

of Congress for the description of digital resources since it offers cost savings over full level cataloguing by de-emphasizing certain descriptive elements that are not relevant for digital resources or do not support resource discovery.

Both the extension of legal deposit for digital resources and the website archiving activity have spurred LAC into rethinking existing cataloguing models. The strategy that we have developed will help us to evaluate the trade-offs between the quantity and timeliness of the descriptive records we make available and the quality of those records. We will continue to study our descriptive policies, systems and workflows to ensure that, first and foremost, we are meeting the expectations of the 21st century user.



## **A Turning Point of the Unification of Chinese Cataloging Practices: a Report of a Work Meeting of the Indexing and Cataloging Committee of the Library Society of China, by Ben Gu**

The Indexing and Cataloging Committee of the Library Society of China held a working meeting at the National Library of China, November 17-18, 2006. Twelve out of fifteen members of the committee attended the meeting. As a representative of the National Library of China and a guest speaker, Dr. Ben GU attended the meeting.

In this meeting, Dr. Ben GU (NLC) gave a report of the IME ICC4 and some new developments of IFLA cataloging-related activities, proposed a draft of principles (such as internationalization, user-centeredness and democracy) for future inter-institutional coordination and standard-making mechanisms, and called on a unification of Chinese library cataloging practices and a unity of Chinese library cataloging rule makers. Then, Ms. Qinfang XIE (CALIS) and Prof. Hanqing HOU

(Nanjing Agricultural University) respectively analyzed the differences of descriptive and subject cataloging practices in major libraries in China. The committee members discussed the differences and reached consensus on most descriptive rules, while some rules concerning subject indexing are still to be discussed later.

Prof. Guangxiang HU (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences), who is a member of the committee and also a representative of the National Technical Committee for Information and Documentation Standardization, agreed to do coordination work for the National Standard for the Description Rules of Monographs, which is to be published very soon, incorporating the decisions of the meeting. Mr. Dongbo WANG (NLC), chair of the committee, hoped that the decisions would be adopted by the National Library of China and other major libraries in China, and will be considered in the future drafting of national standards and national cataloging rules.

I think that the meeting was very fruitful. It is a starting point for Chinese library catalogers to begin to consider their coordination seriously. Because representatives of major libraries attended the meetings, and the discussions were in a harmonious and democratic way, most libraries will consider adopting the decisions of this meeting.

According to the decisions in the meeting, there are fewer differences between Chinese cataloging rules and ISBDs, and the process of internationalization will be promoted further.



## **Nominations for Standing Committee Members**

A reminder to the Standing Committee members whose first terms end in 2007: the deadline for your nomination form for a second term is Feb. 7, 2007. (See IFLANET for more information:

<http://www.ifla.org/III/misc/callscom-e.htm>)