

# WORKSHOP

by Wendy Nobunaga

## New Horizons:

Saturday, July 11, was finally here. The day we all learned what to do with our library's JX collection. Picture this: between 50 and 60 people all with JZ-KZ on their minds, many of whom had that confused, "what am I going to do?" look on their faces. Not a pretty sight, especially when they discovered the only refreshment offered this morning was coffee, tea, or water. I would have thought, considering the complexity of the topic, a bit of comfort food would have been appropriate. Fortunately, cookies and soda were offered during the afternoon session.

## New Schemes for

## New Regimes:

## Understanding

## and Implementing

## JZ & KZ

In any case, the program began late with a short introduction and overview by **Carol Shapiro** (Head of Cataloging at New York University Law Library), followed by **Jolande Goldberg** (Senior Cataloging Policy Specialist for Law Classification at the Library of Congress), who provided us with a lengthy and highly complex presentation on the history of the JZ-KZ construction and the philosophy behind the designing of the new schedules. I have to admit I was unable to follow all of what Goldberg said. There is only so much you can stuff into this brain of mine, especially on a Saturday morning. Fortunately, much of the same information can be found in Jolande Goldberg's *Library of Congress Classes JZ and KZ: Historical Notes and Introduction to Application*, which was given to all the program participants and is available for purchase from the Library of Congress Cataloging Distribution Service.

The next speaker was **Rebecca Guenther** (the Library of Congress), who demonstrated Library of Congress' Web-based classification database. The Minaret database was very impressive for it brings together all the schedules and provides built-in links to tables and references. I was highly disappointed to hear that this database is available only in-house at the Library of Congress and LC is looking into getting this system available to the public. In the meantime, I made sure to "ooo" and "aah" just as loud as everyone else.

Following an on-your-own lunch break, **Brian Striman** (Head of Technical Services & Associate Professor of Law at the University of Nebraska Law Library) provided an energetic and comedic delivery of practical advice on the classification decisions we will be making when we begin our own JX reclass project. His presentation included recommendations for which JX titles to reclass first, global versus local considerations, instances when not to reclass, and a general plan on how to approach the reclassing of JX. Striman discussed the YRATS Project (Yale Law Library's JX reclassification project), and provided us with some of the best sites to search

for JZ and KZ numbers. The useful information and amusing style of his presentation was a crowd pleaser, which is especially surprising since we were all still suffering from our lunchtime food buzz.

Though Striman was a tough act to follow, **Christina Tarr** (Cataloging Librarian at University of California School of Law Library) provided a just-as-useful presentation on her library's plan for the reclassification of United Nations materials. Tarr discussed the reclassification of works about the United Nations, as well as the reclass of official records, sales publications, and masthead documents. She provided a variety of examples in both her handouts and overheads. She explained the reasoning behind each reclass decision and valiantly defended her choices when a full blown discussion broke out. Luckily the cookies arrived and things settled down.

The program ended with the participants breaking up into small groups to work on reclassification exercises prepared by the panel. Actually working on reclassing using the JZ and KZ schedules provided the much needed practice we all desired. A question and discussion session followed with the answers to each of the exercises shown on the overhead. For me this was the most useful part of the program. I was given the opportunity to work with a group of experienced catalogers, all of whom I discovered were in the same confused ship as I was in terms of the whole JZ-KZ reclass. It was very comforting to know I wasn't alone.

Was the program worth it? I have to say yes even though the program did have its flaws. Handouts were in abundance, though because they were not collated it was impossible to match the handouts to what was being shown on the overhead screen. The theoretical and analytical aspect was given priority over the practical. All I wanted from this program was to become comfortable with the idea of having to do a JX reclass. I agree that we all need to know the history and reasoning behind the JZ-KZ schedules, but more time should have been given to the practical —i.e., the small group exercises.

Am I ready to begin my library's JX reclass? Sort of. I know I still have a great deal to learn. What I discovered from attending this program was all I really need to do is just dive right in and begin reclassing my JX titles. The more experience and practice I get doing this, the better off I will be. JX reclass, here I come.

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