

SAA-ACRL/RBMS Joint Task Force on Holdings Metrics

Conference call: 21 May 2015, 2-3 EST

Present

Alvan Bregman, Martha O'Hara Conway, Angela Fritz, Emily Novak Gustainis, Lisa Miller, Katy Rawdon (recorder), Cyndi Shein

Absent

Lara Friedman-Shedlov

I. Discussion of digital materials

- The “digital/analog” issue. Do we separate them within categories? How do we count them? Several members mentioned that in counting a collection, they included access copies (digital or microfilm). Do we count by format in every case?
- How do we define “digital”? Lisa introduced the concept of file based systems free from carriers; Martha: “recorded digitally, and/or file based, free from a carrier.” Emily thought that the definition should also address commonly held notions of digital, including obsolete media. Should we use “physical” instead of “analog”? Katy: the difference is that what we think of as digital is stuff that is recorded using binary code. Including things that fall somewhere in the middle, like DAT.
- We do need to explain how to count digital materials regardless of whether we put those materials in each category, or as a separate category. And we still need to count both bibliographic units and space used.

Decisions:

- We will include digital formats in the category definitions.

II. Group review of Moving Image Material definition

- Discussion of flip books, video games, time-lapse photography as moving image material in other definitions. The group considers items like bound flip books to be books, and time-lapse photography to be graphic/visual material.
- Discussion of proposed definition, scope, and examples.

Decisions:

- Agreed on the proposed definition, scope, and examples, with exclusions specified, for moving image material.

III. Group review of Sound Recordings definition

- Soundtracks: if it is bundled with a film, it is counted with film; if it is separated, count it with audio.
- Discussion of how extensive to make the scope – examples should not be listed here – and wording. Agreement that we should not over-explain unless confusion is expected.
- Discussion of necessity of being consistent throughout each category; another pass will be necessary.

Decisions

- Agreed on the proposed definition, scope, and examples, with exclusions specified, for sound recordings.

IV. Revisiting Graphic/Visual Material definition

- Group agreement that the revision is excellent.

Action items and other information

- Martha recently spoke about our work at the Midwest Archives Conference; Katy will be speaking in a lightning talk at SAA.
- Martha will send an email to find out who's attending SAA and who's attending ALA.

Next categories: Books, Serials, and Other Printed Materials AND Electronic Records (2 meetings will be scheduled)

Next meeting: Doodle poll is pending

Next recorder: Cyndi Shein