

Notes from the OCLC Cataloging Community Meeting on 3 June 2022

Access the recordings and presentation slides

Session: WorldCat Quality Update

Presenters

- Robin Six, Database Specialist, OCLC
- Shanna Griffith, Database Specialist, OCLC

Presentation summary

Robin gave updates on the Encoding Level project, the Heading Enrichment project, and Virtual ASKQC Office Hours.

The purpose of the Encoding Level project is to eliminate OCLC-defined codes in favor of MARC 21 numeric codes. The conversion of K-level records is finished while the conversion of I-level records is in process. To date, approximately 6 million I-level records have been converted with approximately 34 million records left to convert. Conversion of M-level records will begin once the work on I-level has been completed. With the completion of the K-level records, online validation will be changed in September to no longer allow the use of value K.

The Heading Enrichment project goals are to control all controllable headings, update headings as applicable, and apply heading enrichment. A complete controlling pass will be made through WorldCat with a total of 520 million records to be reviewed. As of May 31, 302 million records have been reviewed.

Virtual ASKQC Office Hours are Webex presentations done by Metadata Quality staff and subject matter experts where each month a different topic is covered, followed by Q&A. Each topic is presented twice a month to accommodate different time zones. Registration of upcoming sessions and access to past sessions can be found at oc.lc/askqc.

Shanna Griffith spoke about FAST and general updates.

Faceted Application for Subject Terminology (FAST) is derived from the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) and is a collaborative effort between OCLC Research and the Library of Congress. FAST is divided into 9 distinct categories to allow for faceted search retrieval. A FAST Funnel was established to support the development of FAST vocabularies and provides a route by which new terms or changes to existing terms can be proposed. The [FAST Quick Start Guide](#) is now available to provide answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about FAST and offers instructions for getting up and running in any FAST environment. OCLC adds FAST headings to WorldCat bibliographic records where LCSH is present and FAST is not. More information about the process can be found at

oclc.org/oclc-fast. The [FAST Converter](https://oclc.org/oclc-fast) is a web interface for the conversion of LCSH to FAST. By entering LCSH headings, you can convert the corresponding FAST headings through the interface.

Shanna also summarized the recent updates to Bibliographic Formats and Standards, the OCLC Glossary, and MARC validation.

URLs mentioned during the event

- News from OCLC:
<https://www.oclc.org/content/dam/oclc/cataloging-subscription/cataloging-events/Cataloging%20community%20update%20-%20June%202022.pdf>
- AskQC help site:
oclc.org/askqc
- FAST Funnel:
<https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/saco/FASTfun.html>
- FAST Quick Start Guide:
oclc.org/fast-quick-start-guide
- FAST general information:
oclc.org/oclc-fast
- FAST Converter:
oclc.org/fast-converter
- Bibliographic Formats and Standards:
oclc.org/bfas
- OCLC Glossary:
oclc.org/oclc-glossary
- MARC validation release notes:
oclc.org/validation-release-notes

Audience questions

How long does it take when a new heading generated in the FAST beta site is populated?

Once headings are added to the FAST authority file and are given a FAST identifier, they appear in Search FAST in approximately 3 weeks.

Could you explain what is the significance of FAST headings?

It is based on LCSH, so we don't have to go through the same kind of review when determining headings. FAST headings are broken down into facets, so you assign different terms as separate headings rather than stringing them together and is easier to apply for that reason.

Can someone repeat the instances when FAST headings should be deleted?

It's not required, but if you are changing, deleting, or adding LCSH to bibliographic records, you are encouraged to remove existing FAST headings. The result will be a complete regeneration of FAST headings for that record.

FAST headings appear so repetitious. Why?

They appear repetitious because they are derived from LCSH; however, this allows you to use any of the facets for whatever your project is. Depending on what you are cataloging, you may only want to use certain facets.

Is it possible to know what other institutions are using FAST in their original cataloging?

Many libraries are using it for special collections rather than for their entire collections.

Is there a possibility that LCSH strings will be gone?

There is no talk about that happening in general.

Is there a way to generate FAST headings on the fly when doing original cataloging? Or do you have to wait around a month and come back to the record to download the record again once the FAST headings are added?

You can use the FAST converter to generate the headings and copy/paste them into the bibliographic record.

When LC changes a subject heading, how long does it take for the FAST headings to change?

We typically get the updated file of LCSH at the beginning of the month and convert them to FAST. There is then a manual review that takes place and manual edits are made, when necessary, which are completed by the end of the month. Those changes are reflected in Search FAST in the following month. Overall, it could take up to 6 weeks from the time a record is changed in LCSH.

I am interested in learning how OCLC handles updates for LCSH that have undergone splits.

There is a service that un-controls all headings that have undergone splits. We do not have a process that chooses which new heading they should be controlled to, so the headings are left uncontrolled. Manual inspection is needed to determine which new heading it should be controlled to.

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