OCLC Cataloging News

Creating infrastructure to support linked data

Presenter: Chelsea Dalgord on behalf of John Chapman

Chelsea gave an overview of the Mellon Foundation Grant that OCLC was awarded to create a production infrastructure for works and persons over the course of 2 years. She also reviewed OCLC's vast experience with linked data over the years in support of the library community through projects like FAST, VIAF, CONTENTdm, and Project Passage. The presentation ended with mention of the advisory group members that are working with OCLC.

OCLC cataloging news

Presenter: Jay Weitz

Jay reviewed the news from OCLC, including matching and validation updates, FAST headings for COVID-19, and WebJunction updates. For updates in other news such as delivery service, management services, member relations, and research, please see "News from OCLC."

OCLC updates

Presenter: Robin Six, Shanna Griffith, Bryan Baldus, Cynthia Whitacre

The presenters gave overviews of the Cyrillic conversion project, WorldCat Registry, BFAS Subject updates, Virtual AskQC Office Hours, RDA hybridization in WorldCat, Deriving Authority Records, BCI name authorities converted to Canadiana records, OCLC encoding levels and validation changes, and Shared Print Registration.

Q&A

Question: How can libraries be involved in advisory group for the Mellon Foundation Grant Linked Data Infrastructure project?

Answer: You can email your request to join the advisory group to linkeddata@oclc.org.

Question: With the new way in Bibliographic Formats and Standards (BFAS) to indicate that a print/electronic access journal link is no longer available, can you still search by domain, e.g. BibPurl?

Answer: No you can no longer search since the subfields $z in field 856 is not indexed; however, the BFAS team will look into this further so stay tuned for more information to come.

Question: When updating a record in WorldCat, should obsolete URLs, for example, Ebrary, be removed from the master record?

Answer: If the URL is obsolete and the service no longer offers the ebook or the ejournal, feel free to delete it. You may also leave them in the master record if it doesn't fit in your workflow to delete them.

Question: Are we encouraged to use the MARC codes for encoding level (ELvl)? Should these be changed when existing records are enhanced?

Answer: You are encouraged to use the MARC codes for ELvl, whether adding a new record or enhancing existing records. This is not a requirement though.

Question: In those records loaded into the French authority file, the 016 field was not deleted. These records simply don't yet have a 016 field?

Answer: Some of the records that were loaded may have had a 016 field. Any existing 016 field was deleted before the load to ensure that no 016 field was in the loaded records. This decision was made because of an agreement with Libraries and Archives Canada (LAC) not to have field 016 in the record.

Question: How does Record Manager's Derive authority record functionality compare with Connexion's GenerateAuthorityRecord macro?

Answer: The goal was to have the same essential behavior and end result between the two even though there are minor differences. The Connexion macro asked the user to supply the data with which it populates the authority record, while Record Manager gives the user a template record to add the data to. Also, non-personal names end up with a sparse record in Record Manager, whereas the Connexion macro can populate it as completely as a personal name.

On a side note, last December, the OCLC Macro book was updated to include an updated list of countries where the country name changed, affecting field 043 and various OCLC macros in the macro book. Other changes are also planned for this year. Note that the version of the macro that comes with Connexion Client is not the most recent version. For the most recent version of the OCLC Macro Book, please visit:
https://help.oclc.org/Librarian_Toolbox/Software_downloads/Cataloging_software_downloads

Question: Do any macros work with the Connexion Browser?

Answer: No, macros only work with Connexion Client.

Question: Will the alpha encoding level codes eventually all be changed automatically to the numeric ones?

Answer: Yes, there are plans to automatically change the alphabetic codes to numeric codes, however, this will most likely take years to finalize. For more details on this topic, we encourage you to check out the recent update given during the June Virtual AskQC Office Hours (VAOH), https://help.oclc.org/WorldCat/Metadata_Quality/AskQC.

Question: Since you said that you merge with international records what is your policy when you have different romanization standards applied?

Answer: While we don't have an official policy, we recommend that catalogers do not merge records where they are unsure about the merge or do not know the script.

Question: Should the status of NAR in Connexion and Record Manager be the same? Earlier today, I ran into two NARs which have been out of distribution in Connexion but are still having the "In distribution" status in Record Manager. When we tried to update those two NARs through Connexion, the system said the record is locked and in use by another user.

Answer: This is a situation that we would need to investigate. Please send these types of requests to support@oclc.org. Support can start the processing of figuring out what is going on with the records.

Question: Can a NACO funnel member could join the Member Merge Program?

Answer: Yes, since they would have PCC status, they are welcome to join.

Question: Is there a list of vendors who don't fill out the 008/28 (Form fixed field) properly for online journals?

Answer: Please send these to bibchange@oclc.org and someone will look it into this and work with the vendor if needed. Metadata Quality staff can correct records based on patterns but sometimes it difficult to do this as a group since the records can turn out to be hybrid print/online records.

Question: Can you take records from Connexion, move them to MarcEdit, edit them, and then move them back into Connexion to replace in WorldCat?

Answer: The Bib File Reader plugin will allow you to save a record from Connexion, import to MarcEdit, edit and enhance it, save it back to the save file in Connexion, and replace it; however, without this plugin, if you take records out of Connexion and edit in MarcEdit, you would need to either replace them in WorldCat using the API or Data Sync.

Question: Have alphabetic Elvl codes been purely generated by/for OCLC, or are those universal, and we've simply not used the numeric codes?

Answer: Alphabetic codes are purely OCLC codes. They were made up when OCLC first started allowing members to add records to WorldCat. This was because at the time, only the Library of Congress could use the numeric codes. Over the years, the restrictions on using the numeric codes have loosened up and they are now available to use by anyone. For more information on this topic, please view the June Virtual AskQC Office Hours (VAOH) session, https://help.oclc.org/WorldCat/Metadata_Quality/AskQC.

Question: Should we catalog items in Cyrillic using Cyrillic characters in field 245 and Romanize in a second 245 field?

Answer: When working in Connexion and Record Manager, you will have parallel fields. These fields both appear as 245 fields in the interface display, one with the Cyrillic characters and one with the Romanized characters. In MARC, behind the scenes however, the field with the Cyrillic characters is an 880 field, instead of a 245 field. You will see this 880 field if you export the MARC record.

For more information on field 880, please see the Slavic Cataloging Manual, https://sites.google.com/site/seesscm/cyrillic-parallel-fields-in-bibliographic-records and Bibliographic Formats and Standards (BFAS), Field 880, https://www.oclc.org/bibformats/en/8xx/880.html.

Question: Do you have any comments on records for CreateSpace Independent Publisher, especially for juvenile materials?

Answer: Create Space should be treated as printer, not as publisher. Catalogers should enter these as self-published materials, Use self-published by author. For more information about this, see Bibliographic Formats and Standards (BFAS), 3.1.2 Photocopies and Print-on-Demand Reproductions, https://www.oclc.org/bibformats/en/specialcataloging.html#photocopiesandprintondemandreproductions.

Question: Different libraries use different romanization for Cyrillic. How does WorldCat cope with this situation?

Answer: If your library catalogs in English, OCLC recommends using the LC romanization tables. If you are cataloging in a different language of cataloging, OCLC recommends following recognized standards for Romanized, transliterated, or Latin-script equivalent data associated with non-Latin scripts. For more information, see Bibliographic Formats and Standards (BFAS), 2.2 Creating Bibliographic Records, https://www.oclc.org/bibformats/en/onlinecataloging.html#characters.

Question: Will OCLC consider to enhance the Connexion Client error message on telling us that an error occurs after certain number of characters, for example, after 110 characters?

Answer: We are currently looking at making some changes to Connexion Client. So as we look at that, we could also look into ways of enhancing the error messages as well.

Question: In your project of updating the AACR2 records to RDA hybrid records, do you convert 260 to 264 field?

Answer: No, however, we do convert field 260 to field 264 for records created in the early days of RDA before the 264 field was created.

Question: Even English cataloguing agencies have legacy data that do not always comply to the LC table for Cyrillic Romanization. What happens it is case?

Answer: For Russian, there were a handful of rules that were used to determine our confidence in converting the Latin to Cyrillic. For Ukrainian, we are working with Ukrainian catalogers to review rules to avoid adding Cyrillic based on bad Latin data. We are working on some new techniques and think they will eventually be applicable to other Cyrillic languages. The Russian techniques were labor intensive and were dependent on a large body of records that already have Cyrillic in them.

Question: If you are looking at the Connexion Client, would you be able to look at the Cataloging_Create_Extract Metadata function? We've lost this ability on some of our clients and OCLC Support said it wouldn't/couldn't be fixed.

Answer: At this time, OCLC is working out the details of investing more into Connexion Client but there is currently no schedule. Stay tuned for more information to come.

Question: I often see people posting to OCLC-CAT about searching problems that turn out to be caused by the GLIMIR box being checked. Since this project was never completed couldn't this checkbox just be deactivated on the search screen?

Answer: Yes, we do know that some elements such as the GLIMIR box, which is older functionality that no longer works, will be removed with the plan to invest more into Connexion Client.

Question: Do you convert "ca." to "approximately" for records of rare materials in the 260/264?

Answer: We are very careful when editing records representing rare books materials but do convert "ca." to "approximately" in some records. We are aware of the special requirements of rare book cataloging and take those concerns into consideration when making changes.

Question: What about new developments for Record Manager?

Answer: Record Manager is regularly updated. For more information about updates to Record Manager, see WorldShare Record Manager release notes and known issues,

---

https://help.oclc.org/Metadata_Services/WorldShare_Record_Manager/Release_notes_and_known_issues.

Question: If you'll be updating Connexion client, could you add a facet to search only for print book records (versus electronic for e-books)?

Answer: Currently, OCLC is working out the details of investing more into Connexion Client. Stay tuned for more information to come.