

***Highlights from recent MARC
changes***

**Sally McCallum
Library of Congress**

MARC developments – Unicode

❖ Unicode interchange techniques

- **Unicode officially adopted by MARC 21 in 1998 – mapping tables developed**
- **MARC-8 - approximately 16,000 characters**
 - Repertoire: Latin, Cyrillic, Greek, Arabic, Hebrew, Chinese, Japanese, Korean
 - Many implementations only support Latin (with diacritics)
- **Unicode - over 100,000 characters**
 - Repertoire: All scripts, many symbols, all you could want

MARC developments - Unicode

- **How to maintain interchange between the MARC-8 and Unicode repertoires**
 - MARC-8 to Unicode – no problem
 - Unicode to MARC-8
 - Two techniques discussed and adopted
 - » Lossy – Unicode characters that are not part of MARC-8 are replaced by a “placeholder” (vertical bar) during conversion to MARC-8
 - » Lossless – Unicode characters that are not part of MARC-8 are replaced by a “numeric character reference” that preserves the identity of the character, e.g., a9;

MARC changes – ISSN-L

❖ Additional subfields for 022 (ISSN) for the new ISSN-L

- ISSN-L is a number for grouping the various media versions of a resource, e.g., print and online versions of a journal
 - Added subfield for ISSN-L
 - Added subfield for canceled ISSN-L

Recent MARC changes

❖ Record linking expanded

- Relating headings to appropriate bibliographic or authority records
 - Bibliographic to Authority links
 - Added subfield \$0 to many heading fields in the Bibliographic format for related authority entry numbers
 - 1XX, 6XX, 7XX, 8XX
 - Bibliographic to Bibliographic links
 - Added \$w to the 440, 8XX series fields in the Bibliographic format to link to a set bibliographic record

❖ Added information for multipart works

- Ldr/19 changed to enable specification of separate records for parts with dependent/independent titles

Recent MARC changes

❖ **Sorting for volume numbers and dates**

- Difficult problem because of lack of universal practices
- One proposal for a new sorting field for numbering of serial information was passed – it was aligned with an existing Holdings field
- Another for sorting subfields in the title (245), series (8XX) and edition (260) fields was not approved

Recent MARC changes

❖ **Enhanced Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) information**

- Bibliographic format – to support assignment of multiple numbers and parts of numbers
- Classification format – to support movement of DDC to use for the classification format

❖ **Copyright status information field added for digitization project use**

Under discussion

- ❖ **Resource Description and Access (RDA) data in MARC 21**
 - Discussed in January 2008
 - Proposals in June 2008
- ❖ **Making 440 (Series Access field) obsolete**
 - Use field 490 for transcription and 8XX for access, always
- ❖ **Enhanced field 502 (Dissertation note)**
 - Option to parse data into specific subfields
- ❖ **More elements in Authority format**
 - Support birth place, nationality, gender, etc.
- ❖ Visit www.loc.gov/marc under Format Development to follow issues