



The 16th Meeting of the Permanent UNIMARC Committee

2005 March 7-9, National Library of Portugal, Lisbon

A report by Jay Weitz, OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Vice Chair of the PUC

On 2005 March 7-9, IFLA's Permanent UNIMARC Committee (PUC) gathered at the National Library of Portugal in Lisbon for its Sixteenth Meeting, hosted by UNIMARC Core Activity Director Ms. Fernanda Maria Campos. In attendance were all current Standing Members of the PUC: Ms. Liubovė Buckienė (National Library of Lithuania), Ms. Joanna Demopoulos (National Library of Greece), Ms. Rosa Galvão (National Library of Portugal), Mr. Alan Hopkinson (Middlesex University, UK), Mr. Philippe Le Pape (Agence Bibliographique de l'Enseignement Supérieur, France), Ms. Cristina Magliano (Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo Unico, Italy), Mr. Vladimir Skvortsov (National Library of Russia), and Mr. Jay Weitz (OCLC Online Computer Library Center, USA).

Because this was the first meeting chaired by Mr. Hopkinson, the committee spent considerable time cleaning up and finalizing outstanding items on its most recent Action Lists and fully updating its "Archive List of All Change and Addition Proposals." From now on, all Archive List entries for accepted proposals will be closed with a note that indicates the UNIMARC update in which the proposal is published. Entries for proposals that do not lead to a change in UNIMARC will be closed with an appropriate note indicating its rejection, its being superseded by another proposal, or other appropriate concluding action.

During the three days of meetings, the PUC discussed seven UNIMARC/Bibliographic (UNIMARC/B) change proposals, several issues concerning UNIMARC/B, the Web version of UNIMARC/Holdings (UNIMARC/H), errata for UNIMARC/Authorities (UNIMARC/A), the use of UNIMARC for archives and manuscript materials, the series of UNIMARC guidelines, future development of the UNIMARC formats, upcoming UNIMARC presentations at IFLA meetings, and the UNIMARC and Standards Seminar 2006. In addition, there were presentations on the evolving online UNIMARC Forum and the UNIMARC Registry.

UNIMARC Formats

The UNIMARC change proposals were discussed in numerical order. Unless otherwise noted, the proposals were accepted or accepted as amended.

- Two proposals concerned the UNIMARC/B control subfield \$7, Alphabet/Script of Field. One proposal added text to explain that the subfield coding alone was not adequate to instruct a system to deal logically with the complexities of different scripts appearing in the same field. A second subfield \$7 proposal attempted to align the treatment of UNIMARC/B and UNIMARC/A regarding the direction of script, but this was postponed pending further user input regarding treatment of right-to-left scripts.
- New UNIMARC/B field 852, Location and Call Number, was created, and corresponding UNIMARC/H field 252 will be aligned with it.
- UNIMARC/B field 141, Coded Data Field: Antiquarian – Copy Specific Attributes, was generalized by removing the term "Antiquarian." New subfield \$b, Binding Specific Characteristics, was defined to deal with various aspects of the binding materials, decorations, motifs, binding pieces, boards, and age.
- The Character Sets code "50" in UNIMARC/B field 100 subfield \$a/26-29 and UNIMARC/A field 100 subfield \$a/13-16 has been defined as ISO 10646 Level 3 (Unicode, UTF-8).

- UNIMARC/B field 856, Electronic Location and Access, is now repeatable when subfield \$q, Electronic Format Type, differs. Field 856 was already repeatable, so this is simply a documentation change.
- In UNIMARC/A field 150, Coded Data Field: Corporate Name, subfield \$b, Conference or Meeting Code, is defined in alignment with UNIMARC/B field 710 Indicator One. UNIMARC/A field 210, Heading – Corporate Body Name, Indicator One will likewise be aligned with UNIMARC/B field 710 Indicator One. The term “intellectual” will be removed from the names of the appropriate 7XX fields in all UNIMARC formats.

UNIMARC/B Update 5 will incorporate changes decided at this meeting and is expected to be published later in 2005.

The Web version of UNIMARC/H will be updated according to UNIMARC community comments and changes decided at this meeting. In addition to changes noted previously, the following are included:

- Alignment of UNIMARC/Holdings field 256 subfield \$u repeatability with that of UNIMARC/Bibliographic field 856 subfield \$u.
- Change of UNIMARC/Holdings field 171 to 170.
- Change of title for UNIMARC/Holdings field 141.

The updated UNIMARC/A will soon be mounted on IFLANET, and a list of addendum and errata will be compiled.

UNIMARC Guidelines

- **Manuscripts and Archival Materials:** Investigation is underway regarding how UNIMARC may be used for manuscripts and archival materials, with an eye toward the eventual publication of a UNIMARC guideline on the subject.
- **Music:** Final revisions to the UNIMARC Music Guidelines are underway, and the text should be available later in 2005.
- **Continuing Resources:** A draft of the UNIMARC Continuing Resources Guidelines is under review, but has a longer timeline.
- **CD-ROM Version of Guidelines:** It is expected that a CD-ROM containing all of the existing UNIMARC Guideline documents, including Music, but not including Continuing Resources, will be available at the 2005 IFLA meeting in Oslo.

UNIMARC Forum and UNIMARC Registry

Work continues on the UNIMARC Forum, a Web site for UNIMARC users that will include a password-only working space for the PUC. Work also continues on the UNIMARC Registry, an XML-based tool to allow users, vendors, and the PUC to maintain changes to the UNIMARC formats, control duplicates, generate statistics, and perform other functions. It will facilitate the creation of both human-readable and machine-readable versions of all the UNIMARC formats. With the English text as the basis, the human-readable version could have links to other national and language versions, with element-to-element links to the basic text. There could also be links with older format versions and updates. The National Library of Portugal has already used the Registry as a record matching, loading, and analysis tool. The Registry team has been talking with several system vendors such about possible coordination of services. The team hopes to present the UNIMARC Registry and a related tutorial at the IFLA meeting in Durban in 2007.

Upcoming UNIMARC Meetings

“MARC/XML Derivatives: The State of the Art” is the title of the UNIMARC session planned for the August 2005 IFLA meeting in Oslo and scheduled for August 16, 13.45 - 15.45. Under discussion will be improvements in accessibility and reusability of UNIMARC and MARC 21 data made possible by XML representations. Among the presentations will be: Joaquim Ramos de Carvalho (University of Coimbra, Portugal) on “An XML Representation of the UNIMARC Manual: A Working Prototype;” Sally McCallum (LC) on “MARCXML in Use;” Vladimir Skvortsov (National Library of Russia) on “UNIMARC/XML Slim Schema: Living in a New Environment;” and Mike Taylor and Adam Dickmeiss (IndexData, UK) on “Delivering MARCXML records from the Library of Congress Catalogue Using SRW, SRU, and Z39.50.”

Plans are underway for an international seminar on UNIMARC and other international standards (FRBR, FRANAR, the ISBDs) to be held 2006 March 20-21, right before the next PUC meeting, at the Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon. A UNIMARC Users Group will also meet at this time. The International Cataloging Code updating the Paris Principles and informed by FRBR, which is being worked on by IFLA, is one possible topic of this seminar.

There will also be a two-hour UNIMARC session at the IFLA meeting in Seoul in 2006, concentrating on the state of the art regarding multi-scripts and UNICODE. Representatives of different scripts and of local systems will be asked to speak.

Next PUC Meeting

It is likely that an informal meeting of members of the PUC attending the 2005 IFLA Conference in Oslo will be held. The 17th meeting of the PUC is scheduled for Lisbon, 2006 March 22-23, and possibly 24. This will follow the UNIMARC and Standards Seminar and the UNIMARC users meeting, 2006 March 20-21.