OCLC and RDA: What We Learned in the Test and What’s Next

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For today

- Getting ready for the test
- Learning from the test
- Looking toward implementation
OCLC worked with LC, NAL and NLM to provide support:

- Creating RDA MARC 21 bibliographic and authority records in Connexion
- Working with RDA records in all interfaces
- Working with RDA records in Batchloading

OCLC’s Contract Cataloging Services team agreed to participate

Initial MARC 21 changes were installed on May 23, 2010.

http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation/worldcat/tb/258/default.htm
MARC 21 changes

- Bibliographic records:
  - 040  code ‘rda’ to identify the rules used
  - New fields for content type, media type and carrier type
    - Field 336 - Content type
    - Field 337 - Media type
    - Field 338 - Carrier type

- Authority records:
  - 040  code ‘rda’ to identify the rules used
  - Other fields for entity attributes
In addition to the MARC 21 changes

- Indexing/searching
  - New indexes
    - Descriptive conventions (dx:) in bibliographic records
    - Entity attributes (en:) and Relationship (rx:) in authorities
  - MARC fields 336-338 integrated into indexing structures
- Existing functionality
  - Institution records
  - Existing “submit for review” functionality
  - Existing Batchloading matching
Macro to assist with 3XX fields
OCLC & RDA during the testing period

- OCLC developed a document titled:
  OCLC Policy Statement on RDA Cataloging in WorldCat for the U.S. Testing Period

- Institutions not participating in the test could (and did) contribute original RDA records to WorldCat during testing.

- Coding: 040 $e rda and Leader/18 (Desc) coded “i” if ISBD punctuation is used or “blank” if ISBD is not used.
Since the test ...

- Connexion interface changes
  - Links to RDA Toolkit (completed April/May 2011)

- Additional MARC 21 changes
  - MARC 21 Update no. 12 implemented May 2011

- Additional indexing
  - Entity attributes (en:) in bibliographic records
Still to be done...

- Connexion interface changes
  - Workforms/Macros
    - RDA workforms to be part of Connexion client version 2.40
- Re-evaluation of some of the indexing decisions
- Additional MARC 21 changes from Update no. 13
  - New 264 field
Learning from supporting the test

- Record matching implications
  - Abbreviations vs. spelled-out words
  - “Transcribe what you see”
  - Systematic evaluation of matching still to be done

- Additional validation rules to insure correct coding

- Need for more communications with member libraries not involved in the test
Learning from participating in the test

- Explaining the logic behind RDA is critical

- Phased training/implementation may be inevitable

- Need to work individually with all institutions for whom we do cataloging
What our catalogers liked

- Explicitly stating relationships between access points and item being described
- Additional information in authority records
- LC-created workflows
- “Take what you see”
- Emphasis on the end user
What could use more work

- Clearer guidance on what access points are necessary for different types of manifestations/items
- Better navigation within the RDA Toolkit
Looking toward implementation

• OCLC is working in close cooperation with the U.S. National Libraries and with the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) to plan the implementation.
  • Potential conversions of authority records
  • Hybrid records
Looking toward implementation

• Later this year, OCLC intends to issue a discussion paper regarding the possible future of bibliographic records with mixed practices in WorldCat.

• Some topics
  • Recataloging to RDA
  • Updating/adding individual fields
  • Spelling out abbreviations

• Watch for an invitation to comment
Looking to the future

- End-user focus
  - Close alignment to the FRBR user tasks
  - Explicit statement of relationships between access points and the resource being described
- Database structures to support linked data

In order to make your published open data useful for others, you have to make implicit relations explicit.

--Lukas Koster*

* http://commonplace.net/2011/03/missing-links/
Looking to the future

- Additional information in authority records
  - Specific dates
  - Associated place
  - Address
  - Field of activity
  - Occupation
  - Gender
  - Associated language
  - Etc. ...

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