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The Public-Access Computer Systems Review

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REFEREED ARTICLES

Bill Anderson and Les Hawkins, Development of CONSER Cataloging Policies for Remote Access Computer File Serials

The CONSER (Cooperative Online Serials) Program has recently developed and published its policies and practices for cataloging remote access computer file serials. Module 31 of the CONSER Cataloging Manual (CCM), "Remote Access Computer File Serials," was drafted by Melissa Beck of UCLA and covers cataloging policies for remote access computer file serials. The module opens with a full discussion of the kinds of online resources CONSER considers to be remote access computer file serials. Also included in the module are policies for periodicals in multiple file formats, the recording of location and access information, and other significant bibliographic information. These policies were developed over many months in consultation with a number of other projects, institutions, offices, and individuals active in the field of networked information and remote access computer file serials (henceforth called "electronic serials").

The effort to develop cataloging tools for networked resources and electronic serials spans many years and involves numerous players in different areas of the library community. This has been an ongoing process involving individuals closely attuned to the major developments in the publishing community. Over the years, CONSER has followed the numerous advances in the standards for cataloging electronic serials. With the integration of USMARC bibliographic formats, now in process, serials catalogers will soon be in position to utilize all the computer file bibliographic record elements. CONSER has taken a major step in developing policies for these new elements with the publication of Module 31 of the CCM. The authors first present a broad overview of a number of related efforts and developments in the publishing and library communities, and then discuss the development of Module 31 of the CCM and the major issues it addresses.

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