REPORT OF THE MARBI/MARC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

New Orleans, LA
June 26-28, 1999

MARBI and the MARC Advisory Committee met concurrently in three sessions during the ALA Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Chair Bruce Chr. Johnson (Library of Congress) led the sessions.

**Announcements:**

The MARC 21 Format for Bibliographic Data is now available for purchase from LC's Cataloging Distribution Service. MARC 21 for Authorities will be next and should also arrive this year.

Several announcements affecting MARC formats have recently been posted on the USMARC listserv, including "New Guidelines for coding Leader/06 for Electronic Resources" and "Changes/Additions to MARC Language Code List for compatibility with ISO 639-2." These announcements are also available on LC's MARC website: [http://lcweb.loc.gov/marc](http://lcweb.loc.gov/marc)

CC:DA is planning a metadata preconference for ALA 2000 in Chicago. This two-day conference will be geared to librarians who are responsible for providing users with access to electronic resources available over the web.

The RUSA MOUSS Catalog Use Committee approached MARBI to co-sponsor a session at the ALA Annual Meeting in 2000 entitled "Is MARC Dead." MARBI agreed to support this program, as long as they could suggest an additional speaker and have an active participant on the planning committee.

**Highlights:**

Most of these MARBI meetings centered on discussion papers instead of actual proposals. Papers of special interest to the music library community were:

- DP 115, which explored ways of relating anonymous art works to the style of known artists;
- DP 116, which suggested a uniform way of linking bound-with records using the MARC Holdings Format; and
- DP 118, which proposed using the non-filing control characters to exclude sorting on certain character strings, including the musical flat.

Discussions about these and other issues are summarized below.

**Proposals**

**99-08:** Defining URL/URN Subfields in the MARC 21 Bibliographic Format (approved option 2, in part)

Because there is a growing interest in better relating URL/URN information to specific information in the bibliographic record, this proposal asked for the addition of a subfield for this information in fields beyond tag 856 -- specifically 555, 583 and the 76X-78X linking fields. Adding this subfield to other MARC tags was not part of the proposal, although this may be considered on a case-by-case basis in the future. MARBI preferred the use of a single subfield for both URL & URN information in the bibliographic record, both because the URN is self-defining and because of the limited number of unused subfields available. After much discussion, MARBI approved defining subfield $u as a repeatable subfield for 555 and 583 but...
did not approve adding a subfield for this information to any of the linking fields. In approving this proposal, MARBI recognized that the treatment of URL/URN information in field 856 must be revisited.

99-09: Making Field 852 Subfields $k and $m Repeatable in the MARC 21 Holdings (approved)

This proposal suggested making subfields for call number prefixes and suffixes repeatable in the Holdings Format. It passed with no discussion.

Discussion Papers

DP 114: Seriality and MARC 21

This discussion paper arose out of the likely upcoming changes to AACR2 and a need to coordinate those modifications with possible updates to the MARC formats. The paper presented three options for coding bibliographic records to reflect integrating or continuing resources. Option A, the least change approach, had much support -- the main change in Leader/07 coding would be for additive databases. Option B, an expansion of Leader/07 value "s" to include all continuing resources, would impact the coding of websites and looseleafs. Option C, creating a separate Leader/07 code for integrating resources had little support, in part due to the massive impact on systems. In addition, the paper presented alternatives for recording both the original place of publication/publisher and the current place of publication/publisher for serials. Of the options presented, each of which would permit field 260 to be repeated, MARBI preferred the use of an indicator value to distinguish these statements, as opposed to recording the information in $3. This paper will return as a proposal.

DP 115: Anonymous Artist Relationships in the MARC 21 Bibliographic Format

ARLIS/NA sponsored this paper, which proposed various ways of recording anonymous artist relationships when the actual artist is unknown. Often in these cases, the work is identified as being in the style of another artist, e.g., the school of Rembrandt. MARBI's discussion focused on the authority control issue, since the discussion paper stated that the solution should not require the creation of an authority record. It was agreed that this relationship information would be useful in a record, preferably in a new subfield associated with the known artist. It is likely that this paper will be reworked as a proposal. MLA may be asked to identify equivalent situations with music materials that we would like to address in a similar fashion.

DP 116: Bound-With Relationships in the MARC 21 Holdings Format

Because bound-with relationships tend to have a physical relationship instead of a bibliographic one, this paper proposed a linking solution within the MARC holdings format that would hinge on the physical relationship of bound with items. Field 876 $p would be used as a gathering place for the related items. It was acknowledged that systems cannot necessarily do this now; however, no actual change is needed in the holdings format to implement this type of linkage. The goal of the paper was to articulate this technique to the vendor community.

DP 117: Coding non-Gregorian Dates in the MARC 21 Bibliographic Format

RLG brought this paper forward, since several of their customers have raised the question about how to code non-Gregorian dates in a bibliographic record. However, since this paper did not arise from a specific community, it was difficult to assess how important these changes
might be. The chair asked for suggestions about other groups to be brought in to this discussion.

**DP 118**: Non-filing Characters in MARC 21 Using the Control Character Technique

This was the fourth in a series of discussion papers and proposals to address the use of the control character technique to block off nonfiling characters in MARC records. The discussion focused on what types of character strings should be excluded using this technique. A vote of all in the room indicated that the technique should be:

- available to all fields
- employed for initial articles (and possibly for appended articles, which occur in Bulgarian and Romanian)
- used to delineate corrections, such as "[sic]"
- available for use in authority records.

There was no support for using this technique to isolate volume designations in the 4XX subfield $v$, or for using it around extraneous characters, such as the musical flat. When a new version of this paper returns for MARBI's consideration, it needs sufficient conventions for application.

**Task Force Reports**

The Unicode Encoding Task Force has not been particularly active; they will try to complete their work by Midwinter 2000.

The East Asian Character Task Force now has a few documents available for review and will have more in a few months. They are hoping for a proposal by Midwinter 2000.

The Multilingual Record Task Force will investigate how to include multiple languages and scripts in authority records. Their charge is almost completed, and the task force should be constituted soon. Their goal is to complete work within two years, with recommendations for changes to the format if appropriate.

**Joint Meeting with CC:DA**

In its last meeting of the conference, MARBI met with CC:DA to discuss items of mutual interest. The first half of the meeting covered seriality, focusing on Jean Hiron's JSC report, *Revising AACR2 to Accommodate Seriality*, and on DP 114. MARBI members restated their pragmatic opposition to Option C in DP 114. The most controversial item under discussion was the JSC report's proposal to change the meaning/purpose of uniform titles for serials. Many present felt that the new use would create a conflict with extant 130s which were created for conflict resolution. The second half of the meeting centered on metadata and next year's preconference on this subject -- just what is the MARC format's role when cataloging web resources?

Respectfully submitted,

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