

PCC BIBFRAME And MARC Bibliographic Encoding for Languages (BABEL) Task Group

Charge:

The Task Group is charged to:

- Make recommendations on vocabulary or vocabularies to be used to represent languages, scripts, and transliteration schemes in PCC cataloging, whether performed in BIBFRAME or MARC. Recommendations should address both language of materials cataloged and language of description. Language vocabularies to be considered include, but are not necessarily limited to, ISO 639-2, ISO 639-3, and [IETF](#)
- Recommend best practices for use of these vocabularies in PCC MARC cataloging, including identifying the MARC fields and subfields in which the applicable vocabularies are to be used
- Identify BIBFRAME data elements that it would be appropriate to tag for languages, scripts, and transliteration schemes and identify applicable best practices
- With an audience of catalogers, public services librarians, and application developers in mind, identify and explain the respective advantages of the various standards under consideration.
- Outline alignment issues between MARC language codes/ISO 639-2 and other language vocabularies under consideration, including ISO 639-3
- Identify any obstacles to adopting language vocabularies beyond the MARC language list in current MARC environments, including practical cataloging considerations and system implications for MARC-based editing and discovery systems
- Outline steps that would be needed for technical implementation of the recommendations in the PCC community's shared and local environments
- Identify PCC policies and documentation that would need to be revised

The Task Group's recommendations should take into account the needs of language communities served by PCC cataloging, any limitations imposed by the current technical environment, and best practices for data on the web.

The Task Group should identify relevant stakeholder communities and consult with them as necessary. In its interim report, the Task Group should include an assessment of the feasibility of moving to a standard other than the current MARC language codes and report its findings on this point. The Task Group's interim report should also outline any difficulties it expects to encounter in carrying out its charge.

Time Frame:

Date charged: March 1, 2020

Date interim report due: May 1, 2020

Date final report due: June 30, 2020

Reports to:

PCC Standing Committee on Standards

Roster:

Initialisms indicate the organizations to which Task Group members serve as liaisons.

Charlene Morrison (OCLC, chair)

Kelley McGrath (SCS)

TJ Kao (SCA)

Elaine Kim (LC)

Robert Rendall

The group will consult as needed with relevant communities and individuals. These may include communities outside PCC as well as bodies within PCC with relevant expertise, e.g., the Linked Data Advisory Committee (LDAC).

Final Report Transmittal & Tracking Sheet

The Task Group chair will use this [sheet](#) to record the Task Group's progress.