

SUPPORT FOR INSTITUTION SPECIFIC DATA

This paper discusses system support for Institution Specific Data (ISD) in Libraries Australia and why it is timely to considering changing the policy regarding contribution of ISD to the Australian National Bibliographic Database (ANBD).

Introduction

A limited number of ISD fields were supported in the former ABN system notes and subject headings

When the Kinetica Service, using the Amicus software, was implemented it was decided to no longer support ISD (except for holdings) and not to migrate ISD from ABN to the new platform. This decision was discussed at the 45th ABN Standards Committee Meeting in March 1998.

Libraries Australia currently supports institution specific holdings data (MARC field 850) and Electronic Location and Access data (Input in the LACC in field 956 and output as MARC field 856; flagged with \$xISD5:NUC). In both cases this institution specific data is visible to all users of the service. Records provided through the Record Export and Products services are tailored to include ISD supplied by the requesting library.

The current Libraries Australia Cataloguing policy is:

Institution or copy specific notes are not valid data for the ANBD. Changes to bibliographic records should not place institution specific data in shared data fields and should retain all valid data in the record. (*Libraries Australia Cataloguing Manual 4.1.1*)

What is ISD?

ISD is usually defined as data that is applicable only to the institution that created it or to a specific copy of work within that library and because of this it is not be shared with other libraries. With Web 2.0 and the possibility of a wider group of users creating content, especially social tagging, Libraries Australia should consider the broader issues relating to the sharing of data. Irrespective of the source of the data, or whether or not it was created according to a recognized standard, it can be argued that most data elements are potentially valuable to other users and therefore should potentially be shareable.

It is possible to define three levels of data shareability:

- Shareable (e.g. Bibliographic data created according to agreed standards)
- Optionally shareable (e.g. Subject data created using an institution specific controlled vocabulary, or a tag cloud created by users)
- Non-shareable (e.g. Data that the contributor has designated as non-shareable).

Why support a wider range of ISD?

The National Library of Australia's Catalogue Access Review conducted in 2005/06 identified a medium term goal of using Libraries Australia as the public catalogue for the NLA collections. In order for this to occur the review found that additional institution specific bibliographic and holdings data would need to be added to ANBD records and be supported in Libraries Australia services.

Expanding support for ISD in Libraries Australia would: enable libraries to use it as a public catalogue; support the development of a Libraries Australia Local service similar to WorldCat Local, and could support more detailed and current holdings information. Allowing users to optionally include or exclude specified data elements from their search displays and bibliographic products would enable Libraries Australia to better meet their specific needs; for example, a number of libraries have recently asked that MARC field 653 (Index term-Uncontrolled) be excluded from their bibliographic products.

What data should be supported in Libraries Australia?

The NLA Catalogue Access Review specifically identified that support for the following categories of ISD is required: topical subject headings, geographic subject headings, series headings and Parent-child links (MARC field 773). In addition Libraries Australia should consider support for any other data elements that subscribers require for the description of, and access to, their resources.

The solution implemented will need to ensure that coding is sufficiently specific (e.g. including support for subfield coding) to allow the data to be mapped to the most appropriate index; for example the NLA has suggested the use of field 650_4 for subject headings created using an institution specific vocabulary rather than a more generic 690 field. It will also need to enable contributing libraries and Libraries Australia to distinguish between shareable and non-sharable fields in contributed records. The MARC21 format already allows data in certain bibliographic fields to be linked to a specific institution by including the NUC of the contributing library in subfield \$5 however it is likely that the support required by Libraries Australia subscribers will go beyond what is supported in MARC21 and will require the specification of additional data elements.

Implementation of the MARC holdings format would provide support for a range of copy specific note, holdings and electronic location fields. It would also provide improved support for institution specific Electronic Location and Access data which is currently supported in the a shareable bibliographic field 856 and flagged with "\$xISD5:NUC" to indicated that it is institution specific data. Given the extensive use of holdings embedded in field 850/984 of the bibliographic record for the exchange of holdings, Libraries Australia will need to continue to support this option for the foreseeable future.

Overview of required system development

The CBS software which is used for the Libraries Australia Cataloguing service supports three record levels: Main, Local and Copy. The Main and Copy levels are currently used. Non-sharable data elements could be supported as local level records in CBS. Support for local level data has not been implemented as it was not a requirement identified for the Libraries Australia implementation. Implementation would require a significant task to configure support in CBS. Support for the MARC holdings format could be implemented by reconfiguring the current CBS Copy level

record. A larger task would be the development of support for non-shareable data in other modules of Libraries Australia: Record Import Service, Reader/Loader, Search Database, Record Export Service and Products.

The minimum level of support that is required is to allow Libraries Australia subscribers to contribute non-shareable bibliographic data and MARC format holdings to the ANBD, and to limit the display, editing and export of such data to the contributing library. It is desirable for other libraries to optionally be able to display and export this data.

An issue which will need to be resolved is whether non or optionally shareable data should be included in shared Libraries Australia indexes; this would lead to users retrieving records where the search term may not be visible in the record.

To summarize, the implementation of improved support for institution data in Libraries Australia will require:

- Development of guidelines on the use of existing MARC21 bibliographic fields that allow data to be linked to a specific institution (e.g. 5XX fields that support subfield \$5) and on the use of MARC21 formatted holding records
- Specification of additional fields for non-shareable data (e.g. 59X, 69X and 9XX) and the development of guidelines for their use in Libraries Australia
- Specification of changes to the configuration of the Libraries Australia Cataloguing service (CBS software)
- Specifications for the development of support for non-shareable and optionally shareable data in the other Libraries Australia modules.

Recommendation

That the Libraries Australia Advisory Committee discuss the issues relating to changing Libraries Australia policy regarding support for Institution Specific Data.

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