

Database Maintenance Advisory Council

December 1, 2004

[joint meeting of the Database Maintenance Advisory Council and the Serials Subcommittee]

ATTENDEES: Mary Ellen Bena, Lisa Bouchard, Laurie Burns, Rob Carle, Mary Coon, Sue Dague, Barbara Goetschius, Geoffrey Kirkpatrick, Carol Lagasse (CDLC), Peggy Mello, Lisa Pitkin, Sue Rahn (CDLC), Carol Reppard, Julie Stump, Joe Thornton

MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 27, 2004 MEETING: The meeting began at 9:30. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without discussion.

DUPLICATE RECORDS: Carol Lagasse explained the cause of some duplicates among Serials records – they are a result of the difficulties in migrating from DRA to Horizon. The Union List of Serials tape that was generated at the time contained just summary holdings, and there was a problem with library branches. Barbara pointed out that the duplicate problem is not just for serials, but new books, too, which is causing difficulties in cataloging.

Lisa P gave a detailed account of GUIL's experience ("a work in progress"), including the problems encountered, the choices they made, and some recommendations for the rest of us. GUIL is now doing electronic ordering through Baker & Taylor (only). They're doing EDIFACT ordering. VIP (vendor information protocol?) should provide better interaction with online vendors. Item Group Editor is a useful tool for cleanup. UHLS should run the script to remove bib records with no items attached (we suspended running that script when we started to use CatExpress – we didn't want to delete newly downloaded OCLC records before libraries had a chance to add item records). We decided to change the script to remove only bib records that are more than thirty days old and which have no items attached. Carol R reminded us that there's no cost to downloading another OCLC record if we remove a good bib record before items are linked.

We will contact SALS, SELCO, and others to ask how they deal with duplicate records.

We will write a report to find all bib records with duplicate ISBN's. Mary Ellen said that there would be thousands, though, because of kits, for example, where duplicate records with the same ISBN are legitimate.

We discussed deleting bib records with status = withdrawn. Rob demonstrated how it's done. Rawdon (there to fix a laptop) pointed out a potential problem with deleting withdrawn records with the Horizon method – it would affect the count of withdrawn items that is shown in the monthly reports. Carol R said we should use Rawdon's withdrawal script instead of the Horizon function that Rob demonstrated.

We discussed NEWCATS. Lisa P (?) reminded everyone to remove the term “NEWCAT” from a record when merging it with a full bib record.

SERIALS: Laurie Burns demonstrated some problems she’s uncovered in our implementation of the Serials module. For example: logged in as ‘troyref,’ she checked in “Seventeen” and the HIP shows TROY’s copies only. Using the “old method” of cataloging serials, the “Other locations” option is available to display other libraries’ holdings of that title. If the Serials module is used, you can’t see other libraries’ holdings. “Show copies” is not a function of the Serials module. Rob asked if a summary of holdings display in stafpac would solve this problem and Laurie said yes.

Rob demonstrated the Serials module and the changes he’s made to our implementation. Rob passed on Lisa Pitkin’s reminder that annuals, yearbooks, travel books, college publications, etc. should be attached to serials and not monograph records. Lisa: “If an item has a date on the cover, it’s probably a serial.”

Everyone would like the sort order changed in the Serials display so that the patron’s selected library appears at the top of the list. The alphabetical sort order is nice for ALTM, not so nice for WSTR.

UPC CODES: We had a long discussion on the use of UPC codes. Are they the same on every issue, or is there issue-specific information included? (We don’t know.) A lot of distributors seem to place the mailing label over the UPC barcode, making it unusable. The entire height of a barcode does not need to show in order for a scanner to read it correctly. We decided that this discussion might better be held at a future meeting of the Serials Subcommittee.

MISCELLANEOUS: COLN is making all feature DVD’s Non-requestable (NR). All agreed that libraries are reluctant to circulate them because of the high rate of loss. Rob reminded everyone to make sure that the itype starts with “NR” on any item that you don’t want to circulate.

Sue Dague asked what happened to the blurb that used to warn patrons not to enter spaces, hyphens, etc. when typing their barcodes in the HIP. It probably got dropped in the upgrade. We’ll out it back.

Laurie Burns asked if we need to have separate meetings of the database Maintenance Advisory Council and the Serials Subcommittee, since she’s the only person who’s not on both. Mary Ellen said that the project of developing Serials cataloging standards, similar to the work done by the Database Subcommittee, warranted separate meetings.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 3, 2005 at 9:30 at UHLS.