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DEBRA MCKERN APPOINTED LC FIELD DIRECTOR, RIO DE JANEIRO

Debra McKern has been appointed to the position of field
director for the Library of Congress overseas office in Rio de
Janeiro, Brazil. She has served as acting field director in Rio de
Janeiro since June 2007. The Rio de Janeiro office has
approximately twenty staff members and is responsible for
acquisitions, cataloging, and preservation reformatting of
materials from Brazil, Guyana, the French Overseas Department of
Guiana, Surinam, and Uruguay for the Library and its partners in
the Cooperative Acquisitions Program.

McKern comes to this position with thirty-three years of
professional library experience, fifteen of which have been at the
Library of Congress in a number of supervisory and management
positions. She joined the Library of Congress in 1992 as assistant
binding officer and has served as chief of the Binding and
Collections Care Division in the Preservation Directorate and
acting chief of the Prints and Photographs Division. From 2001
through May 2007, she was inventory management coordinator in the
Collections and Services Directorate, where she was the primary
manager of the Baseline Inventory Program, which to date has
ensured that 2.9 million general collection items have been
inventoried in the Library's integrated library management system.

Before coming to the Library of Congress, McKern held
professional positions at Southern Illinois University, Indiana
University, and Emory University libraries. At Emory University
she established the first library preservation program in the
Southeast. In 1991-1992 she was a United States Information Agency
library fellow at the National Library of Egypt, where she
conducted a preservation needs assessment. McKern has been an
adjunct professor at Emory University and the Catholic University
of America.

McKern holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Southern
Illinois University and a master's degree in library and
information science from Indiana University. She is active in the
Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS, a
division of the American Library Association) and in the
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions,
where she is treasurer of the Document Delivery and Interlending
Section.

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 WORKING GROUP ON THE FUTURE OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL TO PRESENT
                        DRAFT REPORT NOV. 13

     In November 2006, Deanna Marcum, associate librarian for
Library Services at the Library of Congress, convened a Working
Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control to examine the future
of bibliographic description in the 21st century in light of
advances in search engine technology, the popularity of the
Internet, and the influx of electronic information resources.

     After a year of careful and comprehensive study, the group
will present its draft report to Library of Congress managers and
staff in the Coolidge Auditorium at 1:30 pm Eastern Standard Time
on November 13. A live webcast will allow librarians around the
country to view the presentation, and a comment period on the draft
report will open immediately following the presentation and last
until Dec. 15, 2007.

     During the past twelve months at three regional group meetings
in Mountain View, Calif.; Chicago, Ill.; and Washington, D.C.,
invited panelists delivered presentations on various aspects of
bibliographic control, and audience members responded with both
oral and written comments. The Working Group members have
collaborated throughout the year to shape the public meetings and
to discuss their ultimate recommendations to the Library of
Congress.

     "I have been very pleased with the progress of the group and
the diligence with which they have gone about writing the report,"
Marcum said. "The three regional meetings gave them much material
to consider, and they have already received a number of comments
from members of the library community. I thank them all for their
dedication, and I eagerly anticipate their findings and
recommendations."

     Information on the Working Group and its findings is available
at URL <www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/> [November 2007]. The
webcast will be available from that address on Nov. 13.

     Members of the Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic
Control, and the organizations represented, are:

     Chair: Jose-Marie Griffiths of the School of Information and
Library Science (SILS) at the University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill
     American Association of Law Libraries: Richard Amelung
     American Library Association: Janet Swan Hill, Diane Dates
          Casey, Sally G. Smit
     Association of Research Libraries: Brian E.C. Schottlaender,
          Olivia M.A. Madison (Working Group co-chair), Judith
           Nadler
     Coalition for Networked Information: Clifford A. Lynch
     Google: Daniel Clancy
     Medical Library Association: Diane Boehr
     Microsoft Corporation: Jay Girotto

National Federation of Abstracting & Indexing Services:
        Christopher Cole
OCLC: Lorcan Dempsey
Program for Cooperative Cataloging: Robert Wolven
Special Libraries Association: John Latham
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                    RECLASSIFICATION PROJECTS IN LAW

        The Law Team, Social Sciences Cataloging Division, has
embarked on several projects to reclassify materials in the Law
Library of Congress. The first such project is a major effort to
reclassify approximately 800,000 "pre class K" titles. Arranged in
the Law Library stacks simply by name of country, these titles
often have duplicate shelf location numbers and are therefore
difficult to retrieve. The Law Library requested that the Law Team
focus first on materials from Latin American countries of strategic
interest to the United States Congress. In fiscal year 2007 (year
ending Sept. 30, 2007) the Law Team reclassified all the Cuban and
Venezuelan treatises and more than eight truckloads of Mexican
titles. These materials are vacuumed and searched by Law Library
staff before being forwarded to the Law Team.

        In a second project, the Law Team undertook to reclassify more
than twenty shelves of Dutch books from the "Nederlandse
staatswetten" series. In addition, a sizeable backlog of Swedish
ministerial publications issued before the year 2000 was eliminated
as a result of an agreement with the Law Library that allowed those
items to be classed with the issuing ministry rather than by topic.

        Much of the Law Team's energy was devoted to reclassifying the
pre-1970 congressional hearings. Thousands of hearings were
processed by the Law Team during the first year. Under its
agreement with the Law Library, Google has now digitized about
72,000 of these hearings. An estimated 25,000 remain to be
reclassified and digitized. Once a presentation format for the
digitized data is selected and implemented, linking will be
possible between the bibliographic record and the digitized data.
In collaboration with the Cataloging Policy and Support Office and
the Law Team, cataloging automation specialist David Williamson
provided customized software for downloading OCLC records for pre-
1970 congressional hearings that lack bibliographic records in the
LC integrated library management system. This program, Z-
ProcessorHearings, has proven to be very useful, since it
eliminates manual input of much repetitive data. There is a
separate database containing records of the digitized hearings, and
each record contains a barcode that will permit future linking to
the corresponding bibliographic record. The linking enterprise
will make the hearings readily accessible to the Library's users,
while allowing Law Team members to determine whether a particular
hearing has been digitized.
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                    CDS TO REDUCE MANY PRICES IN 2008

        Beginning Jan. 1, 2008, the Cataloging Distribution Service
(CDS) of the Library of Congress will reduce prices for all MARC
Distribution Services (MDS) and for new subscriptions or renewals

to _Cataloger's Desktop_ and _Classification Web_ ordered after
Jan. 1, 2008. Prices remain the same for all other products for
2008. After its annual review of product prices, CDS was able to
reduce product prices because of operational cost savings. These
cost savings were realized in part because of lower staffing levels
during the previous year.

    For MDS prices visit <www.loc.gov/cds/mds.html> [November
2007]. For all other CDS products, visit <www.loc.gov/cds>
[November 2007].
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