Announcement from Maureen Landry, LC Serial Record
Division Chief, 1 Sep 2004:

In October 2004, the Serial Record Division (SRD) begins a significant
change in our approach to "copy cataloging." The philosophy behind this
change seeks both to address tight budgets and to recognize that the
cataloging done outside of LC, e.g., OCLC and RLIN, has been prepared or
reviewed by professional catalogers. The change will allow us to better
cope with growing acquisitions in electronic serials and the rising cost
of cataloging.

The implementation represents a significant shift in the Division's
approach - both in what is to be considered "copy" cataloging and in how
it is to be performed. Prior to this time, only primarily
English-language materials with CONSER copy were in scope for the copy
cataloging workstream; other CONSER titles remained in the regular
cataloging workstreams with the expectation that foreign language
catalogers would complete the title according to the procedures for copy
cataloging.

Now copy cataloging in SRD will generally be applied to all Roman
alphabet languages and be performed by cataloging technicians.
Catalogers will catalog non-Roman alphabet languages (when sufficient
technician staff with skills in those languages is lacking) according to
the copy cataloging guidelines. With few exceptions, copy cataloging is
completed "whole serial," meaning both descriptive and subject
cataloging are done within SRD.

Historically, LC has authenticated copy at the same level of cataloging
as that done for original cataloging, i.e., "lc" in the 042. With the
shift, SRD will retain the "lcd" authentication used by CONSER
institutions, and we will authenticate non-CONSER copy as "lccopycat."
The "lccopycat" code signifies that the Library of Congress has used
another organization's record as the basis for its cataloging. All
name and LCSH subject headings will be verified against the relevant
authority files and established if not found. LC will not perform
further verification, such as addressing the appropriateness of

pre-existing subject headings. LC will correct obvious typos and egregiously misleading errors, i.e., 1) they result in seriously misleading description (e.g., someone might regard the item to be a different one were a change not made); and/or 2) they might result in seriously misleading access (e.g., the item is classified under a number for an artist's painting when in fact the work is about the artist's sculpture).

The CONSER Editing Guide (CEG) is being updated to reflect these changes.

LC is interested in hearing your questions or concerns and will attempt to mitigate those, when possible, within our new copy cataloging parameters. Please send your comments to CONSRLST.