

Proposal: Series Practice
6/12/2006

Proposal: To allow PCC members the option of separating description and access for series.

Elaboration: Currently, when a series appearing on a piece is identical to the established form of the series, PCC catalogers use 440 fields to code the series. The proposal would allow participants the option of always coding the series statement in a 490 field and entering a controlled heading in the appropriate 8XX field.

Benefits:

1. Automated global change in local systems: Many local systems have global change utilities. However, these utilities often require manual intervention for series changes that involve 440 to 490/830 editing.
2. Manual post-cataloging authority processing: Simplifies post-cataloging cleanup: After cataloging a publication, if changes are needed to either the heading or the number designation, then the 440 must be re-keyed to a 490 and an 830 must be created. Entering any series access points in 830 fields during initial cataloging removes any need for later re-keying.
3. Makes more series access points eligible for the "Control Headings" feature in OCLC's Connexion.
4. Training: Simplifies training for new catalogers to have descriptive field always entered in 490, and access fields always entered in 8XX fields.

Responses to Questions Not Yet Asked

1. Why do this now?
This change would provide immediate benefits in terms of simplifying our automated authority processes for series, supporting the goal discussed at the past Joint BIBCO/CONSER Meeting of simplifying the series authority process.
2. Isn't this a piece-meal change better folded into a systematic review of series?
Because the option is so simple to implement and because it would provide immediate benefits, waiting for a more extended review of series control is unnecessary
3. Would this require consideration by MARBI?
No, this is a change of optional practice, not a re-definition of fields

Documentation:

1. BIBCO: BIBCO documentation does not specify the use of 440 fields.
2. CONSER: Both the CEG and CCM specify the use of 440 fields. These instructions would not need to be changed, but option might need to be mentioned.
 - a. CEG: Incidental references or examples: C3 (table), Appendix , Appendix E, Appendix K, Appendix O
 - b. CEG "Series—General Information," p. 1: Specifies the use of 440 field for series traced as it appears in the series statement. [One could argue that this would not forbid the use of 490/830 pairs, since the page is descriptive]
 - c. CEG "440 Series Statement/Added Entry—Title,": Instruction that 440 contains the series statement when the series appearing on the piece is identical to the established form. [One could argue that this would not forbid the use of 490/830 pairs, since the page is descriptive]
 - d. CCM Incidental references or examples: 2.2, 8.1, 12 (12.0 p. 6), 12.2 (following figure 12.6a), 12.5, 12.6.2, 12:Summary, 17.4, 17.6, 17.7, 30.13, 32.3j,
 - e. CCM Module 12
 - CCM 12.1.4: "If the series statement and the established form are the same, field 440 is used alone"
 - CCM 12.4: Recording the series statement: Instructions on use of 440 field [One could argue that while this describes how to use the 440 field correctly, it does not actually forbid the use of 490/830 pair]
 - 12.4.1: "This series appears on the piece (Fig. 12.8.) in the same form in which it is to be traced according to the SAR and thus, is input in field 440"