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The Bibliography Section
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NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Stanislav Golubtsov, Head of the Information retrieval languages and subject indexing department. The National Library of Russia

The development of RUSMARC in Russia.



The National Library of Russia - main building in the historical center of St-Petersburg

The National Library of Russia was founded in 1795. It was open for readers in 1814 as the Imperial Public Library. In 1992 the Library received its modern name (the National Library of Russia) and status of an especially valuable object of the Russian Federation cultural heritage.

The National Library of Russia is one of the five largest libraries in the world and the second largest in Russia in terms of the funds volumes. In modern Russia the high social value and responsibility of culture, enlightenment and education is asserted, including the need of active use of the National Library collections potential. Implementation of this mission is subject to the development of the Library's catalog system. It is based on an electronic catalog that displays the content of the National Library of Russia funds and allows users to search necessary information.

The National Library of Russia seeks to implement the interlibrary cooperation of Russian libraries in the field of cataloging. It is supposed that further development of interlibrary cooperation will be carried out on the basis of the National Library of Russia and Russian State Library Common Electronic Catalogue and the formation of the bibliographic

records of the national level. Therefore, one of the priorities in the development of the National Library of Russia is the development and support of the national format system RUSMARC and the system of authority files. This is reflected in the "Concept of development of the National Library of Russia for 2018-2025", which passed a broad public discussions, an expert assessment of the professional community and Russian Federation authorities. The Concept was approved at the collegium's meeting of Russian Federation Ministry of Culture on February 9, 2018. The trust given by the state to one of Russia's leading libraries shows that the authorities understand the importance of this problem and recognize that the National Library of Russia will be able to solve this problem with utmost competence and with maximum efficiency.

The National Library of Russia has great experience in the development of a system of formats for the presentation of machine-readable bibliographic and authority records, in work on creation authority files, methodological, educational and organizational work. It's enough to say that the system of Russian national authority files was developed on the basis of the National Library of Russia card catalogues system. Thus, subject headings authority file was created on the basis of an exclusive in the country, unique in amount and universal in the content, list of subject headings used in the subject catalog of the National Library of Russia.



The National Library of Russia - new building, St-Petersburg

In 1968 the Problem Commission on subject headings was formed in the Library. Over the decades of work the Commission has made a significant contribution to the development of the subject headings theory and building the professional communications with Russian libraries. In the 1990s, the Commission began to translate UNIMARC into Russian. It also worked with adaptation of UNIMARC to Russian rules of cataloguing and subject headings practices. The development of Russian formats of machine-readable cataloguing (RUSMARC, the Russian version of UNIMARC), electronic cataloguing and authority control technologies started just in that moment.

In 1995 in the National Library of Russia on the basis of the Problem Commission IFLA held on the workshop "Authority Files - Creation and Use in Cataloging".

It's necessary to note that the Russian communication format (RUSMARC) has been formally included by the UNIMARC Standing Committee in the UNIMARC format of national adaptations.

Currently, the support and development of RUSMARC in the National Library of Russia is maintained by the information retrieval languages and subject indexing department under the leadership of Mr. Golubtsov. Information retrieval languages and subject indexing department is the headquarters of the RUSMARC Expert Council, formed under the National Library of Russia. The Council is an expert advisory body that on the basis of the interaction of the Russian Federation libraries, the professional library community, in-depth study and analysis of domestic and foreign experience, is called upon to promote the development of RUSMARC in Russia to ensure the scientific, methodical, analytical and expert activities of libraries and to search the effective solutions in this area.



Alexander Visly - General Director, The National Library of Russia. During the discussion of the National Library of Russia development concept for 2018-2025

The main goal of the Expert Council is to provide expert and consultative support for the development and implementation of RUSMARC.

In May 2018, within the All-Russian Library Congress: the XXIII Annual Conference of the Russian Library Association, which brought together 1,500 professionals from all over Russia, was held a presentation of the RUSMARC Expert Council activities. There were also the seminar on machine-readable cataloguing in the RUSMARC format and report on the IFLA Library Reference Model (LRM).

The official site of the RUSMARC Expert Council is www.rusmarc.info. It was created for maximum convenience, ease of obtaining information and getting feedback from the professional community. At the same time site is a convenient source of receiving the information on all issues related to RUSMARC. Besides, the participants of the Russian library community can test their knowledge of the RUSMARC by going through online testing. The number of tests is constantly expanding. On the RUSMARC.INFO site there is also the possibility of

online registration for training program "Theory and practice of machine-readable cataloguing in the RUSMARC", which is successfully conducted by the National Library of Russia specialists. During the training period students will learn about domestic and international documents regulating the cataloguing; get information about the RUSMARC format system, acquire skills in the use of authority files. Within the framework of the training a significant practical part is provided. During this part of program the participants develop their theoretical knowledge in practice under the guidance of experienced specialists of the National Library of Russia.

The National Library of Russia is keeping pace with time. The program of distance learning and advanced training "Theory and practice of machine-readable cataloguing in the RUSMARC format system" is being developed. At the www.RUSMARC.info the mobile application RUSMARC for mobile devices is available.

In the development of the RUSMARC format, Russia actively cooperates with the international professional library community, primarily with the IFLA UNIMARC PUC Committee. For example, the representative of the National Library of Russia, the executive secretary of the RUSMARC Expert Council, Mr. Golubtsov is a corresponding member of the PUC Committee. This interaction opens up wide opportunities for mutual exchange of information, which makes professional collaboration as useful and productive as possible.

NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

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Migration of the National Library of South Africa (NLSA) to WorldShare Management Services (WMS)

Background

For the past 17 years, the NLSA has been contributing its bibliographic records to the OCLC Worldcat database. As a legal deposit library, many of the records contributed consisted of original cataloguing.

In 2012, an accounting standard, Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP) 103 was introduced by the South African National Treasury, requiring that all Heritage Institutions be able to account for their collections via an institutional Heritage Asset Register. As the custodians of the documentary heritage of South Africa, this Standard is applicable to the NLSA. Many meetings and discussions were held, as we grappled with GRAP and how best to implement it, and eventually it was agreed that the most appropriate place to include the required accounting information would be in the item record associated with each bibliographic record.

At that point in time, Worldcat did not provide an option for the inclusion of item level information and the in-house integrated library management system (ILMS) that the NLSA was utilising at the time, was coming to the end of its life span. A decision had to be made urgently as to a way forward.