

## **SALALM Newsletter**

### **NACO-MEXICO Funnel Project Formed**

In March 2003, SALALMistas Ana Cristán (Library of Congress) and Ageo García (Tulane University) conducted a name authority workshop at the Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí (UASLP) and not only inducted UASLP into the NACO Program, a component of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC), but also welcomed UASLP as the coordinator of a newly-formed NACO funnel project or "proyecto chimenea" as these multi-library affiliations are referred to in Spanish.[1]

UASLP located in the central valley of Mexico has emerged as a leader in the Mexican library community in recent years. UASLP's Director of Libraries, Lic. Juan René García Lagunas, headed the negotiating team that enabled a consortium of eight libraries from the central region to acquire the cataloging services of OCLC. The network of libraries named "Red de Sistemas de Bibliotecas de las Universidades del Centro" (RESBIUC) has been in existence since 1977 and according to García Lagunas were very aware that there is "strength in cooperation" and had been seeking to join the international community in actively sharing the benefits and costs of cooperative cataloging.

In early 2001, shortly after becoming members of OCLC, UASLP staff members Luz María Martínez Alvarado (Jefe del Depto. de Organización Bibliográfica) and Julia Margarita Martínez Saldaña (Jefe del Depto. de la Sección de Análisis Bibliográfica) attended a presentation by Cristán in Mexico City and became interested in joining the Program for Cooperative Cataloging. Spurred by UASLP's desire to join the PCC and the heightened visibility of its cataloging via OCLC, Martínez Alvarado and Martínez Saldaña began to coordinate workshops on MARC 21 and AACR2 with the goal of strengthening the cataloging skills of its consortium participants to assure adherence to these international standards for cataloging.

In May 2002, Martínez Saldaña attended the Taller LCSH held at LC and began discussions with Cristán on the possibility of joining NACO that led to the eventual receipt of their PCC application in October. One of the points under discussion was whether or not to form a funnel project to include all RESBIUC participants or to encourage each institution to participate individually. Unable to reach consensus within RESBIUC but also keenly aware of the developments of the NACO Program to impose numerical quotas on small libraries, García Lagunas invited all eight consortium participants to send one or two catalogers as observers to the NACO training workshop. This invitation was also extended to include non-RESBIUC members: the Colegio de San Luis, the Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas, and representatives from the Biblioteca de Luis Angel Arango (Bogotá, Colombia), Universidad de Costa Rica, and the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración (Caracas, Venezuela) bringing the total number of attendees to thirty.

Cristán, well aware of the logistical difficulties of presenting a workshop to a large group, invited García (Tulane University) to San Luis with the dual intention of 1) assisting with crowd control so that efforts could be focused on UASLP staff to assure their NACO training and 2) providing a Train-the-Trainer opportunity for García to become a PCC NACO regional trainer. García, a native of Mexico with an MLIS from the University of Texas, had previously worked at the Universidad de Baja California and El Colegio de México (COLMEX) and at both places was instrumental in implementing cooperative cataloging projects. While at COLMEX García attended a NACO workshop and since that time has been active in translating NACO, SACO,

MARC 21 as well as LCSH documentation into Spanish. Prior to that García had also participated in the translation of the 1988 version of AACR2 published by Rojas Eberhard. García's skills with OCLC, his knowledge of AACR2, MARC 21, and his command of Spanish greatly enhanced the training and cemented his initiation into the cadre of PCC trainers.

During the NACO training Cristán and García met with the Director of UASLP Libraries and decided that UASLP should indeed undertake the coordinator role in the formation of the proyecto chimenea to be called NACO-MEXICO and named Martínez Saldaña as the NACO funnel coordinator. With UASLP in the lead, NACO-MEXICO is to be initially comprised of nine institutions including: Colegio de San Luis, Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes, Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila, Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro, Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas, Universidad de Guanajuato, Universidad Juárez del Estado de Durango, and the Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo. At the time of the workshop some of the institutions had not applied for MARC 21 identification codes and since some are not members of OCLC it was decided that a staggered approach would be the best mechanism for working out workflow procedures, facilitating review, and continued training. The universities of Aguascalientes, Coahuila, and Zacatecas will take the lead in the first phase and will be joined in the second phase (June or July) by the other institutions. It is expected that the Universidad de Costa Rica, the Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango, and IESA would be phased in on an ad-hoc basis.

The success of the workshop was due in part to the OCLC CatME authority module in Spanish. The PCC owes a great deal of appreciation to OCLC for this development that will greatly facilitate and encourage the participation in the PCC of more Latin American libraries. In their first month of participation the Proyecto Chimena NACO-MEXICO has already contributed over 40 name authority records to the NACO authority file that is distributed to the global library community, a truly auspicious beginning.

[1] Proyectos chimenea, as developed by the PCC, are groups of libraries participating in a cooperative project through which a coordinator acts as the principal conduit to the Library of Congress for processing of name or subject authority records and assumes the responsibility for meeting the administrative requirements of PCC membership. The benefit of participating in such projects is that a small or resource-deprived institution can participate in the larger PCC projects with minimal expenditures. The coordinating institution is also responsible for dissemination of required PCC documentation. May enable participation by inputting records for participants that are not member of one of the bibliographic utilities that partner with LC for NACO input/update activities, and/or provides access to reference materials, reviews name and/or subject proposals, etc. The lead institution is empowered to set project policies, to recruit new members, provide customized training and/or continuing education workshops.