

Provider-Neutral E-Monograph Record Task Group

June 24, 2009

Proposal: Develop a monographic cataloging policy for one single electronic MARC bibliographic record to represent online resource with the same content that are available from multiple providers. This proposal only addresses MARC records for separate records—it does not include any discussion about adding electronic fields to the single print record. In addition this proposal is to meant to encompass titles that are available only in digital form, as well as those that are available in print and online.

Background: Current monographic cataloging practice requires the creation of a new record each time a new publisher, aggregator, or distributor provides online access to the same electronic resource. When the same monograph is available from multiple providers, it results in many duplicative MARC records for online resources in shared cataloging systems such as OCLC. Catalog users often have difficulty understanding the rationale or the subtle differences between multiple records when searching through a cluster of very similar electronic resource records. PCC BIBCO catalogers wish to examine the problem and search for solutions.

The MARC Record Guide for Monograph Aggregator Vendors, prepared by a PCC task group in 2006, specified the kind of record desired by libraries for electronic resources distributed by vendors. The earlier guidelines did not establish a provider-neutral model, which would allow a single record to exist in the database. A new task group needs to be formed that will focus on the establishment of the provider-neutral concept as an accepted cataloging practice. If the concept gains approval, this group (or another task group) should be asked to re-write the PCC MARC Record Guide from the perspective of the provider-neutral model. In addition, the audience of these guidelines should be enlarged to include catalogers as well as vendors and records coming from mass digitization programs.

Where possible, the PCC cataloging community wishes to have existing multiple catalog records combined into single records, following the serial aggregator-neutral model. This requires the assent of the larger cataloging community and the technical efforts of OCLC.

Charge:

To develop a provider-neutral cataloging model for a single bibliographic record that could be used for all the instances of an online monograph. This is to include records for resources, that, in the past, have been cataloged variously as reproductions or electronic editions.

To recommend best practices for flexible use of these records in libraries.

To recommend ways to promote the use of these records among cataloging agencies and publishers/providers who create and issue cataloging copy for online monographic records.

To explore the feasibility of collapsing existing multiple records for electronic monographic resources in OCLC into single, provider-neutral records, and to make recommendations for implementing the process.

Reports to: PCC Policy Committee (PoCo)

Decision to accept proposal and implementation made by: PoCo, as agreed to by PoCo at its Nov. 2008 meeting, final approval would be made by PoCo spring 2009.

Time Frame:

- The group's work began during the summer 2008.
- Draft guidelines and recommendations for implementation were submitted to PoCo: Oct. 2008.
- Comments from PoCo and SCS addressed in final report Dec. 2008
- Discussed at BIBCO ALA at-large Jan. 2009
- Comments from LC Policy and Standards Division addressed in March 2009 [final report](#) Mar. 25, 2009 [PDF, 235 KB / 16p.]

Status: Final report submitted to PoCo April 2009, approved April 30th, 2009.
Implementation: July 17th, 2009.

Related proposal for online series title qualifiers and creation of authority records for online series <http://www.loc.gov/acq/conser/Online-Series.pdf> [PDF, 30 KB / 2 p.]

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