aids or bending cataloging rules to provide additional subject headings and bibliographic notes in the native language of the material in their cataloging records? And, on a related topic, how do catalogers deal with large foreign language collections when there is a lack of local expertise in that language?

5.) **Artists' books.** Are libraries currently buying artists' books? Do libraries have collection policies in place for them? How are catalogers dealing with artists' books? Are all agreed on the definition of artists' books? Is there a general understanding about the difference between the genre terms --“Artists' books” and “Livres d'artistes”? Are these terms always used in the cataloging of them? Do we know how patrons find these books and how they make use of them?

6.) **Announcements.**

Annie Copeland and Ellen Ellickson, Co-conveners for TSDG