

**35th CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES
(CDNL), QUEBEC CITY, CANADA, 13 AUGUST 2008**

TEMPLATE FOR COUNTRY REPORT

(Country reports will be made available on the CDNL website <http://www.cdnl.info>)

Please provide reports in English

Name of Country: United States of America

Name of Library: Library of Congress

Name of Chief Executive: James H. Billington, Ph. D.

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2008

The Library of Congress endorsed *On the Record*, the final report of the Library of Congress Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control, on June 1, 2008, embracing a vision of bibliographic control that is collaborative, online, networked, and focused on the end user. Associate Librarian of Congress for Library Services Deanna Marcum, Ph. D., convened the Working Group in November 2006 to examine bibliographic description in the 21st century and advise the Library on its role and priorities. More information is available at <http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future>.

The Library of Congress is active in development of *Resource Description and Access*, the planned successor to the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd Ed.* On March 10, 2008, as part of its response to *On the Record*, the Library of Congress agreed with the two other U.S. national libraries, the National Library of Medicine and the National Agricultural Library, that the development of RDA is an important international initiative that has involved the resources of libraries in many countries for the past several years. The three undertook a joint commitment to the completion of RDA, with decisions on implementation to be made jointly after review and testing of the completed rules. The three libraries' joint statement is available online at http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/news/RDA_Letter_050108.pdf

The Library of Congress is working with the World Wide Web Consortium's Semantic Web Deployment Working Group to develop SKOS, the Simple Knowledge Organization System, which will support the use of classification systems and thesauri in the World Wide Web. The SWD Working Group in May explored possibilities for releasing the Library of Congress Subject Headings, the world's largest general subject terminology list, as linked data on the Web in SKOS. This would greatly increase the potential for reuse and interoperability with other subject vocabularies. The Library's Office for Strategic Initiatives has developed a prototype.

In support of the U.S. House of Representatives Democracy Assistance Commission, the Library's Islamabad Office conducted training for government and law librarians in Kabul, Afghanistan, in May and consulted on a core collection for the new Parliament Library of Afghanistan. On May 21-23, the Islamabad Office assisted in the opening of the Timor Parliament Library. In addition to training, the Library of Congress team worked with the Asia Foundation to renovate the Timor Parliament Library's building, develop a core collection, and implement new hardware and software.

On April 12, 2008, the Library of Congress Experience opened for visitors to the Library's historic Thomas Jefferson Building. This new introduction to the Library

combines interactive online explorations of notable materials from the collections with displays of actual items.

The Library of Congress is a pioneer in the Flickr Commons project, which shares treasures from the world's public photography archives. On January 16, 2008, the Library placed its George Grantham Bain Collection of news photos and its Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information color photographs on the popular photo-sharing Website. Users may add comments or subject tags to the photos, available at http://www.flickr.com/photos/Library_of_Congress. Higher resolution TIFF versions are available through the Prints and Photographs Online Catalog at <http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/catalog.html>. A Webcast about the project is available at http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature_wdesc.php?rec=4281.

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Please send your country report to the CDNL Secretariat at the address below by Monday 30 June 2008. Reports may be submitted in the body of an email or as an attachment to an email.

e-mail address for submission of reports: secretariat@cdnl.info