

AALL Representative Annual Plan

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Name: George A. Prager

Name of Organization: American Library Association Machine Readable
Bibliographic Information (MARBI)

Name of Your Primary Contact with the Organization:
Stephanie Schmitt, Library and Learning Resource
Center, Zayed University, P.O. Box 19282, Dubai, UAE

Goals and Objectives for Year

What AALL interests will be furthered by you as the representative and how will this be accomplished.

First, it's necessary to offer some background on the MARC 21 formats and the MARBI Committee. The MARC 21 formats occupy a preeminent position in the American bibliographic community, and increasingly worldwide. Libraries, museums, archives, and many other organizations use one or more of these formats (Bibliographic, Authority, Holdings, Classification, and Community Information). Several countries have switched from using their own proprietary format to MARC 21 (such as Canada and Great Britain), and some are in the process of switching over (Germany). The MARBI 21 Formats are maintained and updated largely through the work of the MARBI Committee.

During the remainder of my 2007/2008 term as AALL MARBI representative, I will familiarize myself with all of the materials which are to be presented at the 2008 MARBI Committee Meetings, before both the ALA Midwinter and ALA Annual Meetings. I will also monitor and participate in the MARC Forum discussions. At the ensuing ALA meetings, the representative takes part in the discussions. Topics for these meetings involve proposed changes to the MARC 21 formats in the form of MARC proposals and discussion papers, reports given on developments in the cataloguing rules, and related topics. The representative presents any of the concerns of the Law Library Community, if any, including his own. Often, the proposed changes to the format aren't specifically targeted to benefit just law libraries, but involve changes which will benefit virtually all users of the formats. But in some cases, proposals and discussion papers are presented which appear to be primarily in the interest of specific constituencies, such as changes which may most benefit the Art, Music, Cartographic, or Law Cataloging Communities. For example, an earlier successful proposal "Making Field 260 Repeatable in the MARC Bibliographic Format" will be highly beneficial to the Law Library Community, when it is implemented.

After the ALA Meetings, the MARBI Representative summarizes the results at the AALL Annual Meeting, in an annual report mounted on the SIS' Website, in a report to AALLNET, and, if needed, via electronic discussion lists, and in columns in *Technical Services Law Librarian*.

In conclusion, I will continue to do my best to conscientiously serve the needs of the Law Library Community as AALL MARBI Representative.

Liaison Function with other Committees or Special Interest Sections

Currently, the MARBI Representative does not liaise with other groups, committees, or SISs. He/she does keep in communication with the NISO representative, whenever there are matters of joint interest.

Resources

This position necessitates receiving ongoing support from AALL to attend both the ALA Midwinter and Annual Conferences, during which the meetings of the MARBI Committee are held. I don't anticipate that other AALL resources or support will be necessary.