



Permanent UNIMARC
Committee (PUC)

Business Meeting
IFLA WLIC 2023, Rotterdam
August 23rd 2023

Attendees: Gordana Mazic, Florence Tfibel, Branka Badovinac, Agneta Lovasz, Mirjam Kessler, Saeedeh Akbari Daryan (online)

Minutes: Mirjam Kessler

Observers: Simona Bursasiu (BUPT), Emmanuel Jaslier (BNF France), Mélanie Roche (BNF France), Alenka Bagaric (NUK Slovenia), Irena Kavcic (NUK, Slovenia), Amanda Ros (Texas A&M University, USA and member of IFLA Committee on Cataloguing), Mikael Wetterstrom (ISSN IC, France)

Welcome & Updates from Committee Activities

- Gordana welcomed the committee members and the guests (= observers). This business meeting will be followed by an online committee meeting on Sept 19th for internal planning discussions and future work topics of the committee.
- The main committee meetings to discuss all new proposals were held in Mai/June '23: change of fields/added fields, work/expression fields, fields to catalogue numismatic objects as medals, and coins. Most proposals were on adding fields for traditional cataloging (A/B) from France (from 2022); all were accepted. There were no updates or changes related to the conceptual model of UNIMARC.
- The latest updates will be published as 1st online version of both U/B and U/A manuals after the meeting on 19th September.

UNIMARC Namespaces

- Branka gave an update of the UNIMARC Namespaces; the elements for authorities were prepared but there is nothing to present yet. She presented the draft version of the UNIMARC manuals. The manual contains updates and current work, currently available as a pdf following IFLA documentation standards. Since updates will be made annually it will be kept as a pdf until we can transition to a publishing platform.
- The document also provides a history section detailing new changes of the elements. To avoid confusion with different versions (= document history) we only publish the last version. There are notes to provide information about the status of a version. Florence introduced the idea of using URL/URIs as prefixes to indicate versioning. There is a shortcut to see the history information (history of entity changes) in the document.
- IFLA documentation standards are being considered. But to perform a proper endorsement process might be challenging given the > 600 fields that UNIMARC contains and due to the frequent updates.

- There was a suggestion on adding a field-based access. And the idea to include UNIMARC documentation to the ISDDM online documentation to replace the document based documentation.

UNIMARC ISBDM Harmonization

- Mirjam presented the UNIMARC ISBD harmonization sub-group. The goal is to harmonize the new element set of ISBDM with UNIMARC.
- The first steps will be to set timelines in accordance with the ISBDM group. The harmonization can only be finalized once the ISBDM element set is final. Their goal is to publish the elements at the IFLA conference in 2024. The ISBDM working group is asking for written expert feedback on the draft version (first quarter of 2024).
- For UNIMARC we expect that we will not need to add a lot of new entities, but the focus will be on manuals for cataloging at the manuscript level. This approach will very likely impact documentation notes and practices, possibly leading to a best-practice-oriented scope aligned with the conceptual model. Application profiles for UNIMARC could be a future solution.
- Possibilities for the documentation of the mapping between ISBDM and UNIMARC have been discussed. An option could be a reference card in the ISBDM tool, indicating which UNIMARC field to use per element.

Organizational Topics

- There is two new committee members: Agneta Lovasz (BUPT Romania), Mirjam Kessler (OCLC Netherlands)
- The next business meeting is scheduled for September 19th: we will decide on the roadmap and the new chair. Until now the representatives of the French cataloging committee were permanent guests; how to organize it in the future also needs a decision.

The Future of UNIMARC

- Florence gave a presentation on switching from classical UNIMARC to entity relationship cataloging (= UNIMARC E/R) based on their work at BNF. She explained the difference and the structural principles between UNIMARC E/R and UNIMARC classic (with A & B records). France is in transition to E/R but also prepared to still offer A/B, aiming for interoperability. Conversion is possible for older records, but not all organizations can transition fully soon.
- Melanie suggests pursuing both to the UNIMARC standard - new developments and maintenance of classical approaches - along with stating that ER is the preferred approach.
- Next steps: a document will be prepared for ongoing discussions and input on the future of UNIMARC, involving other groups as well.