Working Group on Japanese Romanization Working Group: Update

The Working Group was formed in September last year to continue the work of the Task Force that served to coordinate the CEAL response to the LC Proposal for the revision of the Japanese Romanization table.

Working Group are working to help the community understand and deal with the major changes in the revised Romanization Table, and also looking to further improve the table to better meet the community’s needs and other various concerns.

WG issued an announcement and detailed instruction on the update of authority records to replace the diacritic alif to apostrophe.

- The use of the apostrophe in place of alif is one of the major changes in the revised romanization table.

- As in the instruction, OCLC’s automated program only applies to bibliographic records, but not to authority records.

- It’s very important to manually update the ARs to keep the data consistent and prevent any search problems in your local systems.

- The instruction can be found on the CEAL News, CTP’s subcommittee’s page, and CJK NACO project website. Please include it in your workflow whenever time allows.

- Update request form is available for non-NACO institutions. The link to the form is included in the instruction.

Summary of all the major changes in the romanization table is available on the NACO project website and CTP’s subcommittee page. The summary provides information on the addition of the charts for kana/roman equivalents.

WG will send out and ask your participation in a survey on the utility of the romanization table soon. With this survey, WG would like to collect new issues and questions that are arising after the romanization table was revised, and determine which ones should be on the top priority list and how they be addressed.

WG welcomes your input, not only from catalogers, but also public service people, who I believe are well aware of the challenges that the users face when they access resources using romanized data. You can send me an email, or to any other WG members.