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IFLA Core Activity for Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC (UBCIM) – Review of activities 2001-2002

Marie France Plassard

Programme Director

IFLA UBCIM Core Activity
c/o Die Deutsche Bibliothek
Frankfurt am Main
Germany

UBCIM is primarily concerned with the coordination of activities aimed at the development of systems and standards at the national level and the international exchange of bibliographic data. The Programme is especially involved with the work of the Division of Bibliographic Control and publishes various reports and proceedings of meetings. It is in charge of the maintenance and promotion of the UNIMARC format through a group of experts, the Permanent UNIMARC Committee (PUC).

I. International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD)

In collaboration with the Division and the ISBD Review Committee, further ISBDs have been posted on the IFLANET, as well as additional lists of translations: there are 18 so far.(1) The Office liaises with various coordinating centres and new ones were established recently, e.g., in the Ukraine for translation of the ISBD(G) and in Estonia for translation of the ISBD(ER). This is an opportunity to remind you that for each planned translation, you should contact us and apply for permission.

II. Working Group on Functional Requirements and Numbering of Authority Records (FRANAR)

“Promote the development of authority control at the international level” was one of the main goals of our Medium Term Programme 1998 – 2001.(2) It remains a priority and the joint Working Group Division IV/UBCIM, (a follow up of the Working Group on Minimal Level Authority Records and the ISADN) is charged with:

- defining functional requirements of authority records
- studying the feasibility of an international authority data number
- and liaising with other interested groups.

The WG made much progress on the first goal, thanks to the help of Tom Delsey, formerly of the National Library of Canada, who has produced a **Strawman Model for Name and Title Authorities** which is, according to the author, “a first cut at analyzing functional requirements for name and title authority records”. This entity-relationship model was discussed at length during a two-day meeting in London (9 and 10 May) which was made possible by funding provided by the IFLA Professional Committee. As a result of the London discussions, the model was significantly revised by the consultant before the meeting scheduled in Glasgow.

This analysis of functional requirements will result in a publication that meets the first goal of the WG. The second has not been really considered yet, but, now that agreement has been reached on the entity-relationship model, that study can begin in earnest.

Concerning the third one, liaison with other interested groups, there has been a lot of feedback, as members of the WG are involved in various organizations and projects, and reports have been presented at each FRANAR Meeting. One member liaises with ICA, quite a few, including myself, are involved in ISO TC 46 work (including submission of comments on the draft ISTC standard). Lastly, IFLA has been invited to join the INTERPARTY project which Brian Green will report on. IFLA UBCIM is a full member.

III. UNIMARC

The maintenance and promotion of the UNIMARC format continues to represent one of UBCIM major activities. A Strategic Plan 2002-2003 is posted on the IFLANET (3), giving all goals and related actions. UBCIM acts as secretariat of the PUC, maintains the file of addition and change proposals, coordinates the work for updates to the UNIMARC Manual, makes documentation accessible on the IFLANET, and organizes relevant meetings.

The 13th meeting of the PUC took place in St. Petersburg last March on the kind invitation of the National Library of Russia. Various new proposals related to electronic resources and to developments brought about by the *ISBD(CR)* were on the agenda, as well as quite a few additions to the format requested by the Subgroup on Music. Update 4 to the *UNIMARC Manual, Bibliographic Format*, was finalized. A meeting of the Working Group on the UNIMARC format for Holdings also took place in St. Petersburg.

I shall not report in detail on UNIMARC activities, as we have scheduled a UNIMARC Open Forum between 15.00 and 16.00 today, where I cordially invite those of you who are interested.

IV. Seminars and Workshops

A. Workshop in Boston, 23 August 2001

A joint Division IV/PUC/UBCIM Workshop took place in Boston on the theme “Information Exchange in the 21st Century: Formats and Standardization”. Those who participated agreed that it was very well attended. Papers were all posted on the IFLANET (4) and a selection of them will be published in a special ICBC issue, 31(3), July-September 2002.

B. International Conference on Electronic Resources, Rome, 26 – 28 November, 2001

This event, held under the auspices of IFLA, was organized by the University of Rome La Sapienza, the Ministry of Cultural Assets and the Italian Library Association. Several international speakers participated, among them IFLA representatives such as John Byrum who had contributed to the planning of the professional programme and Barbara Tillett. I presented several projects related to electronic resources in a paper entitled “The IFLA Response”. Papers are posted on the Website of the University of Rome La Sapienza.(5) A report appeared in ICBC.(6)

C. Electronic Library Workshops, India, 13 – 29 January 2002

This course had been conceived a few years ago in discussions at the IFLA annual conferences with Ms. Kalpana Dasgupta, former Director of the Central Secretariat Library in New Delhi and President of the Indian Library Association (ILA). IFLA was instrumental in securing funding from the US National Commission on Libraries and Information Services (NCLIS) for travel and accommodation of two experts: Alan Hopkinson, from Middlesex University, UK, and Mirna Willer from the National and University Library in Zagreb, Croatia and Chair of the Permanent UNIMARC Committee. Since the choice of a national bibliographic format was the topic under extensive discussion Mirna Willer presented UNIMARC and Alan Hopkinson MARC 21; both concentrated on sources of information available on the WWW. In both venues, Delhi and Mumbai, participants were shown how to develop a website using MARC and Dublin Core, which would act as a gateway to electronic resources. A report was published in ICBC.(7)

D. Representation at other meetings

Apart from the meetings already mentioned, I attended the following events, in most cases representing IFLA at meetings of organizations UBCIM liaises with:

- ISSN Conference of Directors, Berne, September 2001
- ISBN Panel Meeting, Luxembourg, October 2001
- ISOTC 46, Paris, October 2001
- CERL (Consortium of European Research Libraries) Seminar and General Assembly, Lyon, November 2001
- Meeting with IFLA Governing Board, The Hague, 27 March 2002
- INTERPARTY meetings, London, 8 April and 8 July 2002.

V. Publications

A. UBCIM New Series

This is published and distributed by K.G. Saur. At the time of writing the following publications are in press:

- *UNIMARC Manual - Bibliographic Format Update 4*
- *International Standard Bibliographic Description for Serials and other Continuing Resources (ISBD(CR))*
- *Manuel UNIMARC*. Version française. 4ème édition.
- Volume 25 in the series (scheduled next month) will be the proceedings of the pre-IFLA satellite conference in Dublin, Ohio 14 – 16 August 2001, *Subject Retrieval in a Networked Environment*.
- Colleagues at OCLC have kindly volunteered to revise publication no 9: *International Guide to MARC Databases and Services*. I gratefully acknowledge their help, as this has been deemed a very useful publication but it is nearly ten years old.

B. Translations of UBCIM publications

I have already mentioned this topic when talking about the ISBDs. Other translations have appeared or are planned, e.g. the *UNIMARC Manual - Bibliographic Format* in Azeri, the *UNIMARC Manual - Authorities Format* in Czech, French, Italian and Lithuanian and *Functional Requirements of Bibliographic Records* in Japanese and Lithuanian.

C. International Cataloguing and Bibliographic Control (ICBC)

The quarterly journal of UBCIM continues to publish IFLA reports and conference papers, commissioned and unsolicited articles, news and events, and book reviews. We welcome all relevant contributions. Tables of contents are posted on the IFLANET.(10)

As usual, an article from the country hosting the IFLA Conference appeared in the 2nd issue “Bibliographic Control in Scotland: Providing a Specialized National Bibliography Within a Wider Context” by Cate Newton, from The National Library of Scotland.

References

1. <http://www.ifla.org/VI/3/nd1/isbdtran.htm>
2. <http://www.ifla.org/VI/3/annual/98-2001.htm>
3. <http://www.ifla.org/VI/3/annual/spunimarc.htm>
4. <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla67/pprog-e.htm#7>
5. <http://w3.uniroma1.it/ssab/ER>
6. *International Cataloguing and Bibliographic Control (ICBC)*, 31(2), April-June 2002, pp. 37-38
7. *Ibid.*
8. *UNIMARC Manual Bibliographic Format*, (UBCIM Publications - New Series, v. 14) Update 4. München: Saur, 2002
9. *ISBD(CR): International Standard Bibliographic Description for Serials and Other Continuing Resources* (UBCIM Publications – New Series, v. 24). München: Saur, 2002
10. <http://www.ifla.org/VI/3/admin/content.htm>