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Eva Sorrell TSSA Winter 2009

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Winter 2009 TSSA Report

Name, Department, and Email address:

Eva Sorrell
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Name and Date of conference attended:

American Library Association Midwinter Meeting 2009
January 23-28, 2007

Skill(s) Studied:

Sessions I attended included: Continuing Resources Cataloging Committee; RDA Update Forum; OCLC Update Breakfast; Continuing Resources Cataloging Committee Forum: Working with Vendor-Supplied Records; Copy Cataloging Discussion Group: WorldCat Local and the impact on Copy Cataloging; QuestionPoint Users Group Meeting; Contract Cataloging; ALCTS Forum: Creating and Sustaining Communities Around Shared Library Data and OCLC Use Policy; Cataloging of Children's Materials Committee; and WorldCat Local: All of Your Library's Content in One Search Box.

Impact on Current Assignment/Teaching (How was this info applied)?

As usual, I found this conference to be a good use of my time. I did a lot of networking and found the sessions I attended interesting and helpful, although they did not focus on the topic I had anticipated. The session I wanted to attend on cataloging born-digital materials was changed to "Turf Lines: Maintaining a Shared Catalog at Michigan State University and the Library of Michigan" which I did not attend. Also, although I attended the RDA Update Forum, RDA is even further behind schedule than thought. This means that the national libraries will not make a decision on implementation until next spring at the soonest and therefore most libraries probably will not implement until 6 months to a year after that. But it is good to know for planning purposes. I was also glad to hear that the pricing would be reasonable, even though any new costs given the current economic situation will be difficult.

Several of the sessions I attended were related to WorldCat Local. Several libraries have begun to use WorldCat Local as their default library catalog. This was a timely topic since the CSU libraries just replaced Pharos, our consortial union catalog, with WorldCat Local. Interestingly, interlibrary loan requests for libraries using this has increased exponentially. Eventually, if OCLC continues to make improvements and respond to some of the concerns stated by libraries, this product may become a substitute for library catalogs and eliminate redundancies inherent in all of our libraries maintaining separate databases.

Date Submitted:

February 13, 2009