OCLC Report

Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access

Annual Meeting, June 29 and July 1, 2024

Submitted by Kate James, OCLC Representative (revised July 17, 2024)

WorldCat inspired quilt at silent auction

The OCLC Quilters donated a WorldCat inspired quilt to the silent auction hosted by the ALA Biblioquilters. The auction is as a fundraiser for the Christopher Hoy/ERT Scholarship Fund, which awards a $5,000 scholarship each year to an MLIS student. The title of the quilt is “Quilting Together.” For more about this quilt, please read the blog post “Quilting together at OCLC” in Hanging Together, the OCLC Research blog. Group quilting has parallels to cataloging in WorldCat, as each contributor is part of a larger community that collectively enhances the object. Please stop by the Library Marketplace outside the Exhibit Hall Saturday, Sunday and Monday to see this beautiful quilt.

WorldCat enhancements

Encoding level conversion project

In 2020, OCLC began work to remove the four alphabetical encoding level values (I, J, K, and M) in favor using only the MARC 21 numeric encoding level. Encoding levels I and J were decommissioned in May 2024, and encoding level K became obsolete in 2022. Only encoding level M remains in use in WorldCat. As we convert those records, a 936 field is added to the record that says “BATCHLOAD.” See BFAS field 936 for more information about usage of this field.

As a reminder, encoding level M means “added from a batch process” so it does not indicate the fullness of a record. Catalogers are encouraged to upgrade these records to full and change the encoding level to blank.

Dewey Decimal Classification enrichment

Since February 2023, over 88 million DDC numbers have been added to WorldCat bibliographic records that lacked a DDC number. This is an ongoing effort, and we do routine updates to add field 082 several times a year. The DDC numbers that we are adding can be identified by our MARC organization code in subfield $q, as seen in the example:

082 04 202/.114 $q OCoLC $2 23/eng/20230216
Selected WorldCat Quality Team statistics

These are statistics for work done by our WorldCat Quality Team. This team consists of OCLC staff across multiple divisions of OCLC.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>July 23-May 24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manual merges</td>
<td>57,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliographic records enhanced</td>
<td>104,861,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LC/NAF records enhanced</td>
<td>57,697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LC/NAF records created</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

URIs in subfield $1 for corporate bodies planned

We are creating descriptions for corporate bodies (called “Organizations” in WorldCat Entities) right now. For an example, see [https://id.oclc.org/worldcat/entity/E39QH7JmqWhccqMf7BfDjT3Vxt](https://id.oclc.org/worldcat/entity/E39QH7JmqWhccqMf7BfDjT3Vxt) for OCLC’s description.

This is an example of what the headings will look like in Record Manager:

110 2 OCLC. $1 [https://id.oclc.org/worldcat/entity/E39QH7JmqWhccqMf7BfDjT3Vxt](https://id.oclc.org/worldcat/entity/E39QH7JmqWhccqMf7BfDjT3Vxt)

610 27 OCLC $2 fast $1 [https://id.oclc.org/worldcat/entity/E39QH7JmqWhccqMf7BfDjT3Vxt](https://id.oclc.org/worldcat/entity/E39QH7JmqWhccqMf7BfDjT3Vxt)

This is what the same headings will look like in Connexion:

110 2 OCLC. +1 [https://id.oclc.org/worldcat/entity/E39QH7JmqWhccqMf7BfDjT3Vxt](https://id.oclc.org/worldcat/entity/E39QH7JmqWhccqMf7BfDjT3Vxt)

610 27 OCLC +2 fast +1 [https://id.oclc.org/worldcat/entity/E39QH7JmqWhccqMf7BfDjT3Vxt](https://id.oclc.org/worldcat/entity/E39QH7JmqWhccqMf7BfDjT3Vxt)

Note that we are focusing on corporate bodies established directly right now so organization such as the United States Supreme Court (aka “United States. $b Supreme Court”) are not currently in Entities. Also excluded are conferences, etc.

Once this work is done, we plan to add the URIs in subfield $1 of fields 110, 710 (excluding name/title) and 610 (with FAST headings). As part of a recent update to our automated controlling process, these URIs and others in subfield $1 will be automatically added and updated for controlled headings. Catalogers using Record Manager with appropriate authorization may insert subfield $1 with an Entities URI for these fields.
Webinars

All webinars described in this section have free registration and recordings available on the OCLC website.

Virtual AskQC office hours

We continue to present Virtual AskQC office hours in most months, offering each monthly session twice. Information for upcoming webinars, including registration links, is available at CurrentAskQC office hours. We will be taking a break in July, but will be back in August with Name that Identifier!: Standard Numbers, National Bibliography Numbers, & Others. Cynthia Whitacre and Kate James will provide an overview of various identifiers and relevant MARC fields used in bibliographic records. Examples will include popular identifiers such as LCCN and ISBN as well as more specialized notations including fingerprint identifier and CODEN designation. Our September topic is Cataloging Audiobooks. On November 21, 1877, Thomas Edison recorded the world’s first audiobook when he recited “Mary Had a Little Lamb” into his phonograph machine, preserving the recitation on a tinfoil-wrapped cylinder. Since then, audiobooks have been released on phonograph records, audiocassettes, compact discs, Playaways, MP3s, and as streaming audio. Morris Levy will lead this session on cataloging audiobooks, focusing on the relevant instructions in MARC and RDA to describe the current audiobook formats.

We are finalizing the topics for our October and November webinars. There will be no virtual AskQC office hours in December. If you have suggestions for future topics, please feel free to email them to askqc@oclc.org.

Virtual Cataloging Community meetings

On May 15, 2024, we had our first virtual OCLC Cataloging Community meeting for libraries in New Zealand and Australia. The first presentation was Implementing Official RDA at the National Library of New Zealand by Anoushka McGuire, Team Leader, Cataloguing Team 1, National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa. This was followed by Gemma Steele, Librarian, Museums Victoria Library speaking on the topic Towards equitable and inclusive metadata at Museums Victoria Library.

We celebrated five years of virtual Cataloging Community meetings with our June 21, 2024 webinar. Our first virtual Cataloging Community meeting was in June 2020 because of the pandemic. What began as a temporary alternative to an in-person meeting at ALA has become a popular regular event with registrations from over 100 countries. Among those attendees wishing us happy anniversary at our recent meeting was Jay Weitz, a retired OCLC employee, former CC:DA liaison, and music cataloging living legend. Our DEI panel topic was Increase religious equity by reclassifying Dewey 200s with panelists Emily McDonald, Lawrence (Kansas) Public Library; Elizabeth McKinstry and Matthew Vasquez Jaquith, Springfield (Massachusetts) City Public Library; and Alex Kyrios, OCLC. We provided updates on OCLC’s linked data strategy, WorldCat enrichments, and WorldShare Collection Manager.

If you are interested in listening to any past recordings or downloading PDF files of the presentation slides, they are available at oc.lc/cataloging-community-meetings. A link to access materials for the June 21st event will be added to this page.