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The SACO Program in Latin America

Ana Cristán
Library of Congress, USA

Abstract:
An overview of the SACO Program, the subject authority component of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging, and a status report on the SACO activity in Latin America. Starting with a brief history and background of the PCC and the SACO Program, the paper will also briefly presents the mechanism and parameters for participation in SACO, and concludes with an update on the current activities taking place in Mexico in the development of a bilingual subject headings list based on the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH). What has been accomplished, what are the barriers to expansion, and what plans are in store for future development.

SACO: the subject authority component of the PCC

The SACO Program was established to allow libraries to propose new subject headings for inclusion the Library of Congress Subject Heading List (LCSH) as well as new classification numbers for addition to the Library of Congress Classification (LCC). Just

as important as including new headings or classification numbers, SACO also allowed libraries to propose changes to existing headings and classification numbers.

Prior to the '80s LCSH and LCC reflected only those headings and numbers needed for items held in LC's collections. If a cataloger needed to create a new heading or classification number for an item being cataloged for which LC had either not yet cataloged or for an item in an area for which LC did not collect, there were only 3 options 1) if possible, wait until LC cataloged the item; 2) if available, use a less specific heading or number; or 3) create a term or number locally. If a cataloger had to create the heading and/or number locally this also meant that a separate list had to be kept locally to record the heading and number. Additionally other libraries cataloging the same item were duplicating the same action and thus not benefiting from each other's work. However, by the 80's the success of the bibliographic networks fueled by advances in technology helped to make cooperative projects such as SACO an efficient and cost effective means of sharing bibliographic data and reduced the duplication of effort.

Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC)

Before proceeding with my presentation I should define the Program for Cooperative Cataloging. "The PCC is an international cooperative effort aimed at expanding access to library collections by providing useful, timely, and cost-effective cataloging that meets mutually-accepted standards of libraries around the world." SACO is one of the four components of this Program; besides SACO there are 3 others:
NACO (Name Authority Cooperative Program)
CONSER (Cooperative Online Serials Program)
BIBCO (Bibliographic record Cooperative Program)

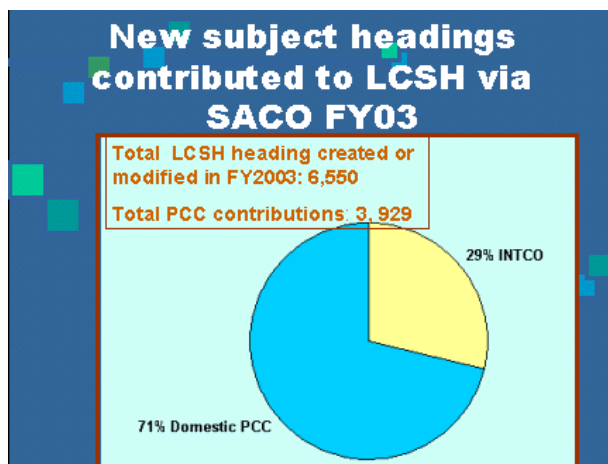**Brief History of Cooperative Projects at LC**

Again let me step back and give you a bit of history. Cooperative projects at LC began at the turn of the 20th century when LC began to distribute its catalog cards to the U.S. library community. The development of the MARC format in the early 60's and the rise of the bibliographic networks during the 70's and 80's catapulted cooperative projects into the international arena. This slide shows that NACO (the name authority cooperative) is the basis of CONSER and BIBCO program and also shows that most SACO participants also participate in more than one of the other programs although there is a small share that sits outside the diagram, thus outside the other programs

In 1995 these LC programs were consolidated under the PCC umbrella. It is though the PCC that LC shares the leadership, coordination, and development of cooperative programs with its partners. We also see on this slide that a subunit of the PCC (although not a program component) is something we call INTCO (international cooperative). This unit helps the PCC to keep track of the statistics generated by the international participants and facilitates the integration of international partners into the various component programs.

International Participants in the PCC

In fiscal year 2003 there were a total of 59 international participants in the PCC; 29 of these participated through 3 international funnel projects[1] and 4 through U.S. funnel projects. The characteristics of the majority of SACO participants are shown on this slide. As you can imagine, key to the success of SACO is that the majority of participants are English speakers. LCSH is an English language based subject heading list that currently does not provide access to non-English references unless these appear in an English-language source, thus limiting its usefulness "as is" to non-English language institutions. In the slides that show the list of institutions you will see that while there are many INTCO participants most do not participate in SACO.

Nonetheless, as this slide demonstrates the percentage of new contributions by SACO international participants is a very healthy percentage. That is to say of the 6 thousand new or modified headings contributed to LCSH in FY03 three thousand-nine hundred and twenty-nine (3,929) were contributed via the SACO Program. Of these 3 thousand 29 percent of **new headings** were contributed by international partners.

New subject headings contributed to LCSH via SACO FY03

Total LCSH heading created or modified in FY2003: 6,550

Total PCC contributions: 3,929

29% INTCO

71% Domestic PCC

NB: As of October 2003 LCSH consisted of 278,184 headings (of these 28,317 have been contributed via the SACO program)

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[1] Funnel projects= Proyectos chimenea: 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. The coordinator also assumes the responsibility for meeting the administrative requirements of PCC membership.   The benefit of participating in such projects is that a small institutions or institutions with scarce resources can participate in the larger PCC projects with minimal expenditures. The coordinating institution 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.

These next slides show the list of institutions and the PCC programs in which they participates, as well as which members participate in SACO and the year they joined the PCC.

It is interesting to note that the majority of international participants that are currently members of NACO originally joined the PCC through SACO.
This may be because a requirement of NACO is that members (unless they are funnel members) must have a mechanism for data exchange with the master authority file at LC. Usually this is accomplished via the bibliographic utilities in the U.S., either OCLC or RLG. SACO participants do not have this requirement they simply fill in the web form that is found on the SACO Home Page to submit a proposal.

This next slide shows the Latin American participants and one can see that in FY03 that participation is limited to the NACO Program.
[Slide 11]

And finally we see the other international funnel projects listed and as you will note these are both from South Africa but they also do not participate in SACO.

Italy:						
Unione Romana Biblioteche (ARWACO Funnel Project member)						1998
United Kingdom:						
British Library	30578	470		27954	365	1994
Cambridge University	1731	22		734	15	1995
Oxford University	2441	65		102	62	1995
National Art Library (Great Britain)	100			29		1998
National Library of Scotland	1104	57		1242	30	1996
National Library of Wales	339		96	232		1999
University of Strathclyde	363			25		2002
Wellcome Institute Library	248			75		2002
Latin America:						
Argentina						
Universidad de San Andrés	341			472		2000
Brazil						
Universidade de São Paulo	597			868		1998
Mexico						
El Colegio de México	3			0		2001
NACO-MEXICO	728					2003
Colegio de San Luis, Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes, Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila, Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro, Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas,Universidad de Guanajuato, Universidad Juárez del Estado de Durango, Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolas de Hidalgo, Instituto de Estudios en Administración (Venezuela), Universidad de Costa Rica, Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango (Colombia)						

Benefits of participation in SACO

The question that you may ask now is "what is the benefit of participating in SACO?" The chief benefits are as I noted before that headings needed for items in areas in which LC does not collect could be represented in LCSH. Besides these local and special area headings new headings of general application are also available faster in LCSH because libraries have different cataloging priorities than LC and may process items sooner than LC. The SACO mechanism assures that the LCSH heading is found when it is needed by others cataloging the same item (including LC catalogers).

As noted earlier the inclusion of contributed headings into LCSH means that libraries do not need to maintain local files of non-LCSH headings used on their cataloging with the added bonus that libraries can make changes to existing headings and/or add useful cross references that will greatly enhance OPAC searching.

The benefit of international partners in contributing to SACO is chiefly that we begin to build an international database of headings that can be linked to from the heading in a non-English language file. This is obviously something for the future but given the experimentation taken place and the enabling of new functionality that new technologies are creating every day it is my firm belief that it would be ideal to be ready with a file that is compatible both in structure and content with what is currently being used; whether one is linking to LCSH or some other subject heading list or thesauri. Crucial to the success of linking records or melding records into one big file will be the use of standardized norms.
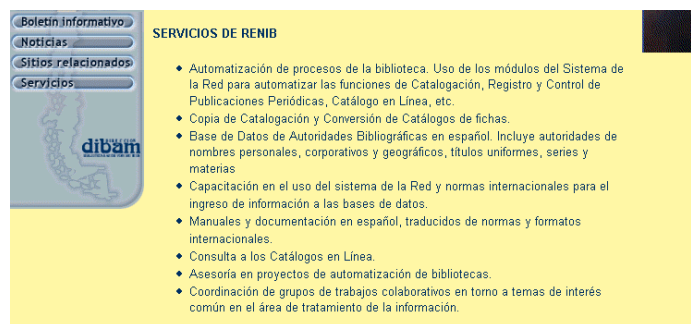
There is evidence that there are large-scale projects and workflows for the translation of LCSH into Spanish in Latin American libraries but there is not much publicity available. What we do know for certain is that currently each library translates LCSH headings found on bibliographic records as needed and/or that headings without the Spanish language equivalents are created locally. Certainly there is LEMB (Lista de Encabezamientos de Materia para Bibliotecas) and the work being carried out by the Biblioteca Nacional do Brasil (BNB).

There are presentations being made on LEMB at this conference so I will not be talking about that project and I'm only touching briefly on the BNB. What I know about the work going on at the BNB is mostly hearsay and I would be delighted if at this conference we could hear more about their work. What I've been told by LC colleagues that have visited the BNB is that they have developed a program that at the point of importing a bibliographic record with an English subject heading into their local database will translate the English heading into the Portuguese equivalent. This is a brilliant breakthrough that would be an excellent if it could be applied to on a large scale to translate LCSH into other languages. I do hope that we are fortunate enough to hear more about this programming.

Another project that I have a bit more knowledge of is the one called RENIB. There is information available on their website at: **http://joplin.tdata.cl/cgi-bin/renib/index.cgi**

I will also only speak about this briefly too, as I expect that there are others making presentations on this project at this conference. The definition of the project as described on their website is that: RENIB is a cooperative network of libraries and information centers whose purpose is to share resources and increase the scope as well as facilitate access to diverse areas of information for the user community. It was founded in 1984 and is currently operated under the auspices of the Biblioteca Nacional de Chile (National Library of Chile).

As you see from this web page RENIB makes available to its members data base services for authority headings including subject headings many of which are based on LCSH. This database uses the MARC format the record structure.

I visited the RENIB offices in 2000 and was provided with an overview of the authority file and the work that is taking place in this project and it is my expectation that we will learn more about RENIB at this conference.

In México there are 2 projects that I have a more in-depth knowledge of and both of these are attempts at creating a database that contain translations of LCSH headings and that use MARC 21 fields that link with the English form of the LCSH headings.

The institutions leading these projects are El Colegio de México in Mexico City and the Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, located in SLP.

The colleagues at COLMEX have written several articles talking about their project and these are listed here:

Figueroa-Servín, Reynaldo D. and Berta Enciso. *Subject Authority Control at El Colegio de Mexico's Library: The What's and How's of a Project,* Cataloging & Classification Quarterly 34(4) (2002): 65-80.

Quijano Solís, Álvaro and Pilar María Moreno Jiménez and Reynaldo Figueroa Servín. *Automated authority files of Spanish language headings,* Cataloging & Classification Quarterly 29(1/2) (2000):209-223.

In support of the COLMEX project LC has written letters of support to help secure grant funding and has committed to training support as needed. The groundwork before the project can begin to take shape includes preparing translations of the supporting documentation and structuring a framework within which to develop a shared database.

As a result of a suggestion made by a staff member at COLMEX a workshop on LCSH to help the developers and translators to understand the development, structure, and nature of LCSH was presented at LC in May of 2002. The attendees included 17 catalogers and library administrators from Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, as well as several from various Mexican libraries including the colleagues from del COLMEX y UASLP. The faculty for this workshop was the subject specialists from LC's Cataloging Policy and Support Office.

Also in support of this project a SACO workshop was held at the UALSP this past March through which several proposals were sent forward via the SACO mechanism and have since been added to LCSH.

These projects are especially important to LC because there is increasing pressure in the U.S. to provide access to information in the languages of our newest citizens and a large portion of that population is Spanish speaking. To those of us working with cooperative programs it makes sense that ---rather than expend the resources at LC to attempt this work --it would be best to foster the activities of those who have the

language expertise coupled with the understanding of the cultural traditions that are so inherent in concepts and terms needed for subject headings.

 I think that will enable users of the catalog to find what they need more easily, LCSH is still a very complex and often artificial language for users in English, it would be ideal if those traditions became more user friendly in translation. At this conference we heard a wonderful presentation on the "Virtual International Authority File" by Dr. Barbara Tillett (LC) and we live in anticipation of the time when it is not necessary to impose artificial constructions in subject headings or requirements to use the same cataloging rules but to be able to simply click and be taken to that authority file in another institution. However, until that time we continue the work that we hope will provide a compatible structure and make this dream a reality sooner.

This slide shows an example of a subject heading authority record from a work-form that is used at UASLP and you can see the MARC 21 fields used that provide the link to the LCSH heading. Currently this link is not "live", but this a beginning. This program although still in its infancy provides us with great expectations for the next stages.

Key to the success of any such cooperative program is the availability of the required documentation; in this case that documentation should be available in the language of those developing the files. The UASLP group with the collaboration of Ageo García have begun to develop manuals of guidelines as well as translations of the required documentation and here you see a few examples:
Normas para el llenado de la plantilla .. Autoridades de Encabezamientos Temáticos
Formato MARC 21 para registros de Autoridades (Conciso)
Manual para Participantes del Programa Cooperativo de Autoridades de Materias

Mtro. García is also preparing a translation of LC's *Subject Cataloging Manual* (SCM) that is expected to be available next year.   For more information I invite you to contact or meet Ageo and/or to contact Julia Margarita as well as the colleagues at COLMEX.

I invite also you to visit the PCC web site http://www.loc.gov/catdir/pcc/ for more information on our programs (some of which is in Spanish) and especially invite you to visit our SACO web site and if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me at: acri@loc.gov

Thank you very much for your attention.

Back to the Programme: http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla70/prog04.htm