REPORT OF THE MARBI/MARC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING

Washington, DC
January 13-14, 2001

MARBI and the MARC Advisory Committee met concurrently in two sessions during the ALA Annual Meeting in Chicago. Chair William Jones (NYU) led the sessions.

Of particular interest to the music community were Discussion Paper 2001-DP01 which addressed where to record narrators (field 511 or 508 or both), and Discussion Paper 2001-DP02 which included an investigation of how subfields are entered for language codes in field 041.

Announcements:

The Library of Congress has issued updates to all MARC 21 formats; the Bibliographic and Authority formats have been shipped. The updates have been incorporated into Cataloger’s Desktop and will appear in the next issue, expected by mid-February.

LC implemented the LCCN structure change on January 1. Full details of the change are available at: http://lcweb.loc.gov/marc/lccn_structure.html

The Research Libraries Group is on track to implement the full MARC 21 character set by February; this incorporates seven additional ANSEL characters and some additional ASCII characters. The Library of Congress has encountered some glitches but will be able to implement some of these in the short run. Watch for future announcements from LC.

XML developments continue. A listserv to discuss XML experimentation will soon be established. Also, DTD and Perl conversion scripts are available for MARC to XML conversions.

The MARC Code List for Organizations (formerly known as the NUC codes) is now available as a searchable database from: http://lcweb.loc.gov/marc/organizations/ Searches may be truncated. The database is also available in a print version.

LC, in consultation with OCLC, has developed a mapping between the ONIX International Standard (used by publishers to share product and supplier information) and the MARC 21 Bibliographic format. A record builder is also available which constructs as full a MARC record as possible from ONIX data.

The Cataloging Distribution Service has launched a three-month pilot test of Classification Plus on the web, which includes functionality not currently available on the CD-ROM version. To find out more, visit: http://lcweb.loc.gov/eds/classwebpilot.html

Proposals

2001-01: Designating Taxonomic Hierarchies in Field 754 (approved as amended)
This proposal, to better identify a term with its facet or hierarchical designation, was modeled after field 654 for faced access. In addition to being used for scientific terms as outlined in the proposal, field 754 has also been encoded in a catalog of three-dimensional objects in a museum collection. After some discussion, MARBI added the following subfields to the proposal: Subfield $x for a non-public note; subfield $z for a public note; and a subfield for a common or alternative name (yet to be determined).

2001-02: Non-MARC Country Codes in Fields 043 (Geographic Area Code) and 044 (Country of Publishing/Producing Entity Code) (approved)
The impetus for this proposal arose out of the CORC project. Country codes encoded in web metadata may follow an ISO standard that is not currently part of the MARC 21 format. MARBI agreed that this data should be transferable to MARC and approved the proposal to include subfield $c for the ISO code in field 043 and to redefine $c as ISO code in field 044.

2001-03: Identification of Source in Field 015 (National Bibliography Number) and Field 017 (Copyright Registration Number) in the Bibliographic Format (approved)

This proposal arose out of a need by the Russian State Library to make field 015 repeatable for national bibliography numbers that are assigned to the same item by different countries. Subfield $a would retain its repeatability for those instances when a national bibliographic agency assigns multiple numbers. The proposal also added $2 to fields 015 and 017 for the source of the code.

Discussion Papers

2001-DP01: Recording Narrators in Fields 508 and 511 in the Bibliographic Format

This discussion paper sought to clarify where the narrator should be encoded in bibliographic records – as performers or as part of the credits. The major distinction has been whether or not the narrator appears on screen (obviously not applicable to sound recordings). MARBI decided that there was no good reason to continue this separation and recommended that all narrators be coded in field 511. The possibility of reintroducing the 511 first indicator value 3 was not supported. No formal proposal will be needed; instead, LC will change the examples and explanations in the bibliographic formats in the near future.

2001-DP02: Non-MARC Language Codes in Field 041 of the Bibliographic and Community Information Formats

Transporting bibliographic information to/from Dublin Core and MARC served as the impetus of this discussion paper. Web resources may follow one of two ISO standards to encode language content: the MARC 21 three-character codes, or a alternate standard that only uses two characters. MARBI preferred a variation on the paper’s option 4, allowing for 041 repeatability and having an indicator value for the two-character ISO language code. The group also favored “unstacking” the language codes, at least for the new two-character codes. This would entail repeating subfield $a if the work was in multiple languages, e.g. $a en $a fr $a it. This will come back as a proposal at the Annual 2001 meeting; the paper will also address the impact of unstacking the three-letter codes in field 041, both as a new practice and for its impact on legacy data. This decision could have a substantial impact on the music community.

2001-DP03: Types of Dates for Electronic Resources in MARC 21 Formats

The Dublin Core standard carries the ability to encode more types of dates than the MARC formats include. Participants in the MARBI discussion expressed concern about making decisions based on DC/MARC crosswalks; instead they requested a new discussion paper for the Annual 2001 meeting to investigate the use of field 046 to carry some of this information. This field was preferred because it takes coded information and is more expandable through the use of subfields than a note field. MARBI also expressed interest in harmonizing the description and use of field 046 in the Bibliographic and Community Information formats. The upcoming paper will need to consider what additional types of dates are important for electronic resources and how a “date modified” field would be applied to loose leaf materials.

Reports

John Espley (VTLS) announced that the East Asian Character Task Force is almost finished with their work in mapping that character set to Unicode; a proposal is expected for the Annual 2001 meeting. Watch the RLG ftp site, as well as the ALA MARBI web site for more details.

Gary Smith (OCLC) reported that the Unicode Task Force has completed the outstanding issues. A proposal or discussion paper arising out of the Task Force’s work is expected during the Annual 2001 meeting.

The Multilingual Task Force was very active during the Midwinter conference. With this difficult topic and different points of view, they are trying to find consensus, although things are fluid at this point. They have been reviewing coding proposals.

Bruce Johnson (LC) reported on the Library of Congress Bicentennial Conference on Bibliographic Control for the New Millennium. The Cataloging Directorate is now considering the recommendations in the following categories: near term (6-18 months), long term (2-5 years), LC alone, and LC with partners. Of possible future interest to MARBI will be developments relating to the treatment of multiple versions.

Respectfully submitted,
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