

Prospects for the use of 670 \$uin NARs

Discussion paper for BIBCO OpCo

Washington, DC

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Current documentation:

- a. MARC 21 Authority Format white pages
 - 670 Source Data Found (R)
 - \$u Uniform Resource Identifier (R)
- b. LC Guidelines: Do not use subfields: \$u....
- c. DCM Z1: no reference to 670 \$u

Updates anticipated for:

- a. LC Guidelines blue page update
- b. DCM Z1 yellow page update
 - Illustrative examples from partner libraries would be helpful.

For consideration:

1. How would guidelines for use of 670 \$u be developed?
2. Are all partner institutions ready to implement?
 - a. British Library was unable to adopt while implementing their new system. LC is inquiring again about their plans.
 - b. LC would like to be able to use \$u, and is querying the NACO nodes currently as to their ability to implement this subfield in the near future, but do not yet have a firm answer. Nothing could happen in LC's system before September 2005 at the earliest.
 - c. OCLC can accommodate 670 \$u.
 - d. RLG will enable 670 \$u with production release of RLIN 21 client that supports NACO input, expected in May. RLG hopes that guidelines will be issued.
3. Which URLs should be included? What will the URL justify?

LC suggests:

 - a. A 670 \$b still cites explicitly any information used to justify heading/references
 - b. \$u is provided when the cataloger wants to refer others to a particular source (other than standard reference sources, i.e. Geonet) that provides more background information
 - c. \$u citation to a generic reference source is unnecessary, and may create maintenance headaches

4. Will 670 \$u links be live?
 - a. LC's system will not create a hypertext link from a 670 \$u anytime soon. This could happen in about a year's time.

5. How will links be maintained?
 - a. Lacking the capability do routine link checking, LC will need to rely on others to do that.
 - b. Eureka and RLIN 21 have live links in formatted bibliographic displays, but MARC displays, the only full-record display of authority records, don't have live links at least in the initial version of RLIN 21.
 - c. Could OCLC's link checkers serve this function?