

Развитие формата UNIMARC
Progress in UNIMARC
Розвиток формату UNIMARC

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Формату UNIMARC уже более 35 лет, но он до сих пор активно используется. Структура записей ISO 2709 еще старше, она не соответствует современным стандартам обработки данных. ISO разработала XML-версию, которые совместима пока не со всеми вариантами формата UNIMARC. В докладе обсуждается управление форматом UNIMARC и дается отчет о недавно прошедшей встрече Группы пользователей UNIMARC. Также описываются новые предложения по внесению изменений в UNIMARC.

UNIMARC is over 35 year old but it is still much used. The ISO 2709 record structure is even older but it is unlike current data processing standards and an XML version has been developed by ISO which is not yet quite compatible with all the variations of UNIMARC. The governance of UNIMARC is discussed and a report of a recent International UNIMARC User Group meeting is described. Recent proposals for changes in UNIMARC are also outlined.

Формату UNIMARC уже більше 35 років, але він дотепер активно використовується. Структура записів ISO 2709 ще старіша, вона не відповідає сучасним стандартам обробки даних. ISO розробила XML-версію, яка поки що сумісна не з усіма варіантами формату UNIMARC. У доповіді обговорюється управління форматом UNIMARC і подається звіт про зустріч Групи користувачів UNIMARC, яка нещодавно відбулася. Також описано нові пропозиції щодо внесення змін в UNIMARC.

UNIMARC was created in 1974 as a response to the requirement for an international MARC format. It is therefore 36 years old. It stands for UNIversal MAchine Readable Cataloguing

In 1969, the car of the year was the Peugeot 504 and the Rolls Royce Silver Shadow II came a close second the year before. There have been many models of cars since then. The ISO 2709 format the record structure of UNIMARC, originally developed for the Library of Congress MARC format has remained stable over the period with only a few minor revisions or modifications. Recently there was developed through ISO a new XML-based record structure MarcXchange which is an XML version of ISO 2709, meaning that the tags and subfields remain as they are and only the structure changes. Unfortunately the new US-developed standard was adopted as an international standard without taking into account the embedded fields of UNIMARC to the chagrin as much of the Danish promoters of the international standard as of the users of embedded fields, primarily Italian and Russian users. However they have promised that when the standard comes up to its first year review which must be soon this will be taken into account and the standard will be revised.

So UNIMARC remains a beacon of stability in an ever-changing world, unlike LC MARC even its name has stayed the same. Computing systems experts are astounded at the longevity of the standard and even more astounded at the arcane record structure. But its beauty is that it is fixed and so anyone writing a computer program to import or export data has no choices to make. Moreover bibliographic records, unlike records in most computer systems may remain for ever, in a national bibliographic system one's hope is that they will remain for ever, and many records in academic or public library catalogues will have a long life. Additionally every library has an overlap of resources with every other and as such all cataloguing attempts for a particular book basically come up with the same record.

UNIMARC Governance

UNIMARC is maintained by the IFLA UNIMARC Core Activity (director Ines Cordeiro of the National Library of Portugal) which delegates decisions of detail to the Permanent UNIMARC Committee (PUC). The PUC was formed in 1991, in accordance with resolution No. 5 issued at the Seminar on Bibliographic Records held in Stockholm before the IFLA General Conference, August 1990. The master copy of the format documentation is always in English. The main objective of the PUC is to control the UNIMARC format in accordance with the principles of Universal Bibliographic Control.

The PUC consists of a minimum of 7 and no more than 9 standing members, who are experts in UNIMARC and come from different countries and institutions having active UNIMARC experience. A maximum of 12 corresponding experts may be appointed for a two-year term by the Committee in consultation with the IFLA UNIMARC Core Activity to represent other geographical areas of UNIMARC expertise. The members are:

Chair: Alan Hopkinson, UK; Vice Chair: Jay Weitz, USA; Rosa Galvão, Portugal; Cristina Magliano, Italy; Olga Zhlobinskaya, Russia; Ioanna Demopoulous, Greece; Agnes Manneheut, France (*pro tem*); Liuba Buckiene, Lithuania; Honorary member and special consultant: Mirna Willer, Croatia

UNIMARC User Group

We hold an International User Group every two years. This year it was in France and we wanted to promote the use of UNIMARC records so to capitalise on this we invited to the user group providers of UNIMARC records since one of the economic advantages of UNIMARC is that using records created by other people reduce cataloguing costs.

UNIMARC developments

What is planned for UNIMARC over the next few years? We held our 21st annual Permanent UNIMARC Committee meeting in March and we decided to plan for a new printed edition in 2012. We have abandoned the loose leaf version with updates as it was not popular with our users. Almost a year ago we published the 3rd edition of *UNIMARC Authorities* and now we have an approach from the National Library of China to translate it into Chinese. So UNIMARC Authorities will reach an extra 1.325 billion people.

We continue to work on the detail of the standard and the meeting this year was no exception. We considered over 20 proposals, slightly fewer than usual, including 15 new or revived ones. We accepted the draft of a new field 146 to replace field 145 *Coded Data Field: Medium of Performance* which was published only in the 3rd edition but which had received careful attention from the original proposer Mr Massimo Gentili Tedeschi. We finalised the field for the 13-digit ISMN (International Standard Music Number) field 013 and this will be placed on the IFLA UNIMARC website so as not to have to wait for the new edition before releasing it. We approved the text of new fields for ISAN, the International Standard Audiovisual Number, for UNIMARC Authorities and the ISTC, International Standard Text Code for UNIMARC Bibliographic and Authorities. We reviewed the Bibliography in Appendix M and will reorder it in three categories, ISO standards, IFLA documents and the rest, and will give an explanation of its scope. A new code will be added to the record label character position 18 which defines Descriptive Cataloguing Form to indicate that an item is not in ISBD form because ISBD is not relevant, such as is the case with archives. We considered amendments to the format to accommodate ISBD area 0. We will have a new set of codes for media types based on ISBD.

We went through two lists of errors: one that I myself as editor and other members of the PUC had found in the 3rd edition; and another provided by the translators of the French version had found as the best way to see if a text makes sense is to translate it into another language.

We will merge these into one list and create a new list of the more important errors and mount this on the IFLA website.

We reviewed the latest draft of the Guidelines for Manuscripts for which the code in the record label just mentioned was required and further changes will be made to the text. A new version will be produced.

We laid plans for the finalising of the UNIMARC / Classification format document and discussed the UNIMARC session at IFLA in Gothenburg.

UNIMARC Internationally

UNIMARC is used extensively in France and Portugal. In both countries they produce documentation as quickly as possible after each edition is published, beginning their work with drafts. RUSMARC (based on UNIMARC) is treated similarly. In Italy they produce their own documentation but rely more on the English version. The Balkan cooperative cataloguing system COBISS, with its headquarters in Maribor, Slovenia, also uses UNIMARC and produces its own documentation in Slovenian and other languages of the region. Other significant users of the format are Japan, China and Taiwan whose national formats are based on UNIMARC.

UNIMARC continues as the major bibliographic exchange format in many parts of the world and IFLA is committed to its continued support.