**ALA Core MARC Formats Transition Interest Group Program**

**at the 2024 ALA Annual Conference**

**Program: MARC Formats Transition IG: Exploring the Shift of MARC within the Context of Linked Data Environment (Round Table Discussion)**

**Time:** June 30, Sunday, 2:30-3:30pm

**Location:** Manchester Grand Hyatt, Harbor Ballroom G H I

**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 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.

**Sample Questions:**

1. 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.

1. 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.

1. 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:**

* 1. What are the key differences between MARC and Linked Data, and how do these differences impact the cataloging process?
  2. What are some strategies that libraries can employ to integrate MARC and Linked Data into their cataloging workflows?
  3. How can libraries ensure data consistency and interoperability when transitioning from MARC to Linked Data?

**Current Practices, Challenges, and Experiences in the Shift of MARC within the Context of Linked Data Environment**

Discussion Facilitated by the IG Co-Chairs

The library community is undergoing a significant transition from MARC to Linked Data (LD) environments. 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.

**Sample questions:**

1. 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.
2. 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?
3. 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:**

1. 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?
2. What are your future plans for fully integrating Linked Data? How do you collaborate with other libraries or consortia in these initiatives?
3. 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?

ALA Core MARC Formats Transition Interest Group Co-Chairs    
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