UBC, Background and Future Perspectives

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Joint Satellite meeting: *Universal Bibliographic Control at the crossroads*
Brussels, 18-19 August 2023
Universal Bibliographic Control

- 1950: UNESCO conference on the improvement of bibliographical services (recommendations on national bibliographic services)
- 1977: UNESCO/IFLA international congress on national bibliographies
- 1979: *Guidelines for the National Bibliographic Agency and the National Bibliography* (IFLA International Office for UBC & UNESCO)
- 1998: International Conference on National Bibliographic Services (IFLA)
- UBCIM (Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC), an IFLA Core Activity until 2003
- IFLA-CNDL Alliance (ICABS then ICADS) until 2011
- No specific IFLA office since

UBC at the crossroads 2023
Goals of UBC

• Share the work, internationally
• Reduce costs through metadata reuse

• How:
• Each NBA responsible for its own territory
• Publish authoritative bibliographic and authority data

• WHY? To preserve documentary heritage comprehensively
Assumptions

• It is worthwhile to retain all published heritage worldwide
• Preserving access requires full description
• The national division of labour is natural, easy to manage
• Each country should have an NBA
• UBC is linked to legal deposit and national bibliography
2012 IFLA Professional Statement on UBC

- Bibliography Section was lead
- Compact 1-pager
- Background on UBC in IFLA
- Reaffirms the importance
- NBAs: 2 responsibilities
- IFLA: 3 responsibilities
- Available in all IFLA languages

UBC at the crossroads 2023
An NBA has the responsibility for providing the authoritative bibliographic data for publications of its own country and for making that data available to other NBAs, libraries, and other communities (for instance archives and museums) through appropriate and timely services with the goal of increasing open access to the bibliographic data.

NBAs, as a part of the creation of authoritative bibliographic data, also have the responsibility for documenting authorized access points for persons, families, corporate bodies, names of places, and authoritative citations for works related to its own country and for making that authority data available to other NBAs, libraries, and other communities (for instance archives and museums)
IFLA has the responsibility for maintaining and promoting the Statement of International Cataloguing Principles (ICP), published in 2009, as the foundation for the sharing of bibliographic data.

IFLA has, through the work of its relevant professional units and advisory committees, the responsibility for creating, maintaining and promoting bibliographic standards and guidelines to facilitate this sharing of bibliographic and authority data (e.g., ISBD, the FRBR family of conceptual models, etc.).

IFLA works collaboratively with other international organizations (e.g., ISO, ICA, ICOM, etc.) in the creation and maintenance of other standards in order to ensure that library standards developments, including compatible data models, are coordinated with those of the wider community.
Evolution of technological context

- Change in distribution methods of metadata
- From batch to online
- From printed national bibliographies and card sets
- To MARC record distribution
- To shared databases
- To linked data

- New views of national bibliographies
Rethinking "Authoritative" Data

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A New UBC Statement?

Is the goal still valid?

Do we need an IFLA statement?

How would we state it now?
Enduring Meaning of UBC

• Breaking the silos of metadata
• Crafting interoperable metadata at the global level
• Ecosystem for sharing metadata
• Involving more partners

• What is needed to make this happen?