BFDB

Lesson 5 Transcript

Hello, and welcome to the BIBFRAME video tutorial series, presented by the Cataloging Policy Specialists in the Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division at the Library of Congress. The scope and purpose of this series is to provide training on using BIBFRAME.

This video tutorial is Lesson 5, BFDB.

After watching this video tutorial, participants will be able to run searches in the BIBFRAME database. They will understand the differences between BIBFRAME work and instance records and recognize how they are displayed in BFDB. Finally, participants will understand how metadata descriptions move between BFDB and the Marva linked data editor.

The BIBFRAME database is a graph database for the storage and retrieval of triples. It is a triplestore, as opposed to the Voyager database, which is a relational database storing data in tabular format. The BFDB and the Voyager database contain the same data, but it is stored in different ways that allow different kinds of queries to be run and different kinds of relationships to be made.

Data is constantly moving back and forth between BFDB and the Voyager database, and the BIBFRAME-to-MARC conversion specifications created by the Network Development and MARC Standards Office are so good that they are not concerned with data loss.

There are four primary ways that data moves from Voyager into the BIBFRAME database. First, data can be loaded in large amounts. Bulk loading can involve millions of records and happens rarely. Second, there is a nightly job on the Voyager server that exports the previous day's updated records to BFDB. Third, there is a three-minute sync that occurs through a dynamic query that extracts data from Voyager and loads it into BFDB. And finally, data can be moved from Voyager to BFDB on demand through the use of macros, but this generally isn't necessary because of the three-minute sync between the two databases.

The BFDB has a public interface that allows users to search for linked data versions of the Library's bibliographic and authority data. It is not intended to serve as a public access catalog.

Let's go there now.

From the editor.id.loc.gov page, scroll down and click on Production BFDB. This will take you to BFDB's search interface.

Alternatively, from the main page of Marva Quartz, you can click on the link in the left-hand panel to access BFDB.

When I run a keyword search for "Perth Amboy's historic neighborhoods" and do not apply any filters, you will see that I get two results, or one result each for the BIBFRAME Work and Instance of the resource.

In an earlier video, we learned that BIBFRAME Works and Instances have different properties to describe them. In the Work associated with this resource, you can see that Work Properties include the primary contributor. Further down the page are the genre/form terms, subject headings, language, classification number, and series for this work. These generally align with work and expression elements in official RDA.

To move to the Instance associated with this work, click on the link under Has Instance in the right-hand panel.

This is the BIBFRAME Instance for the resource Perth Amboy's historic neighborhoods. Properties associated with the Instance include identifiers like the LCCN, ISBN, and OCLC number and the extent. Farther down the page is publication information. These generally align with the manifestation elements in official RDA.

To return to the Work, click on the link under Instance Of in the right-hand panel.

What does this mean for your searching in BFDB? If you search for a series title -- like the children's fiction series Purrmaids -- your results list will primarily include Works because series title is a property of BIBFRAME works. A few Instances appear in the search results because I did a keyword search for Purrmaids and did not apply any filters.

Opening one of the two Instances from my search results shows that the metadata description includes a note that uses the term Purrmaids.

From the Instance, clicking on Reconvert from MARC and edit will pull the MARC record from the Voyager database and open it in Marva Quartz. When you save and post the bibliographic description in Marva, it will be saved to BFDB.

Thank you for watching this video tutorial. You can find more training, information, and support online at the Library of Congress.