SERIAL PUBLICATIONS: DEFINITION

In order to answer the more general queries of staff members on what constitutes a serial, the Anglo-American Cataloging Code definition is used. A serial is a "publication issued in successive parts bearing numerical or chronological designations and intended to be continued indefinitely."

However, in moving from general statements to specific items, questions still exist. The following statement is therefore given as an interpretive addition to the above statement.

Generally, any item receiving open-entry cataloging by the Library of Congress is considered a serial. However, sets in progress and publishers' series are generally excluded on the grounds that they do not meet the Code definition. Questionable items are handled as serials when in the judgment of the Serials Librarian, Head Librarian, and representatives from the Reference and Technical Processes Divisions there is an overriding reason to do so.