



PAINTIN' THE FENCE

The long way from MAB to MARC 21

Experiences from Germany and Austria

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Mark Twain: The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Chapter II



Saturday morning was come, ...

Standards & Changes

ZIP codes in Germany

„1999“ = > „2000“

Reform of orthography

Currency: DM etc. = > €

Coded Character Sets = > Unicode

CANMARC, UKMARC, ... = > MARC 21

...

cf. removal

MAB

„Maschinelles Austauschformat für Bibliotheken“ (automated library exchange format)

established in 1973 („MAB1“)

maintained by the German National Library

in close cooperation with the German experts' group for data formats (formerly „MAB-Ausschuss“)

revised in 1994 („MAB2“)

Bibliographic, Authority, Holdings, Classification, Addresses

1998 - 2004: process of internationalization (Unicode, Dublin Core, MAB english, FRBR, XML)

weakness: national / isolated standard

The decision for MARC 21

2001-12: internationalization of library standards (cataloging rules & formats)

vivid discussions

feasibility study (strategic, technical, economical aspects), funded by DFG

2004-12: introduction and uniform use of MARC 21 as the exchange format for all libraries in Germany and Austria

Pros and Cons

import of international data

visibility of German and Austrian data

large community and expertise

take part in developments

better choice of systems

long way to go

language

international framework

MAB deep inside the systems

loose ends

Cast

national:

Office for Library Standards, incl. Project Staff

Office for Data Formats

Experts' Group for Data Formats

+ external experts

international:

Library of Congress, NDMSO

LAC Canada, British Library

ALA MARBI

Funding by

- Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
- Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Principles

retain existing data

retain existing functionalities

abandon historic burdens

decouple the process from related developments

keep compliance to the standard MARC

Multipart Publications („Hierarchies“)

each volume = > 1 record

+ the set itself = > 1 additional record

(no records for sections / subsets)

each record bibliographically complete

volumes with strong titles = > 490 + 8XX

volumes without strong titles = > 245 \$a \$n \$p
+ 773 \$w

(no 505)

linking by textual forms and IDs

Mapping from MAB to MARC

comprehensive ...
detailed ...
careful ...
cooperative ...
always cross-checking ...



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International Workshop
„MARC 21 – Experiences, Challenges and Visions“
Frankfurt, May 14th and 15th, 2007

Mapping: Algorithm

equivalent element available in MARC ?	= > ✓
else: loose end	
weighing:	
can fall apart (list of cancellations) ?	= > ✓
or loss of granularity ?	= > ✓
or new entry into MARC code list ?	= > ✓
else: relevant	
definable in MARC 21 ?	= > ✓
else: to be defined locally	= > ✓

Mapping: Experiences

MARC complex, well structured

MAB: mostly without subfields => group of fields

MARC: with subfields => one field

process of cleaning up / sorting out

surprises, disappointments, and understandings

codes (MARC: 006 / 007 / 008) => RDA ?

different cataloging codes, cataloging practices, systems

Mapping: Results

available on DNB website:

<http://www.d-nb.de>

[/eng](#)

[/standardisierung](#)

[/formate](#)

[/konkordanz.htm](#)

work in progress

MARBI: German and Austrian Wishlist

- linking by ID-numbers: control subfields \$w and \$0
- replacement records („Umlenkungen“)
- normalized / machine-sortable information
- codes:
multiparts, acidity of paper, nature of contents
- other:
former NBN, type of keyword, place, former call number

- element-level responsibility (Subject Headings, DDC)

mutual benefits

<http://www.loc.gov/marc/marbi/2007/2007-dp01.html>

MARBI: Perspectives

German and Austrian package:
discussions in January 2007, decisions in June 2007

DDC Discussion Paper (with LC and OCLC):
discussions in June 2007, decisions in January 2008

Authority format: dates & languages

larger framework
= > longer process of discussions and decisions

ongoing cooperation

The MARC Line

Directory

LDR|001|002|003|004|005|006|007|008|009|...|999

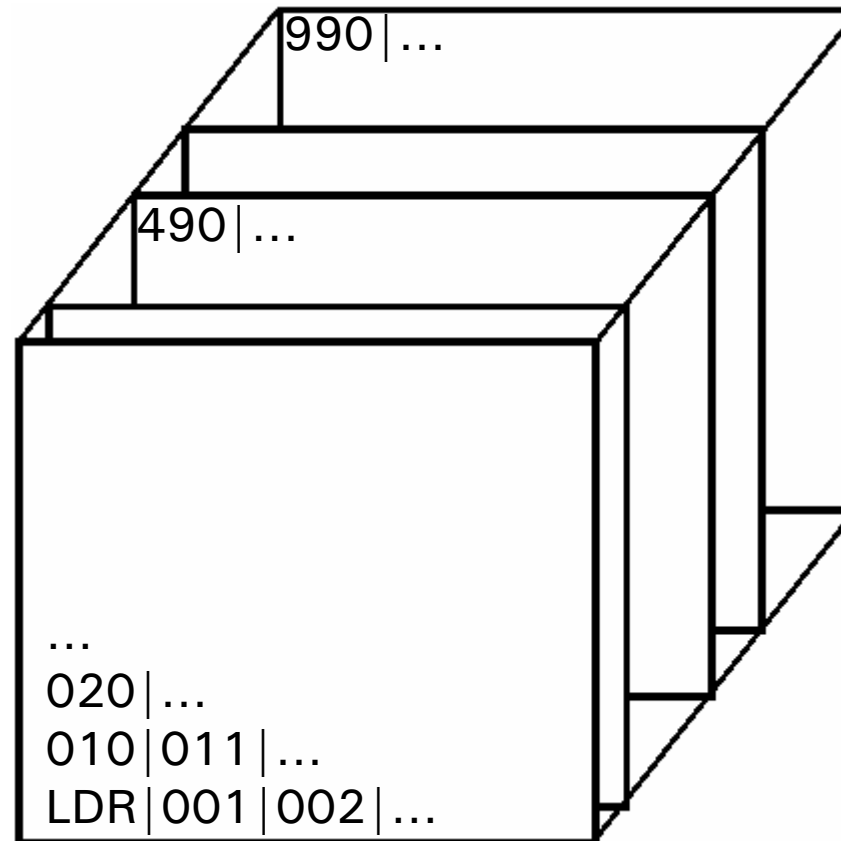


The MARC Fence

090	 	091	 	092	 	093	 	094	 	095	 	096	 	097	 	098	 	099
080	 	081	 	082	 	083	 	084	 	085	 	086	 	087	 	088	 	089
070	 	071	 	072	 	073	 	074	 	075	 	076	 	077	 	078	 	079
060	 	061	 	062	 	063	 	064	 	065	 	066	 	067	 	068	 	069
050	 	051	 	052	 	053	 	054	 	055	 	056	 	057	 	058	 	059
040	 	041	 	042	 	043	 	044	 	045	 	046	 	047	 	048	 	049
030	 	031	 	032	 	033	 	034	 	035	 	036	 	037	 	038	 	039
020	 	021	 	022	 	023	 	024	 	025	 	026	 	027	 	028	 	029
010	 	011	 	012	 	013	 	014	 	015	 	016	 	017	 	018	 	019
LDR	 	001	 	002	 	003	 	004	 	005	 	006	 	007	 	008	 	009



The MARC Cube



... Hypercube ?

Defining local fields

- XX9 („right“ layer)
- + X9X („top“ layer)
- + 9XX („back“ layer)
- + Indicators 1 and 2 = „9“
- + \$9

less than 15 fields / format

„As many as needed -- as few as possible.“

Two minor decisions

non-sorting characters:

at the beginning of a field or subfield, or inside a subfield

handled by Non-Sorting Control Characters

<http://www.loc.gov/marc/nonsorting.html>

ISBD:

no embedded interpunction at the end of a subfield

Translation, and Edition System

technicians – catalogers

glossary

MARC 21 Concise + local fields

= > Official German Translation of MARC 21

maintenance and documentation

input MARC in XML + manually

output PDF + XML + HTML

open for future additions (RDA, ...)

MARCXML

MARCXML as variant of / successor to
[MARC in ISO 2709]

MODS

Questionnaire: Is the German and Austrian
library community prepared for using MARC
data in XML structure?

Coded Character Sets

MAB: ISO 646 (IRV) + ISO 5426
 IBM Codepage 850
 ISO/IEC 10646 / Unicode

MARC: MARC-8
 ISO/IEC 10646 / Unicode

mappings available

Summing up

MAB: stabilized, frozen

„aufgehoben“ (inf. „aufheben“)

suspended

picked up

preserved

Implementing MARC

... painting the other side of the fence

replace each MAB system / interface by its MARC equivalent

How to use MARC for real data?

agreements upon contents, in addition to cataloging rules, to keep the data fairly consistent

■ ■ ■

The role of MARC

Exchange format

Internal format / cataloging format

different situations in the regional library networks:

ExLibris / Aleph 500

OCLC|PICA

variety of systems

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Chapter III



„It's all done, Aunt.“

Thank you 😊

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