ALA Core MARC Formats Transition Interest Group Program

2024 ALA Annual Conference
Program

- **Program:** MARC Formats Transition IG: Exploring the Shift of MARC within the Context of a Linked Data Environment (Round Table Discussion)
  - **Time:** June 30, Sunday, 2:30-3:30 pm
  - **Location:** Manchester Grand Hyatt, Harbor Ballroom G H I

- **Agenda**
  - Opening remarks by Co-Chair; Introduction of topics by Discussion Leaders (10-12 minutes)
  - Small group discussions (30 minutes)
  - Reports from small groups to the larger group (8-10 minutes)
  - Additional discussion (Time permitting)
Discussion Topics

● The Interim Transition: MARC and Linked Data Coexistence in Library Catalogs
  ○ Discussion Facilitator: Amanda Z. Xu, Team Lead, Librarian (Metadata), National Agricultural Library
  ○ This discussion session will briefly showcase BIBFRAME in production and discovery, and then explore the ongoing shift from MARC (Machine-Readable Cataloging) to Linked Data (LD) within the library cataloging environment. We will focus on the challenges and opportunities that arise during the interim period when MARC and Linked Data coexist, and how libraries can effectively navigate this transition.

● Current Practices, Challenges, and Experiences in the Shift of MARC within the Context of a Linked Data Environment
  ○ Discussion Facilitated by the IG Co-Chairs
  ○ The library community is undergoing a significant transition from MARC to a Linked Data (LD) environment. This shift aims to enhance metadata richness, discoverability, and user engagement but presents various challenges. This discussion will explore current practices, challenges, and experiences in this transition. Participants will share steps taken, obstacles faced, and strategies for effective migration, focusing on the impact on metadata management and cataloging workflows. Join us to share insights, learn from peers, and navigate the evolving landscape of library cataloging together.
Discussion Topic: Current Practices, Challenges, and Experiences in the Shift of MARC within the Context of a Linked Data Environment

- **Sample questions:**
  - What is your primary metadata management system? What systems does your library use to manage Linked Data records? What steps has your library taken to transition from MARC to Linked Data or BIBFRAME? Please share your key actions and initiatives in this transition.
  - How will the transition to Linked Data impact metadata management and cataloging workflows? What resources or tools have you utilized for this transition? What training or professional development have staff undergone to adapt to Linked Data?
  - What system does your library or consortia use for discovery? What are the major differences and similarities between a MARC-based and LD-based environment for discovery? How well does your current system support Linked Data integration, and what has been your experience with it?

- **Additional questions:**
  - What challenges has your library faced during the transition to Linked Data? Please discuss technical, resource-related, or organizational challenges. What benefits and drawbacks have you observed with Linked Data compared to MARC?
  - What are your future plans for fully integrating Linked Data? How do you collaborate with other libraries or consortia in these initiatives?
  - What challenges do you anticipate encountering during the transition process, and how do you plan to address them? How will you ensure interoperability and data consistency as you migrate from MARC to Linked Data? What does the transition mean for large libraries versus small to mid-size libraries?
Discussion Topic

The Interim Transition: MARC and Linked Data Coexistence in Library Catalogs

Amanda Xu
Librarian (Metadata)
National Agricultural Library

- Introduction: Importance of MARC and Linked Data and the Need for Interim Period
- MARC and Linked Data Co-Existence: Challenges and Benefits
- Demo: Alma BIBFRAME in Production for End-to-End Workflow Integration
- Demo: BIBFRAME in Discovery in PrimoVE
- Summary
- Roundtable Discussions
“Any replacement of MARC-based cataloging with linked data services won’t happen overnight. Libraries will need to evaluate needs and resources to navigate the transition, operating in a hybrid environment for an extended period.”

MARC and Linked Data Co-Existence: Challenges and Benefits

- **Incompatibility**: MARC and Linked Data have different structures and data models, making it challenging to integrate them seamlessly.

- **Data Conversion**: Converting existing MARC records to Linked Data format requires careful mapping and transformation, which can be challenging to maintain the accuracy, consistency, and lossless of data during the conversion process.

- **Training and Expertise**: Libraries may need to invest in training staff and acquiring expertise in Linked Data technologies to effectively manage and utilize both formats.

- **Preservation of Legacy Data**: MARC has a rich history and extensive data holdings. Coexistence allows libraries to preserve and leverage this valuable legacy data while gradually transitioning to Linked Data.

- **Interoperability**: Linked Data enables libraries to connect their catalogs with external datasets, enriching the discoverability and contextualization of resources.

- **Enhanced User Experience**: Coexistence allows libraries to provide a more comprehensive and interconnected discovery experience, combining the structured nature of MARC with the dynamic linking capabilities of Linked Data.
Demo of BIBFRAME in Production for End-To-End Workflow Integration

Source: Marciano, A. (2023, June). Linked Data Focus Group kickoff meeting
Input BIBFRAME Descriptions in Sinopia Development

Source: https://development.sinopia.io/editor/resource/07b06658-ff6c-49d1-a14c-0b72f598a130
Brief Display of BIBFRAME in Alma Set

Alma BIBFRAME in Set:

- Facets by material type, resource type, language and publication year
- Top search bar for searching MMS ID, title and author in the BIBFRAME Descriptions
- Brief display in Alma repository

Source: National Agricultural Library Alma Sandbox
bf:Instance View

Alma BIBFRAME Instance View

a) Bf:Instance URI, Bf:Work URI
b) Link to View Work, and add holdings
c) Link to Instance MARC view

Source: National Agricultural Library Alma Sandbox
bf:Instance in MARC Review

Alma BIBFRAME Instance in MARC View

a) Includes MARC fields converted from BIBFRAME Instance and Work
b) All fields are converted correctly except the following:
   040 – AGL not DNAL
   No 070 NAL call number
   856$u – Missing
   856$3 - Incorrect

Source: National Agricultural Library Alma Sandbox
bf: Work View

Alma BIBFRAME Work View

a) bf: Work URI, template id, resource type, title, primary contribution including both URI and literal string for person or organization agent, other contribution, summary, LCSH, FAST and NALT subjects, classification, relationship, adminMetadata, bf: Instance URI, etc. exported correctly from Sinopia to Alma

b) MARC view – not as full as MARC for BIBFRAME Instance

Source: National Agricultural Library Alma Sandbox
bf:Instance in Alma Metadata Editor

View instance in MDE with functionality:

- bf:Instance in RDF/XML: Read only
- Collection and Inventory, PO, and other functions can be Added/Edited/Deleted in the bf:Instance

Source: National Agricultural Library Alma Sandbox
BIBFRAME in PrimoVE Brief and Detail Display

Source: National Agricultural Library PrimoVE Sandbox
Demo – Linked Data in Discovery (1)

1. Autocomplete Person in type ahead search:
   Jackson, Andrew K.

2. Select Jackson, Andrew K., American forest ranger

Source: National Agricultural Library PrimoVE Sandbox

Source: National Agricultural Library PrimoVE Sandbox
Demo – Linked Data in Discovery (2)

1. Jackson, Andrew K person page
2. Titles written by the person
3. People associated with the person

Source: National Agricultural Library PrimoVE Sandbox
Although MARC and Linked Data have different structures and data models, we tested the possibility of integrating it with ALMA end-to-end workflow seamlessly. This smooth coexistence of MARC and BIBFRAME will ensure that we can continue to serve our users without major interruptions during the transition. Converting existing MARC records to Linked Data format requires careful mapping and transformation. Through these tested case, we proved the possibility of minimizing the loss of data and maximizing the accuracy and consistency of data during conversion.

This phased approach for MARC and Linked Data coexistence will allow us to gradually adopt Linked Data principles and technologies, enhancing resource discovery, improving user experience, and enabling us to tap into a wider network of information.
Discussion Topic: The Interim Transition: MARC and Linked Data Coexistence in Library Catalogs

- Current Practices, Challenges, and Experiences in the Shift of MARC within the Context of a Linked Data Environment
  - Sample Questions
    - What are the biggest obstacles libraries face when converting their existing MARC records to Linked Data, and how can these challenges be mitigated during the coexistence period? This question will focus on the practical hurdles of transitioning data.
    - As libraries navigate the coexistence of MARC and Linked Data, what new opportunities can be leveraged to enhance user discovery and information access, even before full conversion is complete? This question aims to identify the positive aspects of having both systems in play during this transition period.
    - When planning for the transition from MARC to Linked Data, what strategies can libraries develop to ensure the continued discoverability and accessibility of their collections throughout the process? This question emphasizes maintaining functionality during the shift.
  - Additional questions
    - What are the key differences between MARC and Linked Data, and how do these differences impact the cataloging process?
    - What are some strategies that libraries can employ to integrate MARC and Linked Data into their cataloging workflows?
    - How can libraries ensure data consistency and interoperability when transitioning from MARC to Linked Data?
Contact

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Thank you!