1. MAINTENANCE AND UPDATE OF THE UNIMARC FORMATS

The work on the maintenance of the Bibliographic and Authorities formats continued with major decisions made at the 20th PUC Meeting (held in Florence, from 12-13 March 2008). The 2008 meeting was focused mostly on the preparation of the 3rd edition of the UNIMARC Bibliographic which was concluded in July. Since then, the work of the PUC has been devoted to the update of UNIMARC / Authorities, in order to prepare a 3rd edition.

The third edition of the UNIMARC Manual: Bibliographic Format, succeeding the second edition (fifth update, 2005) was issued in August 2008 and launched at the IFLA Conference in Quebec. Beyond many other corrections, clarifications and minor changes, most significant updates include provisions for the accommodation of ISBN 13, Linking ISSN or ISSN-L, and the ISIL - International Standard Identifier for Libraries and Related Organizations, as well as the establishment of new fields for authority controlled conventional uniform headings for legal and religious texts.


Preparation of the third edition of the UNIMARC Manual: Authorities Format continued as planned, in order to make it available in August 2009 for the IFLA Conference in Milan. This edition will replace the second edition (2001) and its updates will not only parallel the developments of the 3rd ed. of the UNIMARC/Bibliographic but will also encompass changes suggested by UNIMARC users to the PUC and will incorporate concepts and terminology from FRAD – Functional Requirements of Authority Data.

The UNIMARC/Holdings format was not subject to any change. The UNIMARC/Classification format is still in progress. It is expected that work can be carried out to finalize the corresponding manual in 2010.

Reports of the PUC meetings can be found at http://www.ifla.org.sg/VI/8/puc.htm and are also published in ICBC – International Cataloguing and Bibliographic Control.

2. UNIMARC GUIDELINES

Up to now there are eight UNIMARC guidelines (available at http://www.ifla.org.sg/VI/8/unimarc-publist.htm), the last one published in 2007. Ongoing developments regarding guidance materials include the revision of Guidelines for Using UNIMARC for Microforms, first published in 1999, and preparation of a UNIMARC Guidelines for Manuscripts, which first version was proposed for discussion within the PUC in 2008.

3. UNIMARC SURVEY

In 2008, the UNIMARC Core Activity carried out a worldwide survey on the usage of UNIMARC and related editorial and training activities. The results were presented at IFLA 2008, Quebec, and a summary is available at http://www.ifla.org/VI/8/unimarc-survey-2008_results.pdf.
4. CONFERENCES AND FUTURE MEETINGS

2nd UNIMARC Users Meeting, 2008, Florence, Italy

The 2nd UNIMARC Users Meeting took place in the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze, the 14th of March 2008, following the 19th PUC Meeting. The meeting gathered 70 participants from 7 countries and the programme included, following introductory speeches by the BNCF and the PUC Director and Chair, seven presentations by users from Italy, Greece, Slovenia, Russia, France and the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL). The presentations are available at http://unimarc2meeting.bnportugal.pt/.

The 3rd UNIMARC Users Meeting is being planned for France, at the ENSSIB, in March 2010.

IFLA 2008, Quebec, Canada

The UNIMARC Session at IFLA 2008 was devoted to the topic Evolving bibliographic standards: the role and place of UNIMARC. The session was attended by ca 80 people and the following papers were presented:

- UNIMARC Bibliographic Format, the new 3rd edition and the future, Alan Hopkinson (Middlesex University, London, UK)
- New developments in UNIMARC/Authorities: impacts from the 3rd edition of the Bibliographic Format and the FRAD model, Mirna Willer (University of Zadar, Zadar, Croatia)
- The UNIMARC landscape: updated overview, Maria Ines Cordeiro (National Library of Portugal, Lisbon, Portugal)

IFLA 2009, Milan, Italy

The topic for the UNIMARC session in the IFLA Conference 2009 is UNIMARC and the future of catalogues. Five papers will be presented:

  Mirna Willer (University of Zadar, Zadar, Croatia)
- FRBR information discovery in traditional catalogues: the TelPlus experience
  Rosa Galvão, Margarida Pedreiro Lopes, Nuno Freire (National Library of Portugal, Portugal)
- UNIMARC, RDA and the Semantic Web
  Gordon Dunsire (University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland)
- The new Italian Cataloguing Rules (REICAT) and the UNIMARC standard: open problems and proposals for the application in library catalogues
  Antonella Trombone (Universita' degli Studi della Basilicata, Potenza, Italy) and Fernanda Canepa (Berio Library, Genoa, Italy)
- An evaluation of multi-language/multi-script functions in KOHA
  Naicheng Chang (Tatung University, Taipei, China) and Yuchin Tsai (National Applied Research Laboratories, Taipei, China)

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