**CONSER Integrating Resource Definitions**

Integrating resource: A bibliographic resource that is added to or changed by means of updates that do not remain discrete and are integrated into the whole. Integrating resources can be finite or continuing. Examples of integrating resources include updating loose-leafs and updating Web sites.

Updating loose-leaf: An integrating resource that consists of one or more base volumes updated by separate pages that are inserted, removed, and/or substituted. [The most common formats are print and electronic loose-leaf publications.]

Serial: A continuing resource issued in a succession of discrete parts, usually bearing numbering, that has no predetermined conclusion. Examples of serials include journals, magazines, electronic journals, continuing directories, annual reports, newspapers, and monographic series.

From these definitions, it appears that the distinction which needs to be recognized is whether the continuing resource has separate numbered or dated parts.

Further examples of integrating resources are given in the CONSER Cataloging Manual, Module 31, available on Catalogers Desktop.

“In the world of online resources, many Web sites and databases would be cataloged as integrating resources rather than serials or monographs. Some examples include:

- Online public access catalogs or databases (e.g., OCLC Online Union Catalog)
- Online services (e.g., DIALOG, America Online)
- World Wide Web home pages without designated parts (e.g., Serials in Cyberspace)
- Discussion lists (e.g., SERIALST, AUTOCAT) unless the content is reformatted into designated issues

Like online serials, online integrating resources are also continuing resources that change over time. These resources; however, are updated with new content continuously and do not publish separate designated issues with the new content. ... It is important for catalogers to make this distinction when first examining the resource for cataloging.”

Another example is given: “The web site Equip (URL:http://www.zdnet.com/equip/) is a serial in its print incarnation, but does not provide distinct “issues” online. Instead, articles and other features are added as available.”

After the cataloger has recognized the distinction and identified an integrating resource, then it is a matter of consulting the appropriate cataloging rules and applying the appropriate MARC codes and fields.