Minutes of AJL’s RAS Cataloging Committee Meeting, AJL Convention, Montreal, Quebec, June 19, 2011

Present: Elhanan Adler, Lenore Bell, Sharon Benamou, Joan Biella, Marina Goldsmith, Barbara Kemmis, Marina Korenberg, Stanley Nachamie, Jasmin Nof, Avrom Shuchatowitz, Galina Teverovsky, Daniel Scheide, Rachel Simon, Aaron Taub, and Galina Teverovsky.

Began 2:35

1. Minutes from 2010 approved.
2. Jewish Law Genre/ Form Update
   1. Meeting held at Library of Congress in November 2010. The following terms approved: Gittin, Ketubot, and Takkanot. Others referred to other projects. Questions about how to retain chronological subdivisions for terms such as Responsa.
3. Religion Genre/Form Update. Erica Treesh and Cameron Campbell of the American Theological Association (ATLA) reached out to interested communities. Cameron, who is Director of Indexes for ATLA, created a wiki and people have been logging in and creating entries. Next steps are to work with lists of terms and create syndetic structure. While committee wanted to finish this summer, Janis Young of LC is not ready and group will be working through the Fall. Met with LC and list of issues sent back to LC. Eliminated term “religious.” Following meetings held at the Library of Congress in June and August 2011 regarding Judaism genre/form headings as well as feedback provided by catalogers at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, a number of questions were raised. First, the question of “granularity” of terms was discussed. Should terms be applicable across religions? If terms are so unique that they cannot be brought up to the most general level, they need to be identified. Lenore suggested that we look at how the references will be structured. If “religious” is stripped from biography then it belongs to the literature project. Additionally, a question was raised about whether the language used in LCSH (i.e. Jewish sermons, Hebrew) will be retained in genre/form headings. Furthermore, the fate of existing LC subject headings that are essentially genre/form terms (i.e. Jewish sermons, Haggadot $v Texts, etc.) will have to be determined. These and many other questions will benefit from RAS Cataloging Committee input.
4. *Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World*. Rachel Simon wants this resource to be an authorized option only for Hebrew names. This would only be for institutions permitted to establish names in Hebrew. Joan is concerned that it is an expensive resource and not all catalogers have access to it. Could be recommended to PSD to include this in a Library of Congress Policy Statement. Jasmin would like for librarians at institutions who own the resource to provide information for those who do not. A decision was tabled for further discussion via e-mail.
5. RDA - Joan and Heidi were test participants. They may have been the only ones who worked on Hebrew materials. They decided to write a paper about their process and experience for *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*. They collaborated with the RDA help line to formulate policies requiring Hebraica/Judaica expertise. Heidi and Joan sent their paper to Judy Kuhagen and Beacher Wiggins for revision. The *Hebraica Cataloging Manual* will have to be rewritten under RDA. Comments boiled down to this: the Hebraica/Judaica cataloging community will have to tell RDA editors what we want and policy statements will be written to note these preferences. Policies for situations encountered in Hebraica publishing, not covered specifically by RDA instructions, will have to be proposed by us. For example, titles beginning with “Sefer.”
6. The Judeo-Arabic romanization table was approved and adopted.
7. A Syriac romanization table is being prepared by the Middle East Studies Association (MELA). LC’s procedural documentation now requires new table to be “machine reversible” to the extent possible. The Syriac table conforms quite well but not perfectly.

Adjourned 3:30

Minutes taken by Sharon Benamou; redacted by Aaron Taub and Joan Biella