

## CONSER = Cooperation

(Borrowed freely from: *CONSER Editing Guide (CEG)*, Sections A, B and C)

### CONSER: Cooperative Online Serials

The cooperative nature of serials cataloging is a natural result of the dynamic nature of serials themselves. We benefit from each other's knowledge of and access to current issues of serial publications, in order to catch title changes, mergers, ceases and other changes that we know often occur. Membership and activity in the UC CONSER Funnel allows us to preserve our cataloging edits in a shared online environment, contributing our own intellectual efforts and, at the same time, enhancing our local catalogs with the intellectual efforts of others.

### Shared Records

CONSER records are made available through distribution to a wide variety of subscribers; they are also available on OCLC for downloading to a local catalog. Cataloging projects such as the UC's Shared Cataloging Program take advantage of the CONSER database in capturing and distributing the most current record for system-wide use. Individual UC campuses have a unique opportunity to add their own local edits to this shared database, solving two dilemmas at once: 1) the loss of cataloging updates performed at an individual institution by virtue of record overlays; and 2) the duplication of effort at other UC institutions, who are probably making these same local edits as well.

### The CONSER "Philosophy"

Firstly, we follow the rules: RDA and LC/PCC PS, AACR2 and LC Rule Interpretations (when appropriate for maintenance activity), CONSER practices and standards (as outlined in both the *CEG* and the *CONSER Cataloging Manual*), LCSH, MARC 21 (to name a few!). Secondly, we trust each other: As the *CEG* puts it: "Information in records created by CONSER members is accepted by other members, unless the information is obviously erroneous."

Other sound and practical advice that can be found in the *CEG* Section B:

"Unless there is serious cause to doubt the validity of the data in a record, a CONSER library should accept a description based on an earlier issue than the one the CONSER library has in hand."

"Generally accept the style and terminology of notes found in OCLC records."

"Data should be removed from records only when clearly incorrect."

"Policies and practices specific to one institution are not applied to CONSER records, nor is information given that is purely local in nature."

### Record Maintenance

(From the *CEG*):

"Record maintenance is the process of ensuring the continued authoritativeness of a CONSER record through additions, changes, or deletions:

- 1) To correct obvious errors;
- 2) To reflect changes in the publication, or;
- 3) To reflect changes in policies and practices used within CONSER for the bibliographic control of the publication."

As we all know, record maintenance is an ongoing activity, comprising a large part of serials cataloging effort. This is a key role to be played by UC CONSER Funnel participants, who work within highly-developed local collections, comprising a wide variety of subject and language specialties. What an opportunity for us all!