The Consortium of Library Networks

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February 11th, 2010

Issues between German and Austrian libraries and OCLC exchanging MARC 21 data

The German and Austrian regional library networks are experiencing some issues in providing OCLC with MARC 21 bibliographic data for importing into OCLC WorldCat®, via batch loading, or via SRU interfaces. The members of the German and Austrian Consortium of Library Networks would like to describe these issues, in order to reach a better understanding of their usage of MARC 21, and to gain broader acceptance for their data.

1.
Some of the issues are based on **recently defined MARC 21 elements** that are not yet implemented by OCLC. These are official parts of the standard MARC 21, and should be regarded as valid elements.
Among them are subfields $0 and $w for record linking, the three codes in Leader position 19 "Multipart resource record level", and field 363 for "Normalized data and sequential designation". We are aware that some of the official elements are already implemented by OCLC.
We expect OCLC to handle the official MARC 21 elements properly, either by implementing them, or by filtering the elements out and leave it to a future implementation to be able to import them.

2.
Some of the issues are based on possible **options** and matters of **common practice in MARC 21**. In these cases MARC 21 offers more than one way to transport bibliographic information.
Examples are the data models for multivolume / multipart monographs, the different ways to designate non-sorting parts of a title, and the more restricted usage of ISBD punctuation redundant to MARC 21 field and subfield coding.
We expect acceptance in these cases that differ from some common practices, emphasizing that we are using MARC 21 in a standard compliant way.

3.
Some of the issues are based on **elements** that have been **defined nationally, regionally or locally** by German and Austrian libraries. These elements are - by design - reserved for local implementation, and to be identified by the digit "9" in a field number, or indicator value, or subfield designator, or coded value. Among them are:

- 020 $9 ISBN with hyphens
- 029 Additional ISSNs
- 082 Indicator 2 = "9" for DDC assigned by DNB
- 089 Analytical DDC (to be transformed to 082/083/085)
- 090 Additional codes
- 246 Indicator 2 = "9" for "Ansetzungssachtitel"
- 249 Contained parts
- 259 Edition statement in normalized form
- 591 Internal note
- 689 Subject headings as string / sequence
- 800 - 830 $9 Volume designation in normalized form
- 889 Replaced record information (cf. 882)
- 930 Subseries information (cf. 245 $n $p)
- 931 Correction information
- 932 Online contents codes

We are aware that OCLC partly uses the same field numbers with different meanings and contents. This is due to the MARC 21 principles, explicitly not defining these elements. We expect OCLC to find ways to properly handle these elements, either by importing them, or by filtering them out. There should be no issues with records as a whole containing local elements - the records themselves should be imported regardless of the presence of local elements inside.

4.
Finally we have realized issues brought up by OCLC regarding elements that have been identified not strictly belonging to the **OCLC "MARC Bibliographic Formats and Standards"**, but nevertheless being part of MARC 21 as a wider framework.
For example, being forced to use field 001 "Control number" if and only if the OCLC number is contained, and otherwise omit field 001 or leave it empty, is not a feasible way to identify a MARC 21 record in an international context. Furthermore, an instruction not to use field 007 "Physical Description Fixed Field" in cases when a textual resource is described by the MARC 21 record (implying that each record without a 007 describes a textual resource) would fail to use MARC 21 in a complete style.

Summing up, the German and Austrian Consortium of Library Networks wishes to express their concerns about the somewhat restrictive rules how a MARC 21 record has to be formulated if it is to be imported into the OCLC WorldCat® database. We seek to gain acceptance for MARC 21 records, as long as they are compliant to the MARC 21 standard. We ask for more flexibility in programming the import routines and the online validation for the OCLC WorldCat® database, taking care of the German and Austrian bibliographic records. And we offer every kind of assistance that is needed to achieve a wider and truly international exchange of MARC 21 data.

<u>Links:</u>

<u>MARC 21</u>

MARC Standards
http://www.loc.gov/marc/

The MARC 21 Formats: Background and Principles
http://www.loc.gov/marc/96principl.html

<u>OCLC MARC</u>

OCLC: Bibliographic Formats and Standards
http://www.oclc.org/bibformats

OCLC: MARC 21 Bibliographic Data Elements not Implemented by OCLC
http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation/worldcat/records/notimplemented

<u>German and Austrian contributions</u>

Consortium of Library Networks
http://www.d-nb.de/eng/wir/kooperation/ag-verbund.htm

MARC 21
http://www.d-nb.de/eng/standardisierung/formate/marc21.htm

MARC 21 (Bibliographic format): Used fields for DNB and ZDB bibliographic records
http://www.d-nb.de/standardisierung/pdf/marc21_titel_dnb_0904_en.pdf

"The German and Austrian Version of MARC 21: Standard Compliance, Flexibility, and Implementations". Presentation given by Reinhold Heuvelmann at the meeting of the LITA / ALCTS MARC Formats Interest Group during the ALA Annual Conference 2009
Abstract: http://presentations.ala.org/images/1/13/MARC-abstract.pdf
Slides: http://presentations.ala.org/images/2/2c/MARC-presentation.pdf
Handout: http://presentations.ala.org/images/4/4f/MARC-presentation-handout.pdf
Examples: http://presentations.ala.org/images/7/7e/MARC-examples.pdf

German and Austrian MARBI papers:

2007-06
Changes for the German and Austrian conversion to MARC 21
http://www.loc.gov/marc/marbi/2007/2007-dp01.html

2008-01
Representation of the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) System in MARC 21 Formats
http://www.loc.gov/marc/marbi/2008/2008-01.html

Discussion paper 2010-DP01
ISBD punctuation in the MARC 21 Bibliographic Format
http://www.loc.gov/marc/marbi/2010/2010-dp01.html