Session: WorldCat Updates

Presenters

- Nathan B. Putnam, Director, Metadata Quality, OCLC
- Becky Culbertson, Serials Cataloging Librarian, California Digital Library

Presentation summary

Nathan Putnam introduced himself and described his role, managing the teams responsible for metadata quality and data integrity within the WorldCat ecosystem. Then he presented on the updates to WorldCat controlling and enrichment. Nathan described the authority files available in Record Manager, presented key e statistics for subject controlling, and acknowledged OCLC's plan to increase these percentages to 100%. As of June 2021, Record Manager now has the capability to add equivalent subject headings to a bibliographic record. OCLC is going to run controlling software over the entire WorldCat bibliographic catalog (512+ million records), controlling all applicable headings. Three quarters of records will be upgraded through this process and increase those percentages greatly. Nathan concluded with an overview of settings where you can configure your institution's updates received.

Becky Culbertson's presentation, "WorldCat updates: corrections supplied automatically," summarized the use of this OCLC-supported automation to improve local bibliographic records. This is a two-pronged service supplying corrected and enhanced MARC records, and/or merged records, to provide institutions with the latest from WorldCat. Institutions can customize their service for what makes sense to them; they can also choose how often to receive these updates. These settings can be changed at any time. Processing time in the local file once records are received from OCLC can vary; in UCSD's experience, it can be from a few hours once a month for monographs and a few hours a week for serials.

URLs mentioned during the presentation:

- oc.lc/control-headings
- oc.lc/heading-control-service
- doaj.org/

Member questions

Could you say more about what Open Access your catalog has for UCSD? Do you do much original cataloging of Open Access resources? How do you decide what to add?

The biggest open access journal package that we use is the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). And we actually catalog all of them. This is a project that is done by CONSER, and each, probably 21 libraries contribute however many records they can do over the period of a year. Steve

Shadle sends out the records to us via the ISSN, and then we work on the list received over the course of a year, so records in DOAJ are really good because they're all CONSER records. That's the biggest one. I've found with serials, there are not many journal aggregators that actually have a publisher that gives you holdings all the way back to the beginning, so I do want to watch out for those as well.

Do we control LC's Children's Subject eadings (CSH)?

Those won't be part of the retrospective; we don't control CSH.

Do you expect to add more thesauri in the future?

We do have kind of a short list of things we'd like to add; there's also the potential that we will add additional authority files from different countries like we've done. That's always a possibility. There have been some discussions in the works, but nothing right now. I know that in the US community, the other LC vocabularies are requested -- that's on our short list of things to do as well. As we do add more vocabularies, of course we will announce them.

Is there a way to prevent replacing a fuller local record with an inferior OCLC WorldCat record?

I think what this comes to, is the kind of the settings within your catalog and how you deal with these updates.

Have you had any issue with a record that overlaid the local data in your system?

No, because we try to avoid putting local data in. Actually, we put a lot of local data in out local catalog, but we structure it so that it's protected. For instance, we use a title for every single package that we use, like we would use DOAJ, Online Journals in the 793 field. 793 is a local title, so it's protected. It won't get overlaid.

Are you using these updates for electronic books?

Yes, absolutely.

Will this project throw 505's (Formatted Contents Note) under the bus, that is, delete those already added?

It's Becky's system where she has decided in certain cases not to include the 505 fields. For the retrospective that Nathan talked about at the beginning, there's nothing that's impacting the 505. Those will remain in WorldCat.

Why do you [Becky] exclude the 505?

The files are just too big sometimes. I think it's something you could start with including and then, as I said, you can always change it so you don't include it. Just see what you get. It may be different in your own system than what we got. The decision to include the 505 is part of when you set up your WorldCat updates. You can choose to do that or keep them, or if they change, you can get an update so you get the most recent version from WorldCat.

Do improvements from DOAJ records get back into WorldCat?

Yes, because I overlay a lot of records. When I'm cataloging, I always do it in OCLC and replace the records where I can. I think every CONSER library does that.

What ILS does your library use?

We're in the process of moving from Millennium to Alma. So this is all in the past, what I talked about was all in the past. When we move over to Alma, I think we'll be doing daily updates.

We use Collection Manager updates for our batchloaded ebooks. Would we use the same MARC Record settings for WorldCat Updates? Is there a way to have two separate settings for MARC record delivery?

There is only one set of MARC customizations in the institution settings in Collection Manager, but there are certain setting that only apply to KB collections, certain settings that you would only see for cataloging partner collections, so the WorldCat updates criteria are separate and they just tell us what you care about when it changes and we know when to deliver that record. And certainly that reason for output is beneficial to put in the MARC record, so that you know why you're getting an updated record, in case it's not obvious to you. But it is all in one single profile.