

BIBFRAME, MARC, RDA

Sally McCallum

Library of Congress

BIBFRAME Workshop in Europe 2024

Helsinki, Finland – September 17, 2024

Agenda today

- Moving to BIBFRAME
- Conversion problems and opportunities
- BIBFRAME forward

Library of Congress reports for last 3 years

- 2021 – BIBFRAME 100 at the Library of Congress
 - Sketch of plans to move to BIBFRAME in 2022
- 2022 – BIBFRAME Implementation Journey
 - Details on how we planned to integrate our BIBFRAME system with our MARC based ILS
- 2023 – BIBFRAME at Last?
 - Explained how new ILS caused a pivot to Folio implementation for BIBFRAME 100

Why is this taking so long?

- Major systems are difficult to change
- The Library community has developed an extensive environment with many interdependencies, lots of software, and millions of MARC records
 - Large and small systems dependent on MARC
 - Locally developed additions
- Thus costly to move into 21st century technology and models
- But libraries must or they will be left behind

Collision of challenges for LC

- 2025 – LC expects intense training and adjustment needed as it implements new Folio-based system -- new ILS
- 2026 – LC expects intense training and adjustment to new cataloging rules – Official RDA

So --

2024 – move to BIBFRAME now before FOLIO to have associated training and adjustment out of the way

News Flash:

BIBFRAME (quietly) entered production at LC in August 2024

LC's major milestone in August 2024

- 15 catalogers began inputting their records in BIBFRAME
- Intentionally beginning small and building out
 - For checking the system at all points – different media, non-Latin
 - For training
- Not double keying of descriptions
- Using Marva/BFDB system for BIBFRAME and converting to MARC for Voyager
- BIBFRAME system always in parity with MARC system

Workflow

- If an initial record is available in BIBFRAME system, complete it, send to the Voyager system; if not, create description in BIBFRAME system and send to Voyager.
- Record converted to MARC and loaded into Voyager.
- Cataloger checks it out and posts record in Voyager.
- System sends copy to BIBFRAME system in case adjustments were made.
- Voyager MARC up to date, BIBFRAME system up to date, MARC record ready for distribution, BIBFRAME record available on ID.loc.gov.

Essential role of conversions

- Conversions
 - Ideally: MARC to BIBFRAME and done
 - Reality: BIBFRAME to MARC necessary
 - Inside LC some processes will need MARC
 - LC must honor its commitment to the community to share MARC
 - Good round trip conversion capability eases the pathway
- Conversion not easy because →

MARC over time

- MARC has very long history of augmentation and change
 - Born in 1968 – more than 50 years ago
 - Initially just textual books in Latin script
 - Over next 15 years expanded to all media- serials, maps, music, audio, visual material
 - Different specialists developed for their media
 - Some attempt to treat overlapping data the same
 - Cataloging rules evolving
 - AACR, AACR2, special chapters for different media
 - 1990 major project to combine the different MARC specifications “format integration”, expansion to non-Latin scripts
 - 2010 new cataloging rules and new model – RDA
 - Required many new ways to encode
- Result in MARC: duplication

Conversion provides opportunity

- Remediate older data
- Go in new directions
- Streamline to newer elements introduced for RDA
- Example:
 - RDA favored labels over coded data
 - MARC introduced duplication of much of data in 006, 007, 008 coded data fields in 3XX fields
 - These 3XX fields could carry a label, code, and/or URI for the value which 00X fields could not
 - So LC modern MARC record favors 3XX, avoids duplication if possible

MARC coded data transformed

- MARC 007: 007 kd#bc|
- Changes for RDA duplicated data in MARC 340 to enable labels:
340 ## \$a cardboard \$d collotype \$g black and white
- As used in BIBFRAME to MARC conversion
340 ## \$acardboard\$0<http://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/mmaterial/crd>
340 ## \$dcollotype\$0<http://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/mproduction/collo>
340 ## \$gblack and white\$0<http://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/mcolor/blw>

Improved Provision statements

- MARC changes to accommodate RDA established new field for Provision statement -- 264
- Until 2011, the 260, Publication statement, was not repeatable:
 - 260 ##\$aParis :\$bGauthier-Villars ;\$aChicago :\$bUniversity of Chicago Press,\$c1955
- RDA separated publication, production, manufacture, and distribution into different 264 fields.
- BIBFRAME to MARC conversion will slowly disentangle the 260 into 264s:
 - 264 #1\$aParis :\$bGauthier-Villars,\$c1955
 - 264 #1\$aChicago :\$bUniversity of Chicago Press

Opportunities with non-Latin data

- LC's converted MARC will start with conventional treatment of non-Latin data
 - Latin in regular fields
 - Non-Latin in 880 fields
- BIBFRAME has more potential and LC will work with the community to advance:
 - More non-Latin data – in regular fields
 - Less transliteration (but goal is transliteration on demand)
 - Expansion of scripts handled by LC system and appearing in LC records

Opportunities with non-Latin data

- Again changes for RDA provide opportunities
 - MARC now has device for including language and script at the field level
 - \$aNat s agdorzh, D., \$d1906-1937 \$7 (dpeloe)mon \$7 (dpes)Latn
 - Internet has widely used standard BCP47 which **can also** include transliteration scheme employed
 - he-Latn-t-he-Hebr-m0-alaloc
 - (current lang) – (current script) – (t=transliterated from) – (original lang) – (original script) – (m0=using) – (transliteration scheme)
 - Great potential to marry MARC change with Internet standard for language, script, and transliteration scheme
- BCP47 will be used in LC's BIBFRAME and the conversion to MARC.

Confronting punctuation

- RDA and BIBFRAME and MARC do not require punctuation
- Format and cataloging guidelines were developed that include it
- Systems were built that expect it
- Cataloging committees have debated it

- Conversion of data will stimulate reconsideration of punctuation that litters our records

Status of conversion

- MARC to BIBFRAME and BIBFRAME to MARC conversion specs and programs – 2.7
 - Conversion of relationships and related works to mirror contribution-role modeling of agents
 - Better conversion of language resources in MARC 041 (language codes for different parts of a resource) into language-specific notes or accompanying resources
- BIBFRAME ontology – 2.4

Where we are:

- LC is excited to have actually begun its shift to BIBFRAME
- Looking forward to moving the focus from the shift to the exploitation of the BIBFRAME linked data
- LC will continue making MARC available – but in a “**modern**” form.

Thanks and some URIs

- Main BIBFRAME project site: www.loc.gov/bibframe/
 - Links to MARC to BIBFRAME specifications, conversion programs, and comparison tool
 - Links to BIBFRAME to MARC specifications, conversion programs, and comparison tool
 - Links to Editor design documents and software
- LC Linked Data service: id.loc.gov
 - Contains links to BIBFRAME bibliographic data, name and subject authorities, and many vocabularies
- Demonstration of LC's BIBFRAME tools: bibframe.org
 - Marva editor, tools and sources, Scriptshifter