IFLA Section Bibliography

IFLA Section Cataloguing

IFLA Section Subject Analysis and Access

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About the *IFLA Metadata Newsletter*

The newsletter is published twice a year (June and December).

Contributions are welcome at any time.
Please contact any of our editors:

Ongoing projects, activities, and publications can be found at:

http://www.ifla.org/bibliography

http://www.ifla.org/en/cataloguing

https://www.ifla.org/subject-analysis-and-access

Bibliography Section:

Ana Stevanovic

Senior Librarian, National Library of Serbia

IFLA Metadata Newsletter BIBS Co-Editor

Email: ana.stevanovic@nb.rs

Cataloguing Section:

Lilian Mmapula Letshabo

Librarian, Botswana University of Agriculture & Natural Resources Library

IFLA Metadata Newsletter CATS Co-Editor

Email: lletshabo@buan.ac.bw

Subject Analysis and Access Section:

Ana Vukadin

Editor, UDC Consortium, The Hague

IFLA Metadata Newsletter SAAS Co-Editor

Email: ana.vukadin@udcc.org

Letter From the Chairs

Rehab Ouf, Chair of the Bibliography Section Standing Committee; Chief Research Specialist, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt

Mathilde Koskas, Chair of the Cataloguing Section Standing Committee; Head of the French National Bibliography (Books), National Library of France

Julijana Nadj-Guttandin, Chair of the Subject Analysis and Access Section Standing Committee; Subject Librarian and Metadata Specialist, German National Library

Welcome to the June 2026 issue of our Metadata Newsletter! As has been the tradition in the summer edition we want to inform you about Metadata Sections' activities for the annual WLIC.

For WLIC 2026, which will take place in Busan, South Korea, the Metadata Sections have been developing a compelling program, embracing this year's theme "Libraries Powering Transformation" in its various facets. Metadata Sections have partnered with other Sections and Advisory Committees to develop interesting sections, focusing on the ways in which libraries, lives and the information landscape are changing and what role metadata are playing in these processes. Our topics include, but are not limited to, open access, censorship, libraries and cultural memory, changes in cataloguing standards, and freedom of information.

Here is the overview of our WLIC activities:

Bibliography, Cataloguing, Serials and Other Continuing Resources Sections and Advisory Committee on Open Science and Scholarship Open Session: "Metadata for Open Knowledge: Pushing Boundaries, Transforming Access", to be held Tuesday, August 11, 11:45-12:45 a.m.

Bibliography, National Libraries Sections and Advisory Committee on Cultural Heritage Open Session: "Cultural Memory in Motion: Capturing and Documenting Film, Music, and Emerging Media", to be held on Wednesday, August 12, 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.

Cataloguing, Subject Analysis and Access Sections, Advisory Committee on Standards Open Session: "Future-Ready Data: Transformative Approaches to Cataloguing", to be held Tuesday, August 11, 3:15 – 4:15 p.m.

Subject Analysis and Access, LGBTQ+ Matters Sections and Advisory Committee on Freedom

of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression Open Session: “Access Reclaimed: Defending Open Knowledge and Underrepresented Perspectives Through Subject Cataloguing”, to be held Tuesday, August 11 9 -10 a.m.

All Metadata Sections will hold their Business Meetings on Sunday, August 9. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee on Standards, together with its Review Groups and the Accessibility Metadata Network is organizing a session “A Standards Smorgasbord: Insights Across New Standards. Metadata, ISBD, and More”, to be held Tuesday, August 11, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

We hope that you will enjoy this issue, and we look forward to seeing many of you in Busan in August!

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM KAZAKHSTAN

Library Transformation in Kazakhstan: From Standards Reform to Artificial Intelligence

By **Tolkyn Zamzaeva**, National Library of Kazakhstan

In the era of total digitalization and the rapid accumulation of information resources, libraries are no longer merely repositories of printed publications. They are transforming into high-tech intellectual hubs. On February 19-20, 2026, the National Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan hosted the landmark seminar-training "Digital Transformation of the Library System: Smart Technologies of Kazakhstan's Libraries." Organized under the auspices of the Kazakhstan Library Association and within the framework of the strategic initiatives of President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the event outlined a new direction for the development of the library sector.

The seminar was held in a hybrid format, combining both offline and online participation. More than 1,500 librarians from across Kazakhstan registered for the online sessions, demonstrating the growing professional interest in digital transformation, international cataloguing standards, and the integration of artificial intelligence into library processes.

The event was attended by representatives of leading libraries, research institutions, and government agencies. Among the distinguished guests was Rustam Ali, Head of the Committee of Archives, Documentation and Book Affairs of the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan, whose participation underscored the national significance of the ongoing library reforms.

The expert community focused primarily on two fundamental issues: the implementation of a new national bibliographic description standard and the integration of generative artificial intelligence into cataloguing processes. The keynote speakers were cataloguing expert Tolkyn Zamzayeva and innovative systems developer Nurlykhan Zhumakhan.

The cataloguing expert Tolkyn Zamzaeva presenting at the seminar

The New National Standard

The foundation of any library is its catalogue. The quality of information retrieval and accessibility directly depends on the rules according to which documents are described. As emphasized by Tolkyn Zamzayeva in her presentation, Kazakhstan's library system relied for many years on principles established in the early 2000s, particularly GOST 7.1-2003. However, contemporary formats – ranging from podcasts to multimedia interactive objects – require fundamentally new approaches.

A new stage of development is associated with the implementation of the 2021 update of ISBD. This is not merely a technical update but a paradigm shift. The principal distinction lies in the transition from “carrier-centric” description to “content-centric” description.

Why Is This Important for Kazakhstan?

The implementation of the ISBD 2021 as the foundation for a new national standard addresses the issue of “standards deficit.” Modern cataloguers increasingly face the challenge of describing unpublished resources, digital objects, and complex multilevel systems. Tolkyn Zamzayeva emphasized that the integration of ISBD 2021 represents a strategic step toward Kazakhstan’s inclusion in the global information environment. Without this transformation, it would be impossible to establish a high-quality National Electronic Library capable of competing with leading international digital library systems.

The Liblab Project: Artificial Intelligence in Service of Cataloguers

If standards define the rules of the game, technology provides the tools. The second central event of the seminar was the presentation of the Liblab project by Nurlykhan Zhumakhan. This innovative development represents a custom artificial intelligence system specifically trained for library and information science applications.

The systems developer Nurlykhan Zhumakhan presenting at the seminar

Traditional cataloguing is a labour-intensive process requiring deep professional expertise, precision, and substantial time investment. Nurlykhan Zhumakhan demonstrated how AI can fundamentally transform these routine operations. Liblab is not simply a chatbot, but an intelligent assistant deeply integrated into the library ecosystem. The principal areas of AI implementation through the Liblab system include:

1. Automatic metadata generation: The system scans document texts and independently extracts key bibliographic information such as author, title, publisher, year of publication, and subject categories.
2. Intelligent classification: Through content analysis, Liblab proposes UDC (Universal Decimal Classification) and GRNTI indices. This significantly minimizes subjective errors and accelerates the processing of library collections.
3. Annotation and abstract generation: Utilizing the capabilities of Large Language Models (LLMs), the system generates concise and meaningful annotations adapted for different categories of readers.

4. Data quality control: AI verifies bibliographic records for compliance with ISBD 2021 standards while identifying duplicates and technical inconsistencies.

Nurlykhan Zhumakhan particularly emphasized that Liblab is not intended to replace human specialists. On the contrary, it serves as an instrument for optimizing routine processes. Librarians are liberated from mechanical data-entry tasks and transition toward the role of "knowledge curators" and "data verifiers."

An important aspect of implementation involved discussions of digital ethics and copyright protection. The Liblab system has been designed to function within legal and ethical frameworks while ensuring the protection of intellectual property and the accuracy of citation practices.

The Liblab interface

The integration of updated standards presented by Tolkyn Zamzayeva with technological solutions developed by Nurlykhan Zhumakhan establishes the foundation for so-called Discovery Services – next-generation search systems.

Another significant advantage of AI integration is the development of personalized reader profiles. By analyzing user interests, the system can recommend relevant literature and anticipate researchers' information needs. Consequently, the library evolves from a passive repository into an active participant in the scientific and educational process.

In conclusion, Kazakhstan's library sector currently stands at a critical point of transformation. The transition to a new national bibliographic description standard constitutes the essential foundation – the "grammar" of the digital age. Simultaneously, the Liblab project and the implementation of artificial intelligence represent the "engine" that will enable libraries not merely to survive but to lead in the global information environment.

The future of libraries is a Smart-space where centuries-old cataloguing traditions harmoniously coexist with the power of neural networks.

NEWS FROM IRAN

When Digital Memory Goes Dark: A Warning from Iran and a Global Call for Action

By **Saeedeh Akbari Daryan**, Consultant to the Deputy for Research and Digital Resources Affairs, Assistant Professor, National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI)

It was midnight. The tenth night of relentless cyberattacks, unfolding alongside rising regional tensions. One by one, screens went black. Iran's digital heritage fell silent. National databases of rare manuscripts, scholarly platforms, the national union catalog, even library chatbots — all went dark. It felt as if the country's cultural heritage was fading into oblivion.

Suddenly, I woke up, relieved it was just a dream. Thankfully, this hasn't happened in Iran - it was purely a hypothetical scenario to illustrate

what could happen anywhere in the world if digital resilience isn't strengthened.

A Global Threat

Imagine a researcher studying political satire columns in 19th-century Persian newspapers from the Qajar era, suddenly staring at nothing but a "Connection Error."

Or a student chatting with a library chatbot about different editions of Rumi's Masnavi, only to lose connection mid-sentence.

Or a computational linguist analyzing Persian vocabulary from the Safavid period (16th–18th centuries) using knowledge graphs, who suddenly discovers that their data has vanished overnight.

This is not a minor glitch. It shakes the very foundations on which a nation's digital heritage stands.

And Iran is not alone in this fear. In 2023, a ransomware attack paralyzed the British Library for months, cutting off access to even its basic digital catalog. Recovery came only through global safety nets like CLOCKSS — networks that quietly safeguard digital content by storing secure copies across multiple institutions worldwide.

Germany has Koala, a system built for crisis access. The U.S. relies on the Packard Campus to protect its digital records. Australia has turned digital preservation into a national mission through the National eDeposit (NED) project. These examples remind us that cultural knowledge stored digitally can disappear overnight — anywhere.

Beyond Storage: Moving Towards Digital Resilience

Digital resilience is not just about storage. It is about foresight, collaboration, and planning for worst-case scenarios. And it is also about navigating legal and geopolitical realities, from sanctions that limit access to cloud services, to data sovereignty laws determining where digital assets can legally be stored.

Standards: The Silent Heroes

When we talk about digital preservation, it is easy to imagine complex technologies and high costs. But in reality, some of the strongest safeguards come from standards and tools that quietly protect our cultural records behind the scenes.

Frameworks like OAIS help librarys structure and maintain collections so they remain authentic and understandable decades into the future. PREMIS records crucial details about digital files — who has used them, what changes have occurred — ensuring trust and usability over time. Tools like LOCKSS keep multiple copies of important content spread across different locations, so no single failure can wipe it all out. Formats like BagIt help institutions safely package and transfer digital files without risking data corruption.

These tools might sound technical, but they are everyday heroes, quietly working to ensure that a cyberattack, natural disaster, or political crisis doesn't erase centuries of knowledge.

The Role of IFLA and CDNL

This is where IFLA can truly make a difference, turning global knowledge into practical solutions. For example:

- Developing clear, user-friendly guides so even small libraries can begin exploring solutions like LOCKSS, possibly on regular computers, with guidance and support, rather than needing a full IT department from the start. While advanced support is helpful for larger networks, small institutions can begin protecting collections with minimal expertise.
- Promoting simpler tools like BagIt, which allows libraries to create secure digital packages without complex configurations. Even staff with limited technical skills can learn to create "bags" for safely storing and transferring digital content.
- Hosting free webinars to train library staff on practical digital preservation techniques, including disaster recovery planning and affordable local backups.
- Supporting national libraries in exploring the feasibility of cross-border agreements to store backups of each other's collections, where legal and geopolitical circumstances allow. This way, when one country goes dark, another can help keep our shared heritage alive.

CDNL, as a network of national library directors, plays a unique role in enabling these cross-border collaborations. It can facilitate high-level agreements between national libraries, help navigate legal and geopolitical complexities, and identify collections most at risk to prioritize global efforts. Together, IFLA and CDNL can bridge technical solutions and policy-level action to build true digital resilience.

A New Beginning

My warning is not just a story. It is a reality that could happen anywhere.

Today is not the end. It is the beginning of building resilient digital heritage for Iran, and for the world.

Let's not wait for darkness to remind us how fragile our cultural records are. Let's act now — together — to keep our digital heritage safe for generations to come.

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NEWS FROM CHINA

Revitalizing the Borrowing Experience Through Metadata Utilization in Big Data Competitions at USST

By **Rende Li**, University of Shanghai for Science and Technology Library, Shanghai, China lirende@usst.edu.cn

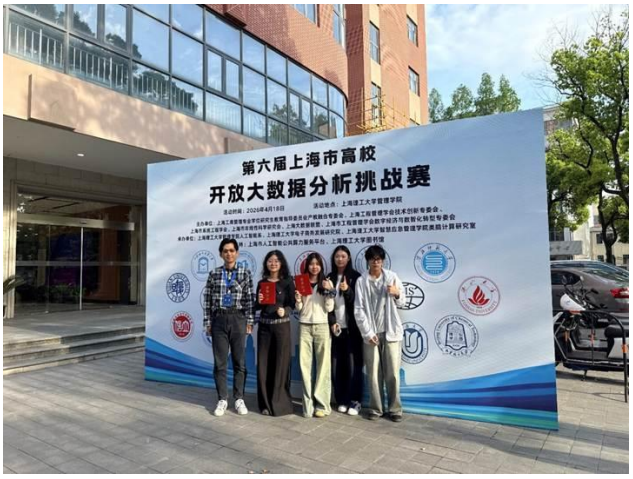
University libraries globally currently face the challenge of declining physical book borrowing rates. To address this trend and actively improve the student borrowing experience, the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology (USST) Library has adopted an innovative approach. The library is leveraging its rich circulation metadata and deepening subject services to empower students through data-driven competitions. Metadata is increasingly recognized not merely as a cataloging tool, but as a dynamic asset capable of revealing deep insights into user behavior and reading preferences.

The library recently participated in the 6th Shanghai University Open Big Data Analysis Challenge, themed "Smart Connection of All Things, Digital Creation of the Future." Recognizing the strategic value of open data, the library sponsored the "Book Borrowing Analysis Track." Participants received a comprehensive, fully anonymized dataset derived from the library's integrated system's circulation metadata. This initiative transformed static transaction logs into an accessible sandbox for data mining and user profiling. Opening authentic metadata resources provided students with a real-world platform to apply artificial intelligence and data analytics to tangible library challenges.

Effective metadata utilization requires expert guidance to ensure academic rigor. Librarian Rende Li implemented an innovative "embedded knowledge service" model to support the participating teams. This service bridged the gap between raw metadata and actionable intelligence. Librarian Li provided full-cycle guidance, assisting students through the complexities of metadata cleaning, semantic interpretation, analysis model construction, and report writing. Information retrieval and data literacy skills were seamlessly integrated into the students' competitive workflow, effectively breaking traditional library service boundaries.

The synergy of open metadata and dedicated subject service yielded remarkable results. Two

teams guided by the library demonstrated exceptional data analysis skills and logical reasoning, winning a Grand Prize (undergraduate team) and a First Prize (postgraduate team). More importantly, this crowdsourced metadata analysis directly contributes to library management. The data-driven insights generated by the students are currently being utilized to optimize collection development, tailor library spaces, and personalize the borrowing experience. High-quality metadata utilization is actively reshaping the future of library services and reconnecting the library with its users in a data-driven era.



Librarian Rende Li guiding students on metadata analysis and model construction during the Big Data Challenge

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From English Systems to Chinese Standards: A Holistic Book Grading Model Aligned with New Educational Frameworks

By **Rende Li**, University of Shanghai for Science and Technology Library, Shanghai, China lirende@usst.edu.cn

Recently, the Chinese Ministry of Education officially released the "Chinese Youth Reading Literacy Framework," establishing a comprehensive "four-stage, twelve-level" developmental pathway for young readers. This milestone has sparked a crucial question for librarians, catalogers, and educators: How can we scientifically evaluate and recommend the right books for readers at different developmental stages?

Historically, Chinese graded reading systems have heavily borrowed from English-language frameworks, such as the Lexile measure. While effective for English, these systems primarily focus on objective, quantitative metrics like vocabulary complexity, sentence length, and text structure. They often overlook qualitative dimensions such as emotional resonance, reading interest, and thematic immersion. Because the Chinese language is deeply rooted in unique character structures, cultural metaphors, and emotional nuances, a purely quantitative approach falls short.

To address this gap, a research team from the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology (USST)—Rende Li and Jian Zhang—has developed a groundbreaking evaluation framework. Recently published in the *Journal of Data and Information Science* (JDIS, 2025), their

study proposes a holistic model that seamlessly integrates linguistic complexity with the reader's subjective experience. This offers a more scientific and objective grading solution for libraries, educational institutions, and the publishing industry.

A Tri-fold Methodological Innovation

The new framework achieves a balance between quantitative difficulty and qualitative engagement through three advanced techniques:

1. **Probabilistic Fuzzy Linguistic Technique (PFLT):** To handle subjective experiences, the model uses a five-level fuzzy linguistic scale (from "Very Low" to "Very High") combined with probability distributions. This quantifies experiential indicators like plot coherence, emotional richness, and theme clarity, effectively aggregating expert opinions and minimizing individual bias.

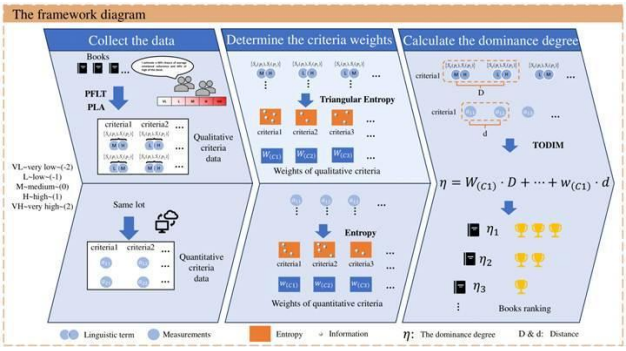
2. **Entropy Weight Method (EWM):** This method calculates information entropy to objectively assign weights to various criteria. The study found that sentence complexity, text coherence, and emotional expression hold the highest weights in Chinese reading grading, perfectly aligning with the "aesthetic appreciation" requirements of China's national curriculum standards.

3. **TODIM (Multicriteria Interactive Decision Making):** Recognizing that readers are often more deterred by "excessive difficulty" than they are motivated by "high interest," the TODIM method non-linearly balances the "cost" (linguistic difficulty) against the "benefit" (reading interest). This results in a comprehensive ranking that mirrors real-world reader choices.

Impact on Libraries and Metadata Standards

Case studies demonstrated that the framework's evaluation results are highly consistent with the Ministry of Education's recommended reading lists, achieving a remarkable correlation coefficient of 0.91.

For the international metadata and cataloging community, this research represents a significant leap forward in regional standards. It transitions Chinese graded reading from experience-based judgments to a data-driven, standardized process. By incorporating experiential metadata into book grading, libraries can enhance their subject analysis and access, ensuring that young readers are matched with materials that are not only at their reading level but also culturally and emotionally engaging.



The evaluation framework diagram. The process involves three steps from left to right: collect data, determine criterion weights, and calculate advantage degrees. Firstly, data is collected and aggregated using Probabilistic Fuzzy Linguistic Term (PFLT) and Probabilistic Linguistic Averaging (PLA). Qualitative data is assessed by experts using linguistic terms at five levels: Very Low (VL), Low (L),

Medium (M), High (H), and Very High (VH), while quantitative data is directly measured values. Next, triangular and traditional entropy methods are used to calculate weights for the two criteria. Finally, the TODIM method calculates the advantage degree of each book based on the criterion and combines the degree to rank the books.

(Read more about the study: Li, R. D., & Zhang, J. (2025). A holistic evaluation framework for Chinese graded reading system. Journal of Data and Information Science. DOI: 10.2478/jdis-2025-0045)

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NEWS FROM SPAIN

New Portal for Spanish Bibliography Online

By **Sergio Solano Rodríguez**, Head of the Spanish Bibliography Section, National Library of Spain

The Spanish Bibliography starts a new chapter in its history, which began almost 70 years ago, in 1958. Initially published in print, it later moved to a CD-ROM version and, in 2007, became an online resource called Spanish Bibliography Online (Bibliografía Española en Línea or BEL). The aim of this portal was to bring together records of all monographs, serial publications, printed music, and cartographic works collected through Spain's legal deposit system from 2007 onwards.

The National Library of Spain (Biblioteca Nacional de España or BNE), which has been responsible for publishing the Bibliography since 1986, has undergone major changes in recent years associated with the migration to Alma, ExLibris's integrated library system (ILS). The former procedure for generating the Online Bibliography was not compatible with the new system, and the entire process had to be reconsidered. During this transition, the BNE team also decided to update the query portal, using the ExLibris Primo interface as its basis. Thus, the renewal of BEL has been used both to develop a new way of compiling it and to implement several changes to the page, adding new functionalities and search tools.

The new Spanish Bibliography Online, which is still in the development phase, maintains the same previous selection criteria: works collected through legal deposit from 2007 onwards, in physical format. However, as a first novelty, in addition to monographs, serial publications, scores and cartography, two new types of resources were added: audio recordings for the first time, and video recordings, which were briefly included in the bibliography between 1997 and 2004. Both will be compiled retrospectively from 2007.

The second relevant change is that the BEL goes from being a static collection of bibliographic records to a dynamic collection. Until now, once the bibliography for a given year was published, it received two additional updates (for example, the 2023 bibliography would be updated in 2024 and 2025). This created the problem that it did not always faithfully reflect bibliographic

production if there had been delays in cataloguing or other unforeseen circumstances. The new BEL is updated weekly, with no time limit, incorporating any new record added to the system regardless of the time elapsed between the publication of the work and its technical processing.

The third notable change concerns the way users search the portal. The previous BEL portal allowed searches by keywords, thematic categories, or alphabetical indexes of authors, titles, or subjects. However, these searches could not be combined and always had to be limited to a specific year. This restricted users' ability to perform more sophisticated searches that could better meet their needs. The new portal is based on Primo and therefore includes many of the functionalities associated with it. It retains most of the search options of the former BEL website while adding new ones and addressing several of the previously mentioned limitations. Users can now run queries across as many years as they wish, combining different search options and obtaining results that can be sorted according to various criteria. These results can also be refined through a faceted filtering system that allows researchers to narrow down results according to elements of interest: resource type, dates, authors, thematic categories, genres, subjects, languages, and more. With these changes, navigation becomes more user-friendly and user searches more precise.

At the same time, the PDF version of the bibliography will continue to be published as before, divided by year and resource type. These documents, which maintain the classic structure of bibliographic entries, will be published annually and updated over the following two years, after which they will be considered final.

Finally, one of the greatest advantages of the new procedure is that it allows the scope of the collection to be expanded. In theory, other types of resources could be added, such as posters, photographs, or video games, or the time frame could be extended to before 2007, even going back to the beginnings of legal deposit in 1957. For this reason, looking ahead we hope that this first version of the new BEL will continue to evolve and grow.

NEWS FROM SUDAN

Towards Smart Arabic Libraries Using AI to Locate Print Resources on Shelves

By **Khalda Othman Al-Jazouli Othman**, Head of Information Services Department, Deanship of Library Affairs, University of Dongola

The Moment of Discovery – April 7, 2025

On an ordinary working day at the Deanship of Library Affairs, University of Dongola, a simple experiment opened an extraordinary horizon for a persistent challenge our users face: the catalogue says the thesis is "available," yet the researcher wanders the aisles, lost. I took a photograph of a thesis shelf and, on intuition, uploaded it to ChatGPT. I asked it to locate a specific thesis by author name. Within seconds, the AI analyzed the image and pointed precisely to the spine of "The Study of Educational Planning and Its Importance in Achieving

Comprehensive Development in the State of Niger" by Mohamed Luli Abu Bakr—sitting quietly on the second shelf. That afternoon, the same method identified another thesis, "Sustainable Development Conditions in the Southern Section of the Rahad Agricultural Project," tucked away on the bottom shelf. In two simple photographs, a silent gap in our library services was suddenly voiced, and a solution began to take shape.

The Unseen Gap: When the Catalogue Says *Available* but the User Says *I Can't Find It*

A library OPAC gives the user a call number. Yet even armed with this metadata, navigating the physical stacks remains a silent barrier. Users often abandon their search before their hand touches the book. We have a metadata-to-physical-location gap—and the experiment of April 7 proved that artificial intelligence, already present in a free tool like ChatGPT, can bridge it.

From an Experiment to a Scalable Model

This discovery has grown into a structured, low-cost project built on four pillars:

· AI-Powered Visual Search: Using a smartphone camera and an AI model to analyze a shelf photo, visually identifying a target resource by matching text from the catalogue record (author, title, classification) with the labels visible on book spines.

· QR-Coded Shelf Mapping: Each shelf bay is assigned a unique QR code encoding its physical coordinates. Scanning it loads that section's virtual map, narrowing the visual search area.

· Interactive Smart Maps: A lightweight web or mobile interface—integratable with Koha—guides the user from the bibliographic record to a highlighted shelf position on screen.

· AI Shelf Reading for Staff: The same technology can be used by librarians for inventory; a single photograph can flag mis-shelved items and feed corrections back into the catalogue's metadata.

A Contextual Vision: From the University of Dongola, Sudan, to the World

The attached images from the Deanship of Library Affairs, University of Dongola, speak to a challenge that is strikingly universal. Whether in a Sudanese university library boldly embracing digital transformation, or within the halls of another Arab library, the user's need remains one and the same: from a glimpse of the shelf, straight to the book in hand.

This is a low-cost, high-impact model. It asks for no expensive smart shelves—only the smartphone already resting in the patron's pocket, and the metadata already living in the catalogue. It is a quiet demonstration of how artificial intelligence can bring our Arab knowledge heritage closer, one shelf at a time.

University of Dongola: locating resources on the shelves with the help of AI

NEWS FROM CANADA

Fifty years of MARC development in Canada

By **Pat Riva**

Canada's MARC standards committee, the Canadian Committee on Metadata Exchange / Comité canadien sur l'échange des métadonnées, known as CCM, has reached a major milestone in 2026 – its fiftieth year of operation.

The origins of CCM go back to letters sent on 31 March 1976 on behalf of Guy Sylvestre, then National Librarian of Canada at the National Library of Canada (NLC), to the presidents of the Canadian Library Association (CLA) and the Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (Asted), the francophone library association. In those letters, the two national library associations were each invited to name two representatives to the proposed Canadian Committee on MARC / Comité canadien du MARC (CCM), with another two members being added from NLC. This membership formula, balancing representation of Canada's English and French-speaking library communities, was adapted from the Canadian Committee on Cataloguing / Comité canadien de catalogage (CCC) which had itself been formed in 1974 (and is continuing to this day!). Proposed terms of reference were included. The associations needed to act fast, as the first meeting of CCM was planned for the June 1976 conference of the Canadian Library Association being held in Halifax.

When CCM was created, the Canadian MARC Office at NLC maintained the bilingual national CAN/MARC bibliographic format; the CAN/MARC authorities format was added in 1988 and the CAN/MARC holdings format in 1990. After several years of work and many proposals, CAN/MARC and USMARC harmonized in 1999 to create MARC 21; UK MARC joined in 2003. This led to a new level of governance, with semi-annual national meetings feeding into the meetings of the Machine-Readable Bibliographic Information Committee (MARBI) of ALA (as of 2014, directly to the MARC Advisory Committee or MAC), and the three national libraries, with the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, forming the MARC Steering Group. The Library of Congress continues to support the publication of the English-language MARC 21 formats, while

Canada maintains the French-language translations (available at: https://www.marc21.ca/index-f.html).

I joined CCM as a CLA representative in 1995, becoming chair in 1996, a role I continue to hold. This was just after the 1994 implementation of MARC Format Integration – the integration of the seven material-specific bibliographic formats into a single format – but in time to contribute to the format harmonisation effort that led to MARC 21. By that time, a representative from the Bureau of Canadian Archivists and one from Utlas (Canada's then bibliographic utility) had been added to the membership of CCM.

In 2015, CCM changed its name but not its acronym, from Canadian Committee on MARC to Canadian Committee on Metadata Exchange, to confirm that the committee's scope covers governance of metadata exchange formats, whether MARC or other. At the same time, it also broadened its membership by adding three co-opted members to increase the diversity of library voices. Although the Canadian archival community has since ceased its active participation, leaving vacant the seat reserved for the Canadian Council of Archives (which took responsibility from the Bureau of Canadian Archivists in 2004), in 2016, with the retirement of their long-standing member, the ex officio Utlas / A-G Canada representative was modified into a co-opted representative from a Canadian-based library system vendor. Additionally, all three of the founding organizations evolved: the National Library of Canada merged with the National Archives of Canada to form Library and Archives Canada in 2004, while both CLA and Asted changed from membership associations to federations of library associations, CLA being succeeded in 2016 by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations / Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB), and Asted in 2018 by the Fédération des milieux documentaires (FMD).

Much has changed in fifty years, but CCM is still Canada's MARC advisory committee, examining MARC 21 proposals twice a year and formulating Canada's position for the MARC Advisory Committee meetings. CCM also prepares and sponsors discussion papers and proposals that either respond to needs identified by Canadians, or that deal with topics specific to Canada. CCM is particularly proud to have sponsored the series of proposals to create and enhance fields for coding accessibility metadata.

Canadian Cataloguing Taskforce Executive Summary

By **Yoo Young Lee**

Over the last couple of decades Canadian knowledge work (library cataloguing, and archival / museum description) has undergone significant changes driven by legislative acts and policies, technological advancements, and federal funding. Consequently, Canadians have been impacted through lost (bilingual) bibliographic records, inaccessible information, higher costs than originally projected by the federal government, and dwindling support for national cultural heritage.

Following the National Library Act (1953), the National Library of Canada (NLC) was created to

manage the national union catalog and bibliography. Shortly after, the Official Languages Act (1969) was passed, and the NLC was responsible for creating bilingual bibliographic records. This led to the formation of the Canadian Task Group (1972) on Cataloguing Standards and developing the Canadiana Authorities. The NLC launched AMICUS (1995), a free bilingual catalogue with information from over 1300 libraries. In 2004, the NLC and National Archives of Canada merged to create the Library and Archives of Canada and after repeated reassessments and federal budget reductions, AMICUS was decommissioned and in 2018 replaced with WorldShare Management Services, software provided by U.S.-based OCLC. The systems migration was initially projected to cost $4.47 million, but to date the federal government has paid approximately $58 million for OCLC services and products.[1] This figure does not include what local, consortial, and provincial institutions are paying other (largely U.S.-based) vendors and corporations, nor the costs of workarounds for Canadian communities. The switchover has also resulted in the splitting of a single bilingual authority file into separate English and French ones as well as changes in cataloguing standards and policies that align Canadian institutions with the largely Anglophone United States Library of Congress.

In response to issues pertaining to the sovereignty of Canadian bibliographic metadata, the Canadian Cataloguing Taskforce (CATF) was created in November 2025. There are over 70 active members across Canada who meet virtually on a monthly basis. A grant application was submitted in February 2026 to support and further expand this work. The taskforce's mission is to:

- Account for/understand the true costs of infrastructure devolution
- Repatriate/regain control over Canadian metadata and records
- Rebuild a sustainable, inclusive and independent national catalogue
- Develop resilient and federated infrastructure which supports multiple vocabularies, descriptive practices and national authority files.

Although in the early stages, CATF is building a national community aimed to promote and protect Canadian cultural heritage while reducing dependency on foreign systems and reclaiming Canadian metadata. The taskforce encourages GLAMS organizations across Canada to join this collaborative effort and contribute to building an inclusive, national catalogue.

Résumé du Groupe de travail canadien sur le catalogage

By **Yoo Young Lee**

Au cours des deux dernières décennies, le travail du savoir au Canada (le catalogage en bibliothèque et la description archivistique et

[1] See here for original tender. Since 2017 the federal government has paid $45,916,105.57 exactly, based on https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/ffd38960-1853-4c19-ba26-e50bea2cb2d5 data for OCLC. However, the actual cost is higher, as this (1) only covers contracts over 10,000$ and (2) does not cover the costs provincial, regional, and individual libraries pay. Though OCLC has a subsidiary in Montreal called "OCLC Canada" the organization is entirely US-based.

muséale) a connu des changements importants, sous l'effet de la législation et des politiques, des avancées technologiques et du financement fédéral. En conséquence, les canadiens ont été affectés par la perte de notices bibliographiques (bilingues), l'inaccessibilité de l'information, des coûts plus élevés que ceux initialement prévus par le gouvernement fédéral et un soutien décroissant au patrimoine culturel national.

À la suite de la Loi sur la Bibliothèque nationale (1953), la Bibliothèque nationale du Canada (BNC) a été créée pour gérer le catalogue collectif national et la bibliographie. Peu après, la Loi sur les langues officielles a été adoptée, et la BNC a été chargée de créer des notices

bibliographiques bilingues. Cela a conduit à la formation du Groupe de travail canadien (1972) sur la normalisation du catalogage et à l'élaboration des autorités Canadiana. La BNC a lancé AMICUS (1995), un catalogue bilingue gratuit contenant des informations provenant de plus de 1 300 bibliothèques. En 2004, la BNC et les Archives nationales du Canada ont fusionné pour créer Bibliothèque et Archives Canada et, après des réévaluations répétées et des réductions du budget fédéral, AMICUS a été mis hors service et, en 2018, remplacé par WorldShare

Management Services, un logiciel fourni par l'OCLC, basé aux États-Unis. La migration des systèmes devait initialement coûter 4,47 millions de dollars, mais à ce jour, le gouvernement fédéral a déboursé environ 58 millions de dollars pour les services et produits de l'OCLC.[2] Ce chiffre n'inclut pas ce que les institutions locales, consortiales et provinciales versent à d'autres fournisseurs et entreprises (principalement basés aux États-Unis), ni les coûts des solutions de contournement mises en place par les communautés canadiennes. Le passage à ce nouveau système a également entraîné la scission d'un fichier d'autorité bilingue unique en deux fichiers distincts, l'un en anglais et l'autre en français, ainsi que des changements dans les normes et politiques de catalogage qui alignent les institutions canadiennes sur la Bibliothèque du Congrès des États-Unis, largement anglophone.

En réponse aux questions relatives à la souveraineté des métadonnées bibliographiques canadiennes, le Groupe de travail canadien sur le catalogage (GTCC) a été créé en novembre 2025. Elle compte plus de 70 membres actifs à travers le Canada qui se réunissent virtuellement chaque mois. Une demande de subvention a été soumise en février 2026 afin de soutenir et de développer davantage ce travail. La mission du groupe de travail est de :

- Rendre compte/comprendre les coûts réels de la décentralisation de l'infrastructure

[2] Voir ici pour l'appel d'offres original. Depuis 2017, le gouvernement fédéral a versé exactement 45 916 105,57 $, d'après les données de https://ouvert.canada.ca/data/fr/dataset/ffd38960-1853-4c19-ba26-e50bea2cb2d5 pour l'OCLC. Cependant, le coût réel est plus élevé, car ce chiffre (1) ne couvre que les contrats supérieurs à 10 000 $ et (2) ne tient pas compte des coûts payés par les bibliothèques provinciales, régionales et individuelles. Bien qu'OCLC dispose d'une filiale à Montréal appelée « OCLC Canada », l'organisation est entièrement basée aux États-Unis.

• Rapatrier/reprendre le contrôle des métadonnées et des notices canadiennes

• Reconstruire un catalogue national durable, inclusif et indépendant

• Développer une infrastructure résilience et fédérée prenant en charge plusieurs vocabulaires, pratiques descriptives et fichiers d'autorité nationaux.

NEWS FROM CROATIA

38th Spring School of School Librarians of the Republic of Croatia

By **Danica Leštek**

The Spring School of School Librarians in 2026 brought together numerous librarians, educators and experts in the field of education with the aim of exchanging experiences, professional development and reflection on the role of libraries in the modern educational environment. This year's theme "Libraries in the Era of Change" focused on innovative work methods and strengthening librarianship practice in the context of the digital transformation of schools. The Spring School was held for the first time in Tuheljske Toplice, near the capital Zagreb, from 20 to 22 April 2026. It brought together around three hundred school librarians, mainly from the northern parts of the Republic of Croatia.

Opening ceremony Spring School of School Librarians
Photo by Davor Žažar

Over the course of several days, participants had the opportunity to participate in workshops, lectures and panels that covered the topics of information literacy, critical thinking, artificial intelligence in the school environment and the development of reading habits in the digital age. Special emphasis was placed on the changes taking place in schools and libraries and examples of good practice that encourage creative and project-based learning.

The professional program was complemented by interactive activities, the presentation of new resources for teaching and research, as well as informal gatherings that encouraged the exchange of ideas among librarians from all over the country. This year, the Spring School confirmed its importance as a place for continuous professional development, inspiration and networking of school librarians who contribute to the quality of education and the development of school communities on a daily basis.

Panel Spring School of School Librarians
Photo by Davor Žažar

As part of the program, a panel discussion was organized on the IFLA-UNESCO Manifesto for School Libraries 2025. As a motivation, a short film was shown in which school librarians from libraries around the world gave their comments on the Manifesto and its implementation in libraries. After that, an interesting discussion took place in which the participants tried to answer these and similar questions:

1. Is the library in your school recognized as a learning space?

2. Do school librarians have enough space and time in practice to develop the role emphasized in the Manifesto: The Librarian as Educator?

3. If the school library disappears from a school, what would the school actually lose?

4. If the principal were to ask tomorrow why the school library is important in our school, what would you answer?

5. Why are school libraries more important today than ever?

Participants Spring School of School Librarians
Photo by Davor Žažar

We all concluded that practices in individual schools vary considerably, but librarians generally manage to achieve the role intended for them and emphasized in the Manifesto. In fact, school libraries are a place for meeting, socializing and learning, and the role of the school librarian is irreplaceable because it is in the library that students can develop their full potential.

SECTION NEWS

BIBLIOGRAPHY SECTION

Accessibility in National Bibliographies: Establishing an International Baseline for Future Collaboration

By **Rehab Ouf,** Bibliography Section Chair

Accessibility metadata has rapidly emerged as an important dimension of bibliographic description and resource discovery. As libraries, publishers, and standards communities work to make information more inclusive and accessible,

National Bibliographic Agencies (NBAs) are increasingly called upon to record, manage, and disseminate accessibility information as part of their national bibliographies. Yet, despite these developments, little has been known about how NBAs around the world are responding to these evolving responsibilities.

To address this knowledge gap, the IFLA Bibliography Section has published the *Survey on Accessibility in National Bibliographies: Report of Results*, presenting the findings of the international survey dedicated specifically to accessibility in national bibliographies. Launched in May 2025 and conducted throughout July 2025, the survey coincided with a period of heightened international attention to accessibility, including the entry into application of the European Accessibility Act. While global in scope, the survey was designed to establish an international baseline of the readiness, current practices, challenges, and priorities of National Bibliographic Agencies as accessibility becomes an increasingly important dimension of bibliographic description and metadata exchange.

A distinctive feature of the survey is its comprehensive scope. Rather than focusing solely on accessibility metadata, it explored current practices, institutional needs, and operational challenges alongside the accessibility of national catalogues and the availability and production of accessible formats. This integrated approach offers a broader picture of accessibility within National Bibliographic Agencies and the interconnected factors that influence its implementation.

This broad perspective reflects the unique position of National Bibliographic Agencies within both the national and international bibliographic landscape. As the institutions responsible for producing and maintaining authoritative national bibliographic metadata, they play a central role in implementing the principles of Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC), supporting metadata interoperability, and facilitating the exchange and reuse of bibliographic information across countries and communities. Understanding how these institutions are responding to accessibility therefore contributes not only to improving national bibliographic services, but also to strengthening the international bibliographic ecosystem.

The survey forms part of the Bibliography Section's broader strategic engagement with accessibility as an emerging dimension of bibliographic practices and library services. Through this work, the Section seeks to raise awareness of accessibility and accessibility metadata among National Bibliographic Agencies, better understand the challenges and opportunities they encounter, identify practices that may be generalized across different national contexts, and contribute to the international dialogue on accessibility metadata, bibliographic standards, and Universal Bibliographic Control. Within this broader engagement, the Section sponsored the establishment of the IFLA Accessibility Metadata Network and continues to participate actively in two of its four Working Groups. Earlier this year, Working Group 1 of the Network - to which we contribute – released the Statement of

Principles on Accessibility Metadata, helping to establish a shared international vision for improving the creation, exchange, and reuse of accessibility metadata across sectors.

Speaking of the survey report findings, among the distinctive contributions is the identification of different archetypes in the ways National Bibliographic Agencies are approaching accessibility. Rather than following a single model, institutions demonstrated varying levels of organizational maturity, priorities, and implementation approaches, reflecting diverse national contexts, capacities, and operational realities. The findings also reveal varying degrees of engagement with international accessibility initiatives, highlighting the gap that can exist between strategic commitment and practical implementation. While these diverse approaches provide valuable opportunities for mutual learning, they also reinforce the importance of international guidance, collaboration, and the exchange of practices to support sustainable progress across the community.

The survey results also revealed several thought-provoking observations that merit further discussion. Responses suggested that the concepts of accessibility metadata and the accessibility of online catalogues are not always clearly distinguished, while a proportion of respondents demonstrated differing interpretations of what accessibility means in the context of national bibliographic services. These findings point to an important need for greater awareness, training, and practical guidance to support a more consistent understanding of accessibility concepts and their implementation across the international bibliographic community.

Equally valuable, the survey highlights areas where further research could support future international work. For example, the unexpectedly limited use of internationally recognized accessibility vocabularies raises important questions about awareness, applicability, technical implementation, and community adoption. Together with the broader survey findings, these observations provide an evidence base for future dialogue, collaboration, and standardization efforts.

The IFLA Bibliography Section hopes that this survey report will encourage continued reflection and dialogue on accessibility within the bibliographic community. We invite colleagues from all sectors to explore the report and discover its findings, revealing statistics, and the perspectives it presents.

STANDARDS NEWS

Report from the UBC Working Group: Findings from the Survey on the Need for Further Documentation on Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC)

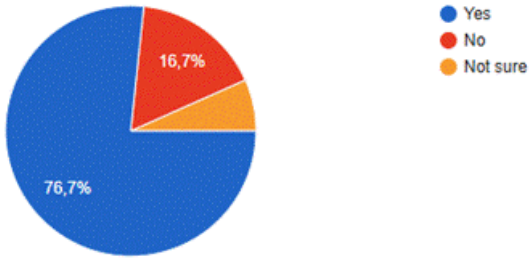
By **Maud Henry**, Metadata Librarian at the Bibliographic Information Agency (KBR), and **Alex Kyrios**, Senior Editor, Dewey Decimal Classification (OCLC)

When the UBC Working Group worked on the 2025 IFLA Professional Statement on Universal Bibliographic Control, the collective process of research, reflection and discussion generated more than the final document could contain. Behind the concise, strategic statement lay a substantial body of historical material, bibliographic references, conceptual clarifications and contextual analysis. These resources could not be included without compromising the statement's clarity and purpose.

During this preparatory work, the UBC Working Group had also identified the potential value of a more practical, implementation-oriented document. However, such material could not fit into a concise, strategic statement whose role was not to give practical examples or workflows. The idea was therefore set aside for a later phase, with the understanding that any future work should be grounded in demonstrated community needs. During the worldwide consultation of the 2025 draft, colleagues from different regions sent thoughtful feedback. Much of it was insightful and relevant. Some comments also pointed to needs that did not fit within the scope of a strategic statement. The UBC Statement had to remain high-level, principled and succinct.

The convergence of these elements pointed naturally toward the next phase. We needed to ask the global community directly: Do you think that an additional, more detailed document on UBC would be beneficial? What form should this additional document take? In what ways could this complementary document improve or complement existing IFLA standards and guidance? What would be its target audience? This is the context in which, on 10 December 2025, the survey was launched at the close of the webinar Universal Bibliographic Control: Global Perspectives on the 2025 IFLA Statement, hosted by the IFLA Bibliography Section in collaboration with the UBC Working Group.

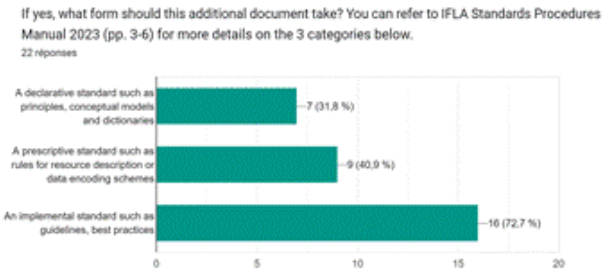
By the end of the response period, 30 contributions had been received from across different regions of the world: Europe, Asia, North America, Africa and South America, reflecting the international impact and relevance of the Statement. These responses are the basis for the aggregated results and visualisations included in this report. Together, they offered a coherent picture of where the community stands and where it hopes UBC will go next. This level of participation represents a solid and representative outcome for a survey of this scope. The message was strikingly consistent: the UBC Statement is much valued but the community needs more clarity, more guidance and more connection between principles and daily practice.



Around 80% of respondents expressed support for developing a complementary document. The strongest message, repeated across continents and institutional types, was the need for practical, actionable support. Respondents described the current UBC Statement as aspirational, but not yet operational. They asked for workflows, examples and case studies, implementation pathways and concrete recommendations for daily cataloguing and metadata management. In short, they want help turning UBC from principles into practice.

Another theme surfaced repeatedly: the need to clarify how UBC relates to other IFLA standards. Several respondents noted that the IFLA standards ecosystem is rich, but not always easy to navigate. Where does UBC sit in relation to ISBD? What is foundational, what is operational, and what connects the two? Many respondents mention a missing connection layer, something that would help libraries understand how the pieces fit together and how they can be used coherently.

Although respondents were open to different formats, a clear preference emerged for a practical, implemental standard - guidelines, best practices, and examples that bridge the gap between high-level principles and everyday work. Others argued for a prescriptive standard, emphasizing the need for consistency, minimal mandatory elements, and mappings to data structures. A smaller group favored a declarative approach, focusing on conceptual clarity in a rapidly evolving environment.



Across responses, the complementary document is imagined not as a replacement for existing standards, but as a connecting, clarifying and enabling layer.

Respondents hope it will:
- strengthen links between existing standards
- provide examples, mappings and case studies
- support consistent implementation across countries
- reinforce interoperability, including on the web
- address emerging challenges such as linked data and AI-assisted metadata creation
- serve as a training and advocacy tool
- make quality control more explicit.

In other words, they envision a document that helps libraries act on UBC, not just understand it. Beyond these expectations, the survey also highlighted the importance of interoperability, a theme mentioned across several responses. Some participants stressed the need to reduce variability in implementation, for instance by

defining minimum descriptive expectations or by providing clearer mappings between standards. Others pointed to the value of guidance that would help harmonize practices across institutions and countries. A few respondents also emphasized that such guidance could support more consistent data exchange and reuse, both within national bibliographic systems and on the wider web. Together, these comments suggest that a complementary document could play a useful role in supporting more coherent and interoperable implementations of UBC.

The survey further revealed how widely such a document could be used. Respondents envisioned it as a tool for training cataloguers, aligning local cataloguing policies with international expectations, supporting migration or interoperability projects, guiding national bibliographic agencies, informing strategic planning or even advocating for resources and policy changes.

Following the survey, the UBC Working Group met to review and discuss the results in detail. The strong and consistent feedback received from the community confirmed both the relevance of the revised UBC Statement and the clear interest in additional guidance to support its implementation. The group is now reflecting on how best to respond to these needs. In the coming months, the Working Group will continue to analyse the themes raised in the survey, clarify the objectives and scope of a potential complementary document and consider how such a resource could be positioned within the broader IFLA standards ecosystem. This exploratory work will help determine the most appropriate way forward and ensure that any future initiative is well aligned with professional expectations and the suite of IFLA standards.

The UBC Working Group warmly thanks all colleagues who took the time to respond to the survey and share their perspectives. Their thoughtful contributions, drawn from diverse regions and professional contexts, were essential in shaping the insights presented in this report and in guiding our reflections on possible next steps

Anonymous Classics: A List of Uniform Titles for Japanese Works

“Anonymous Classics: A List of Uniform Titles for Japanese Works” was released in September 2025 through the IFLA Cataloguing Section as part of the IFLA’s Anonymous Classics project. It provides a standardized list of uniform titles for anonymous classical Japanese works and is in the public domain.

This document represents the outcome of a project carried out over the period from 2023 to 2025. It was created by the National Diet Library with the cooperation of the Cataloguing Committee of the Japan Library Association and the National Institute of Japanese Literature.

Previously, Japan maintained a list of Uniform Headings for Anonymous Classics and Sacred Texts: Japan and the Orient as an appendix to the Nippon Cataloguing Rules (NCR) 1987 Revised 3rd Edition. However, when the Nippon Cataloguing Rules 2018 Edition was issued, following extensive revisions made in

accordance with the IFLA's Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records, this appendix was not carried over.

In developing a new list to succeed that appendix, the editorial team undertook a comprehensive review of the selection criteria and the format of entries to enhance the overall content. In addition to the titles included in the former appendix, titles appearing as classification item names and notes in the Nippon Decimal Classification, New Edition 10 were selected. Furthermore, alongside works traditionally regarded as "Japanese" classics, the editorial team also conducted supplementary research on anonymous classical works from Ainu and Ryukyuan traditions.

The resulting list comprises 92 titles selected through this process, and it is designed for convenient use in spreadsheet environments such as Excel. Converting the list into a spreadsheet allows users to sort and filter the data, making the data highly searchable. To support users who may not be familiar with Japanese script, the list includes numerous entries in Roman script. It also provides not only variant titles in Japanese but also a substantial number of non-Japanese variant titles—such as French and German—identified through VIAF research. When a corresponding entry exists in the LC Name Authority File, a reference URL is also included.

This has been a landmark project for Japan as well. The Japanese version、 "Anonymous Classics: 無著者名古典作品統一タイトルリスト"、 has also been available via the National Diet Library's website since February 2026.

Accessibility Metadata: Statement and Principles: Final Governing Board Approval

By **Victoria Owen**
Chair, Working Group 1
IFLA Metadata Accessibility Network

Many IFLA Metadata Newsletter readers will be familiar with the work of the Accessibility Metadata Network (AMN), led by Chris Oliver, since its inaugural meeting in Rotterdam in 2023.

The purpose of AMN is to improve resource discovery for library users with disabilities, through the addition and use of metadata related to accessible formats and features. The **Accessibility Metadata: Statement and Principles** provides an international framework to guide the development of metadata related to accessibility, best practices and practical documentation, and enables libraries to understand and fulfil legal and ethical obligations to provide access for all users.

It was determined at the outset that the first, foundational element for the entirety of the work of AMN on accessibility metadata was to be a set of principles that would inform the activities of all the working groups. An IFLA principles document would provide the structure to support a consistent, international standardization of the domain of accessibility metadata.

Working Group 1 was established to produce principles related to accessibility metadata. In developing the principles, it became clear that in addition to principles, a statement would be required to ground the need for accessibility

metadata in the context of equitable access to information, and the legal and human rights framework applicable to libraries and research institutions. The statement and principles combine to form the document, and an annex presents additional, useful information related to accessibility and metadata for librarians and information professionals.

A dedicated team undertook the drafting of the statement and principles. Over many months, the team worked individually, in group meetings, and silent group writing meetings, to produce a much revised and abbreviated version of the statement and principles. Following the process outlined in the IFLA Standards Procedures Manual, the draft statement and principles document was sent out for external consultations, followed by worldwide review. Colleagues generously responded with many significant and thoughtful suggestions and edits. Once the responses from the consultations and worldwide review were incorporated, AMN Convenor, Chris Oliver, delivered Accessibility Metadata: Statement and Principles to the Governing Board for approval.

The Governing Board approved the Accessibility Metadata: Statement and Principles in March 2026. It can be read in full on the IFLA website; I have included a high-level overview of the document.

The IFLA Accessibility Metadata: Statement and Principles begins with a Preamble that situates the necessity of accessibility metadata for access to resources for persons with disabilities in alignment with libraries' longstanding commitment to access and compliance with national legislation and human rights obligations. The document observes that the rights of access to information for users with disabilities are disregarded when accessibility metadata is absent or incorrect.

There are general recommendations related to access that specify the need for accessibility metadata standards, the integration of accessibility metadata in library workflows, and involvement of users with disabilities in setting the standards and related services.

There are two categories of principles. There are principles related to the design of accessibility metadata, including consistency and standardization; granularity; interoperability; and extensibility.

The second category focuses on the principles related to the usability of accessibility metadata. They include the convenience and centrality of the user; display of data; user autonomy; and accuracy. The principles are fully described in the document.

The document provides the foundation and guide for the ongoing work of our AMN colleagues developing vocabularies and thesauri, mappings and crosswalks.

Accessibility Metadata: Statement and Principles affirms IFLA's commitment to accessibility and the development of standards related to accessibility metadata.

News from the RDA Steering Committee (RSC)

By **Anne Welsh**, RSC Secretary

Time to Make the Move from Original to Official RDA

As announced by the publisher and copyright holders in 2023[3] The Countdown Clock for the removal of Original RDA as a supported text began on 11 May[4]. This means that a major activity of many members of the RDA cataloguing community is transitioning their systems and practices so that by May 2027, at the latest, they are cataloguing using Official RDA. At that time, the publisher will withdraw its live pages from the Toolkit. For historical purposes, it will be possible to access pdf copies in the Instruction Archive[5].

ALA Digital Reference, the publisher of the RDA Toolkit, has shared a range of links to support material for cataloguing agencies making the change this year. It includes a link to our Implementing Official RDA page and to the Learning Resources page curated by Education and Orientation Officer Elisa Sze, as well as resources on Creating an Application Profile and a planned section on Navigating the RDA Toolkit.

By the time the *IFLA Metadata Newsletter* goes to press the first of several webinars to encourage and support cataloguers making the switch to Official RDA will have aired. After brief presentations from James and Renate to bring everyone up-to-speed on the Countdown itself and where the text of the Original Toolkit is going in May 2027, there will be time for a few questions from attendees, before we hear from RSC Chair Elect Robert L. Maxwell, live from the Utah Library Association Conference[6]. Robert will be RSC Chair from 1 January 2027, and so will oversee the final five months of the Countdown. There is a news item about the webinar here, and its recording will be available on the RDA Toolkit YouTube channel as soon as practicable after the webinar takes place.

There will be another webinar on 19 November, halfway through the transition period, in which Education and Orientation Officer Elisa Sze and RDA Examples Editor Jessica Grzegorski will lead a longer interactive session on the topic. Details will be published on the RSC News page[7] nearer the time.

Further online events are being planned with ORDAC for the Oceania Region and, in Spanish, with ALyC for the Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

Implementation of Official RDA in Denmark

Some communities are already using Official RDA, and this means there is a wealth of information and experiential learning by them

[3] https://www.rdatoolkit.org/news/rda/countdown-clock-original-rda-toolkit-set-may-2026
[4] https://www.rdatoolkit.org/news/rsc/waking-countdown
[5] https://www.rdatoolkit.org/news/rda/countdown-clock-original-rda-toolkit-set-may-2026
[6] https://ula2026.sched.com/event/2LIqn/technical-services-roundtable-tsrt-meeting-tsrt-presents-breaking-news-from-the-rda-steering-committee
[7] https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/news

which they have been generous in sharing. Most recently, Camilla Riis Petersen (Bibliographic Consultant, DBC Digital) gave a presentation at our Public Session in April on the Danish implementation. Attendees were interested in the non-LRM (and therefore non-RDA) entities introduced in Denmark – "Work clusters" and "sub-Works".

Like several other RDA cataloguing communities, the Danish translation of Official RDA is partial and focused on the RDA vocabularies, which are then implemented using what we may describe as an integrated application profile within Denmark's own cataloguing instructions. Danish cataloguers do not have to grapple with spreadsheets or crosswalks, they simply continue to use DanMARC[8], their cataloguing rules, and DanMARC has RDA entities embedded within it. This approach also means that it is possible to create entities that are not part of the general structure of RDA (based on the LRM).
Camilla's presentation is available to watch (again) here.

More Implementation News

Our page on Implementing Official RDA has been updated with a range of resources, including the UK Committee on RDA's survey of RDA implementation in the UK and the slides from Hannes Lowagie's initial analysis of the EURIG survey on implementation in Europe.

The recording of our webinar *RDA in Europe and the World* is available on YouTube and includes presentations from Finland and Greece, both of which are linked from our Implementing Official RDA page.

Soft-deprecated Terms Proposals

With huge thanks to the RDA cataloguing community for its feedback so far, at the April RSC Meeting the Technical Working Group presented the first two of six proposals to deal with soft-deprecated terms. As described in the RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/1[9], the proposals cover:

1. Soft-deprecated elements relating to Manifestation: material (RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/1[10])
2. "Details" elements (RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/2[11])
3. Resource-to-resource digest, critique, and review elements (RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/3[12])
4. Soft-deprecated elements specific to content and carrier types (RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/4[13])
5. "Note on" elements (RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/5[14])

[8] https://www.kat-format.dk/danMARC3/default.html
[9] https://hdl.handle.net/11213/23955
[10] https://hdl.handle.net/11213/23955
[11] https://hdl.handle.net/11213/24199
[12] https://hdl.handle.net/11213/24247
[13] https://hdl.handle.net/11213/24248
[14] Under preparation

6. "Parallel" elements (RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/6[15] ; see RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1[16])

As it promised in RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/1[17], in the proposals published so far, the Technical Working Group successfully advocated for retaining the elements discussed in proposal 1 and for fully deprecating the elements discussed in proposal 2. For full details you can read RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/1/Decisions and RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/2/Decisions. They will be implemented along with the rest of the proposals in the last Toolkit release of 2026 or the first Toolkit release of 2027.

In RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/3 and RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/4 the Technical Working Group is advocating for the full deprecation of the terms discussed within them. They are out for constituency review now, and you can read more about them here. They will be discussed in the Public Session of the July 2026 Meeting on **Tuesday 28 July at 18:00 - 20:00 UTC**. (There is a handy time converter here). Regional Representatives have already circulated them along with the dates by which they need to receive your comments in order to compile them into official responses for the July Meeting. As a reminder, here are their contact details:

- If you are based in **Europe**, your Regional Representative is **Dr Ahava Cohen**. If you are part of EURIG, please give feedback in the usual way. If you are not a EURIG member yet, please contact Ahava directly: Ahava.Cohen@rdatoolkit.org
- If you are based in **Latin America or the Caribbean**, your Regional Representative is **Dr Filiberto Felipe Martinez Arellano**. If you are part of ALyC, please give feedback in the usual way. If you are not an ALyC member yet, please contact Felipe directly: felipe@rdatoolkit.org
- If you are based in **North America**, your Regional Representative is Trina Soderquist. If you are part of NARDAC, please give feedback in the usual way. If you are not a NARDAC member yet, please contact Trina directly in the first instance: tsod@rdatoolkit.org
- If you are based in **Oceania**, your Regional Representative is **Jack Ennis Butler**. If you are part of ORDAC, please give feedback in the usual way. If you are not an ORDAC member yet, please contact Jack directly: jack@rdatoolkit.org
- If you are not based in any of these Regions (i.e. you are based in **Asia** or **Africa**), please contact the Wider Community Engagement Officer (WCEO), **Dr Getaneh Alemu**. He will be happy to hear responses from members of the RDA community from these regions: getaneh@rdatoolkit.org

Terms for Rare Books Cataloguers

The Translations Team Liaison Officer presented RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1[18] at the April Meeting, proposing 80 new terms that were identified by one of the Translations Working

[15] Under preparation
[16] https://hdl.handle.net/11213/23621
[17] https://hdl.handle.net/11213/23955
[18] https://hdl.handle.net/11213/23954

Groups and "deemed to be crucial especially when creating bibliographic descriptions of old and rare materials such as manuscripts and codices." The response from the wider RDA cataloguing community was very positive, with the Technical Working Group praising the proposal for its international focus, which went beyond the needs of one group that could be met by using Community Resources[19].

The proposal was accepted with amendments and will be implemented in a Toolkit release later this year or next year. The constituency review of the proposal led to the suggestion of further terms that may be needed, and these will be included in a follow-up proposal, RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2, so that the whole community has the opportunity to discuss the suggested new terms. Assuming that some of these are approved, it will be best to implement both proposals in the same future Toolkit release. You can read RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1/Decisions here and RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2 will be published as soon as it is available.

Preferred Order of Recording Sources

RDA Examples Editor Jessica Grzegorski has introduced a proposal on which feedback is requested ahead of the Public Session of the RSC in July.

The proposal recommends an amendment to the preferred order of recording sources for early printed resources. As Jessica puts it, "Because catalogers who use DCRMR do so in tandem with Official RDA, it would be beneficial for the order of preference of recording sources for early printed resources to align in both standards." She goes on to highlight that "it is not the aim of this proposal to copy the order of preference verbatim from DCRMR. Rather, it is to mitigate confusion by reordering the existing text of the condition option in RDA to align with the order of preference in DCRMR."

It is important to note that use of the option is not prescriptive. The RSC is always mindful of internationalisation, and options are one of the ways that cataloguers are provided with choices that align with their needs. In researching the proposal, there was no evidence of a deliberate move away from the instructions in Original RDA, based on practice outside the DCRM cataloguing community or otherwise. With the countdown clock starting soon, Jessica hopes that her recommendation in this proposal will allow for an easy transition for special collections cataloguers from Original to Official RDA. You can read the full text of the proposal here.

Your Regional Representatives will be happy to receive your feedback. You can see their list of contact details earlier in this news article in the section on the Soft-deprecated Terms Proposals.

Annual Report and Minutes of Meetings

RSC/AnnualReport/2025 was published on 9 February 2026, and Minutes for the November

[19] RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1/TTLO, https://hdl.handle.net/11213/24178

2025 and January 2026 Meetings are also available.

Get Involved

Most RSC Working Groups are open for new members. You can find out more about them via their website pages, linked from https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/workinggroups. In the first instance, contact the Working Group Chair of the relevant group.

RDA Toolkit

There was an *RDA Toolkit* release in February 2026. It was a relatively small release in terms of changes made by the RSC, but there are new examples and the introduction of OLAC (On-line Audiovisual Catalogers) Best Practices. Updates were also made to policy statements from the British Library, Library Archives Canada, Library of Congress/Program for Cooperative Cataloging, National Library of New Zealand, and RBMS. Updates to the Finnish and Spanish language translation followed along with policy statement updates in Finnish and French. Toolkit subscribers can read the full release notes. The next release is scheduled for July.

Looking for More On RDA?

The RDA Toolkit YouTube channel includes recordings of presentations at RSC, ALyC, NARDAC and ORDAC Events. Our Presentations and Outreach 2026 page includes links to other presentations and articles by RSC members. Highlights include slides from the Library Capacity Building Workshop in Addis Ababa, the Webinar for the Southeast Asian Cataloguers Community of Practice and the Music Library Association Annual Meeting, and recordings from RDA in Europe and the World, the NARDAC Spring Forum and the CILIP Metadata and Discovery group Conference RDA Day.

Please watch the RSC News page for our latest news and announcements.

NEW BOOKS

Gregory K. Tharp (Independent Researcher, USA) wrote a compelling article on the provision of information services to the intellectually and developmentally disabled, titled *Roles of Academic Librarians in the Provision of Information Services to Disabled and Developmentally Disabled College Students, in Degenerative and Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities*. Also, he wrote a review of United States Academic Library Guides titled, *A Systemic Review of United States Academic Library Guides, in Advances in Sociology, Psychology & Human Behavior*.

Revisiting Formula Classification in Knowledge Organisation: Suitability and Scope

By dr. V.A.Seshagiri Rao

The Formula classification scheme was authored by Dr. V.A.Sshagiri Rao with PhD in LIS, retired as Librarian on superannuation. The scheme was published by ESS Publication in New Delhi, India, in 2026. You can find it at: https://essess.net.i/detail.jsp?b=864. The Formula classification is based on Step-by-Step Classification, authored by me, and was published by ESS pub, in 2017.

The topic evaluates the effectiveness of the Formula Classification scheme (FC) in the contexts of Knowledge Organisation (KO) and management of Metadata and ultimately Digital libraries It is discussed in the Introduction of the Formula classification scheme, 2. The concepts of Knowledge Organisation, and 3) Suitability of the FC scheme in KO and Metadata

Both KO and metadata represent that KO primarily serves in Physical libraries for classification purposes, while metadata serves cataloguing purposes. They are two sides of the same coin. The main goal of the Formula Classification scheme is to establish a system that generates computed classification numbers for various types of documents. Library Science experts have noted that this scheme will be especially advantageous for contemporary digitised Knowledge Organisation (KO) and metadata practices.

Features of the Formula classification scheme.

1. The purpose of the classification number is to arrange documents in a systematic order on racks.

2. The main feature of the FC scheme is that the classification number of any document will be derived from a formula, CN = I date. Where I, d, a, t, e are elements of the classification, and CN denotes the classification number.

3. Each element followed by its notation is called an element class notion of the classifying document, and they are I cn, d c n, a c n and e c n. If we arrange all class notations in a specific order, we obtain the document's classification number of the document.

4. I is the indicator element followed by notations chosen by the classifier about the classifying document. Hence, it is considered a **document class notation**. It acts only as a guide, but should not be used to arrange the document on racks. Since the classification Number of a document may be assigned to both Document notations and Subject notations, the FC scheme can be considered as a 'Dual classification scheme'. At the time of compiling the scheme, it was intended that it might be useful to derive a computed classification of documents. Fortunately, it has become more useful in the digitized KO and metadata system.

5. d, a, t, e are subject elements representing d for discipline/subject, a for area covered, subject content, t for the period of time that covers the subject content, and e for extra information that is not covered in others.

6. Each subject element, followed by its notations allotted from the respective main divisions separately listed in the FC schedule, is known as a subject class notation of the same, which are d c n, a c n and e c n.

7. To accurately obtain the element class notations, certain devices are included in the FC schedule. These devices are as follows:

i) Order of divisions (OD) numbers ii) Numerical divisions corresponding to the alphabet iii) Meaningful order of divisions (MOD) numbers iv) Zero (0) is considered a connecting symbol but is not classified as a digit v) A pattern is provided to categorise associated documents that contain two or more subjects with a relevant relationship

8. Despite everything, it is crucial to understand the classifications of the main subject notations, which include only core subjects such as Language, Philosophy, Botany, Medicine, and others. In today's modern era, numerous subjects exist. The main class notions for each core subject are provided with vocabulary terms and NDA numbers, which can be used as concepts for that core subject.

9. Similarly, the divisions within each core subject become core subjects as each subject is being developed, like that for in-depth study.

10. In view of the same, each core subject is provided with room to add any number of core subjects appropriately, without disturbing the scheme. It is possible in FC with the above-mentioned devices. For that purpose, the main class subject notations are divided as:

GROUP I: GROUP OF DISCIPLINES

d 1 Knowledge and related disciplines
d 2 Formal Sciences
d 3 Universe and related disciplines
d 4 Natural Sciences
d 5 Applied Sciences
d 6 Economics and Related Disciplines
d 7 Anthropology and other Disciplines
d 8 Social Sciences / World Organizations
d 9 Political History & Other Disciplines

GROUP II: DIVISIONS OF GROUP I DISCIPLINES

1 Knowledge and related disciplines
d 11 Knowledge
d 12 Philosophy
d 122 Aesthetics
Formula 442 Classification
d 123 Ethics
d 125 Metaphysics
d 13 Psychology
d 14 Religion
d 15 Languages / Linguistics
d 151 Languages
d 155 Linguistics
d 16 Literature
d 162 1 Holy documents
d 162 2 Epics & Mythology
d 162 3 Folklore
d 163 Prose
d 164 Novels
d 165 Poetry & Songs
d166 Dramas
d 17 Education
d 18 Journalism
d19 [Gap Subject notation

Vocabulary
[Model]
d 11 Knowledge
---
11 Access of movement
11 Acquaintance of Knowledge
12 Body of Knowledge
13 Common knowledge
13 Community of Knowledge
14Data
14Descriptive Knowledge
22 General knowledge
23 Historiography
24Innovative
31 Knowledge Management
33Meta Knowledge
33 Methodology of Knowledge
44 Self-knowledge
44 Skill
45 Tacit knowledge

45 Traditional Knowledge

d 552 Main Disciplines for listing Sub-disciplines of
Engineering (OD)
d 552 1 Biological Engineering
d 552 2 Civil Engineering
d 552 3 Chemical Engineering
d 552 4 Electrical Engineering
d 552 5 Industrial Engineering
d 552 6 Material Engineering
d 552 7 Mechanical Engineering
d 552 8 Petrol Engineering
d 552 9 Software Engineering
[Subdisciplines to each of the above Disciplines are given here under]
[Subdisciplines of d 552 are given below]
d 552 1 Biological Engineering [NDA]
d 552 1 0 11 Agricultural Engineering
d 552 1 0 12 Biochemical Engineering
d 552 1 0 12 1 Bio mechanical Engineering
d 552 1 0 12 2 Bio medical engineering
d 552 1 0 12 3 Bio Process Engineering
d 552 1 0 15 ergonomics
d 552 1 0 21 Food Engineering
d 552 1 0 22 Genetic Engineering
d 552 1 0 23 Human Genetic Engineering
d 552 1 0 33 Metabolic Engineering
d 552 1 0 33 1 Molecular Engineering
d 552 1 0 34 Neural Engineering
d 552 1 0 41 Protein Engineering
d 552 1 0 43 Rehabilitation Engineering
d 552 1 0 45 Tissue Engineering
d 552 2 Civil Engineering [NDA]
d 552 2 0 11 Aquatic and Environmental Engineering
d 552 2 0 11 1 Architectural Engineering
d 552 2 0 13 Climate Engineering
d 552 2 0 15 Earthquake Engineering
d 552 2 0 151 Earth System Engineering and Management
d 552 2 0 152 Environmental Engineering
d 552 2 0 21 Facilities Engineering
d 552 2 0 22 Geomantic Engineering
d 552 2 0 221 Geo technical Engineering
d 552 2 0 23 Highway Engineering
d 552 2 0 23 1 Hydraulic Engineering

Knowledge Organisation (KO)

Both Knowledge Organisation (KO) and metadata serve different but complementary purposes. KO primarily focuses on classification, while metadata is mainly used for cataloguing. They are two sides of the same coin.

KO is a method of organizing knowledge for easy reference by users. Here, "knowledge" refers to conveyable information, whereas "information" is the meaningful arrangement of data and concepts. Knowledge is often stored in documents, many of which are housed in libraries. These libraries maintain this information for the benefit of contemporary users and future generations. Therefore, libraries are considered storehouses of knowledge.

Historical Development

a) In ancient times, there was no need for classification or cataloguing because documents were limited to physical forms such as stones, leather, and leaves. These documents typically focused on a single subject—philosophy—and were kept in secure locations, accessible only to a small number of elite users.

b) After the invention of the printing press and the development of paper, books became essential for storing knowledge. Philosophy was divided into several core subjects, leading to an increase in the number of readers. Libraries organized their collections on shelves by subject, using either numerical or alphabetical systems. Each library adopts its own method for arrangement, known as a "unique classification."

c) Over the years, the increase in documents, subjects, and users has led to the development of education among the public. This has resulted in the creation of institutions and libraries, along with classification schemes and cataloguing methods.

Popular classification schemes include the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC), the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC), the Library of Congress Classification (LC), the Bliss Classification, and the Colon Classification (CC). These systems help organize documents and group related materials together on library shelves. Additionally, various cataloguing methods have been developed.

To locate the required documents, common formats include book form, loose paper, and card catalogues. These catalogues can be organised by author, title, or subject.

Development of electrical & electronic technology and communication systems

With advancements in technology, especially in the electrical and electronic fields, various media have been developed to store information, including gramophone records, tape recordings, compact discs, and other electronic devices. Many libraries have started adopting these technologies and are maintaining separate collections, along with the necessary classification and cataloguing records. The field of Knowledge Organisation (KO) focuses on the processes involved in organising knowledge, such as taxonomies and ontologies, as well as the systems that arise from them.

Revolutionised aspects to develop the digitisation of Knowledge

The advent of computers, coupled with advancements in software and communication systems, has profoundly transformed libraries, revolutionising them and leading to the digitisation of knowledge and the creation of digital libraries.

Improvements in communication systems, particularly with satellites, have made it easier to connect with any part of the world through networks like WhatsApp and other platforms, effectively transforming the world into a global village. The digital format of stored knowledge should be presented to users in a way that makes it easy for them to find the information they need; this practice is known as metadata, similar to library catalogues.

The field of library and information science (LIS) worldwide is actively working to adopt the best methods for developing knowledge organisation (KO) systems and for organising knowledge in an appropriate digital format.

In a digital library, identifying the necessary information—such as the author, title, and publisher—similar to the card catalogues of a

physical library, is referred to as metadata. The knowledge identifiers in metadata are particularly beneficial for universal use across networks, allowing users to locate the required information wherever it is available. This concept can be termed universal metadata, akin to a union catalogue.

Single KO system Unified metadata

In this context, the author suggests that it may be more effective to maintain a single Knowledge Organisation (KO) system, along with a unified metadata system for all digitised documents, incorporating only a minimal set of elements into the KO.

Despite these improvements, challenges remain. The sheer volume of information and the repetition of existing knowledge make it difficult to effectively address issues within KO and metadata systems, which are essential for meeting users' information needs, particularly for in-depth research.

Retrieval issues

Broadly, there are several approaches related to Knowledge Organisation (KO) and metadata retrieval issues. It is better to consider them.

Classification schemes:

a) The existing classification schemes were primarily created for organising documents on physical racks. These schemes were developed with that specific purpose in mind. At the time they were formulated, it was challenging to anticipate the future evolution of digitised knowledge organisation (KO) systems. As a result, using these classification schemes in conjunction with KO and metadata may present difficulties in delivering the information that users require to their satisfaction.

It can also be observed in the classification of documents, such as associated documents that contain two or three subjects, and it can be difficult to provide room for such documents in digitised KO Similarly, it is to be considered the type of content in documents like encyclopedias, Dictionaries, theses, Texts, criticisms, the type of document with different physical forms, such as rocks, clay tablets, animal skins, leaves of trees, metal sheets, books, electrical and electronic gadgets, eBooks, etc., and also the classification number system in the schemes and so on.

Alternative methods:

Latest trends in the digitised Knowledge Organisation system in the LIS field have a soft corner for adopting other methods without considering classification schemes. They include Bibliographic Indexes, which are systematic lists of written works, thesaurus terms, and taxonomic processes of groups of concepts, arranged in a hierarchical structure. Ontology is a set of concepts and categories within a subject domain, and controlled vocabularies are structured lists of terms used by information science professionals to add descriptive metadata to content.

However, it was observed that adopting those alternative methods alone, without considering classification schemes, may cause future problems due to the proliferation of concepts and ideas in the background. The difficulty will arise while browsing for a concept related to a subject. Additionally, a single concept may be

articulated through various synonyms by different authors. To address this, it is crucial to rely on well-maintained, regularly updated keywords; otherwise, the system may become ineffective and overly complicated in future. But if we use an appropriate classification scheme in which every subject can be added to a different category of concepts, that will be more useful to adopt in the digitised Knowledge Organisation process in LIS

Searching: concepts in Information technology corporations like Google in general, vs. concepts in subjects specifically in the LIS field

Information technology corporations like Google operate across various fields, including information technology, online advertising, search engine technology, email, cloud computing, software, quantum computing, e-commerce, consumer electronics, and artificial intelligence. No doubt they are doing a significant service in a digitised Knowledge Organisation system, trying to address problems in searching for necessary information through conceptual searching of subjects in general, and can handle searches broadly.But in the Library and information field, concepts from different core subjects should be appropriately provided to users across documents and other sources in digital form. Hence, searching for the necessary information in the LIS field is more complicated and specific, relating to subjects as mentioned below:

a) In the modern era of digitization, the selection of concepts is very important.

b) In LIS, it includes classification systems, lists of subject headings, thesauri, ontologies, and other metadata systems.

c)The selection of concepts - and (the indication) of the selected semantic relations of the concepts. Semantics: the study of the meanings of words and phrases in a language

For example, "destination" means "last stop". But the same thing, in semantics, analyses the meaning, which may be the aim of something, the goal. They are **Denotation**: word meaning, and **Connotation**: Letter and spirit of the word or the basic idea of the concept

Another example: Operation: Different meanings in different subjects.

Operation: can refer to:

Medicine- surgery,

a military campaign, or

mathematical methods, such as multiplication and division,

range of practical activities. In driving, learn the proper operation of a motor vehicle.

Hence, approaching the concepts in isolation within the LIS field may not be suitable. Hence, it is better to search for concepts under each digitised core subject, which will be more appropriate and easier. That type of classification scheme is needed.

The formula classification scheme published in 2026 may be considered.

The differentiation between Information Technology (IT) companies like Google and Library and Information Science in offering digitised conceptual services to users.

i) Basically, both the IT field and the LIS field are interdependent.

ii) The primary focus of the IT field is to advance research in technical areas. Additionally, it aims to provide users with essential information through library documents, specifically on the digitisation of these documents for Knowledge Organisation (KO) purposes.

iii) whereas the main work of the LIS field is to develop academic research-oriented work and provide the necessary information to users with the help of documents in libraries and, at present, on the digitisation of them with the help of concepts under each core subject for the purpose of KO.

iv) In the IT field, knowledge organisation services are primarily beneficial for practical applications such as medicine, engineering, and other disciplines, leading to full satisfaction among professionals in their work. In contrast, the services provided in the field of Library and Information Science (LIS) are more subject-oriented, which is essential for academics, particularly researchers, as they conduct their research.

v) In the IT field, the technical personnel working for these purposes are more in demand by private companies that can afford it because they are getting sufficient funds from their clients on demand, whereas the libraries at work are suffering from a dearth of funds, mainly depending on respective governments.

vi) It is recommended that information technology companies consider sharing their resources with the Library and Information Science (LIS) field and collaborate on Knowledge Organization services to benefit the relevant communities. Additionally, governments in the affected countries are urged to take necessary actions to support these efforts.

Suggestion to solve this problem: in LIS, in KO, and in Metadata

In this context, it is recommended to use a classification scheme to organise digitised knowledge (KO). This scheme should accommodate the inclusion of any number of core subjects that may evolve in relation to existing core subjects in the future. Additionally, the main class notations for all core subjects should be organized scientifically to ensure uniformity, simplicity, and clarity, maintaining consistency across all subjects.

Furthermore, systematic vocabulary should be created, including relevant terms arranged alphabetically, with simple notations for each core subject.

Suitability of Formula Classification in Knowledge Organisation

In this context, it is suggested that 'Formula Classification' is especially advantageous for Knowledge Organization (KO), metadata, and 'Universal Knowledge Data' for several reasons:

i) Discipline Class- Notations: In the first group, all existing disciplines are categorised into nine groups. In the second group, each discipline from the first group is further divided into nine main subjects. In the third group, related main disciplines are organised using a numerical division of the alphabet (NDA). This structure allows for sufficient space to incorporate new subjects that may emerge in the future. Consequently, it becomes easier to organise a variety of subjects for KO and metadata with clear definitions.

ii) Vocabulary and Notations: Below the heading "Vocabulary," a list of terms related to each main class notation is provided, along with their corresponding NDA numbers. It is important to note that this list is not exhaustive; rather, it serves as a model, including only a selection of terms. The purpose of this approach is to facilitate the easy addition of relevant concepts at any time.

9. Conclusion

(i) It can be concluded that selecting formula classification for Knowledge Organisation and metadata is advantageous.

(ii) It is important to emphasise that libraries should be well-maintained and not neglected. They can serve as valuable reference resources. If libraries fall into disrepair, it becomes difficult to support and manage the digitisation process effectively. At the same time, it is vital for every library to establish a digital presence. This will greatly enhance the sharing of information on a global scale.

(iii) The Formula classification scheme is more effective for automated classification of all documents, as well as KO.

NEW MEMBERS

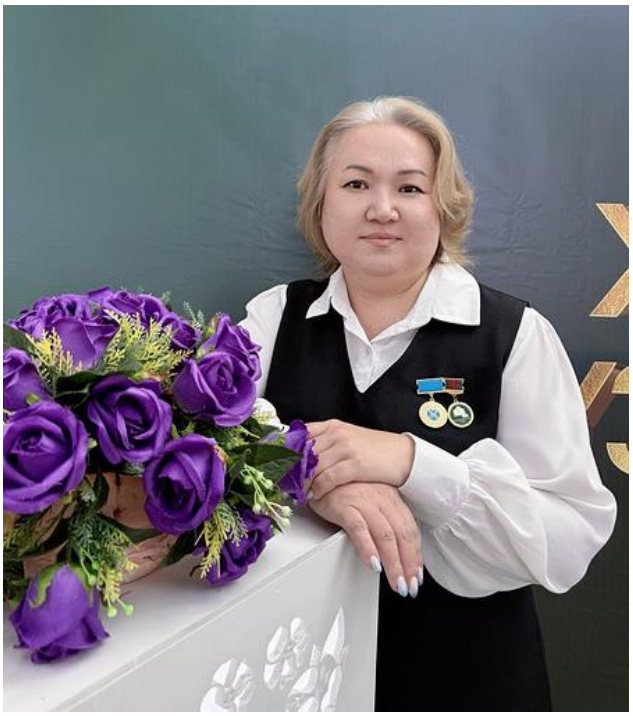
Bibliography Section

Pankaj Bhati

Pankaj Bhati holds a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical and Automation Engineering and a Master's degree in Machine Design. He later transitioned into the field of Library and Information Science, completing both his BLIS

and MLIS. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Library and Information Science, with research focused on digitization and preservation of rare documents in public library systems.

He serves as a Library and Information Assistant at the National Museum, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi. His professional responsibilities include collection development, rare book management, MARC-based cataloguing using Koha LMS, metadata design, retro-conversion of bibliographic records, digital preservation initiatives, and repository management. He has previously worked at Delhi Public Library and Institute of Home Economics, gaining experience in academic and public library systems. His academic and professional interests include learning new AI Technology & Tools, digitization of rare books, metadata standards, digital repositories, cultural heritage documentation.



Tolkyn Zamzayeva

Tolkyn Zamzayeva was born in Almaty, Kazakhstan. In 2004, she graduated from Al-Farabi Kazakh National University with a degree in Oriental Studies (Arabic Studies). In 2022, she defended her Master's thesis in Turkology.

Since 2004, she has been working at the National Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan. She served as a chief specialist at the Center for the Study and Preservation of Documentary Heritage and the Center for Rare Books and Manuscripts. She also headed several departments, including the Department of Rare Books and Manuscripts, the Department of World Literature, and the Department of External Relations.

She is the compiler of the Catalogue of the First Kazakh Printed Works in Arabic (1842-1932) and Latin (1926-1942) Scripts, and a co-author of more than 15 books. Among them are modern annotated editions of the first Kazakh periodicals printed in Arabic script: the newspaper "Kazakh" (1913-1918), "Saryarka" (1917-1918), and the first Kazakh journal "Aikap" (1911-1915).

Currently, she serves as the Head of the Information Resources Service at the National Library of Kazakhstan. She leads the Cataloguer's School, providing training to regional and institutional librarians across the country on cataloguing and bibliographic standards.

She is the editor of the analytical national bibliographic index "Kazakhstan: Past and Present" and a member of the working group of

the National Commission "Memory of the World" of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Evanthia Itsa

Evanthia Itsa studied Archives, Library Science and Museology at the Ionian University in Corfu, Greece. She subsequently completed her Master's degree in Cultural Policy and Development at the Open University of Cyprus.

She is currently a PhD candidate, with her doctoral research focusing on the cultural and developmental policy of the village of Chandria, Cyprus, exploring the role of cultural memory, local heritage and community participation in sustainable cultural development.

Professionally, she works in the field of academic librarianship and cultural heritage**,** with experience in library management, bibliographic organisation, information services and cultural documentation. Her workplaces particular emphasis on libraries as cultural institutions, contributing to cultural creation, community engagement and the preservation and activation of local cultural memory.

She serves as a Cultural Ambassador for Reading and Culture under the Deputy Ministry of Culture of Cyprus, promoting reading culture, cultural participation and heritage awareness through educational and community-based initiatives.

She is also a member of the Sub-Committee on Communication and Information of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, contributing to initiatives related to information policy, cultural heritage, documentation and memory preservation.

Her interests include bibliographic control, metadata and documentation practices, cultural policy, and community-based cultural development.

Cataloguing Section

Dr. Navneet Kumar Sharma

Dr. Navneet Kumar Sharma is a Scientist-B (LS) at the INFLIBNET Centre, UGC-IUC, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India, where he contributes to several national projects including IndCat, ShodhChakra, iServices and Baal-Lekhan. Previously, he served as a Professional Assistant at Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi, where he implemented the IRINS service, facilitated the creation of academic identifiers for faculty, introduced accessibility services for print-disabled users, and managed ICT services for end users. He has also worked as an Academic Counsellor at the School of Open Learning, University of Delhi, teaching cataloguing, metadata and library classification to undergraduate and postgraduate students, while supervising UG projects and PG dissertations.

Dr. Sharma's earlier roles include Senior Research Fellow at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, and Junior Project Fellow at the National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi. In May 2026, he joined the IFLA Cataloguing Section as a Standing Committee Member. He holds a Ph.D. in Library and Information Science and was awarded the BHU Gold Medal for securing first position in MLIS. He also qualified for the UGC-NET JRF with an All-India Rank of 1 in December 2014.

He has published extensively in Scopus and Web of Science indexed journals, with expertise spanning Knowledge Organisation, Metadata Management, Multilingual Cataloguing and Resource Discovery.

Annacel B. Delima

Annacel B. Delima is a new member of the Cataloguing Standing Committee. She is a licensed librarian and holds a Master of Science in Library and Information Science and is currently pursuing a PhD in Information Technology Integration.

With nearly 13 years of experience in academic librarianship, Annacel has been assigned as a technical librarian for several years, particularly handling cataloguing and unit management. She has been a faculty member at the University of Southeastern Philippines for the past eight years, teaching Cataloguing and Classification, Collection Development, School/Academic Librarianship, and handling review classes for Cataloging and Classification. She also serves as Head of the College of Education and School of Law Library, where she oversees library operations and supports academic and research initiatives.

Beyond her institutional responsibilities, Annacel is an Executive Board Member and Auditor of the Philippine Association of Teachers

of Library and Information Science (PATLS). She is also a member of the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA). Her professional interests include cataloguing standards, collection development, digital libraries, library technologies, and quality assurance in higher education. She is committed to advancing knowledge organization and strengthening collaboration within the international library community.

María Paz Rioseco

María Paz Rioseco is the Coordinator of Collection Management and Information Analysis at Universidad Autónoma de Chile. She is a librarian whose work focuses on cataloguing, metadata management, collection development, and the implementation of bibliographic standards. Her professional interests include metadata quality and interoperability, authority control, the implementation of cataloguing standards, and the practical application of artificial intelligence to enhance bibliographic description and improve metadata quality. As a new member of the IFLA Cataloguing Section, she looks forward to contributing to and learning from the international cataloguing community.

Subject Analysis and Access Section

Khalda Othman Al-Jazouli Othman

Khalda Othman Al-Jazouli Othman is a Library and Information Specialist currently serving as the Head of the Information Services Department at the Deanship of Library Affairs, University of Dongola – Sudan. She has more than 10 years of professional experience in academic and digital libraries.

Her professional interests include metadata, cataloguing, digital transformation, artificial intelligence applications in libraries and open-source library systems such as Koha and DSpace.

She holds a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Dongola and has participated in several professional training programs and library technology projects. Her current work focuses on developing smart library services and improving access to print and digital collections using artificial intelligence technologies.

She is also a volunteer member of the Subject Analysis and Access (SAA) Section within the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

Iman Khairy Weheba

Iman holds a master's degree in computers and information from the University of Pittsburgh (2011) and possesses over 20 years of professional experience across two leading libraries in the Arab world. Since 2012, she has worked on different cataloging roles and has served since 2024 as Head of Metadata & Authority Files at Qatar National Library (QNL), where she has contributed to key initiatives such as developing the bilingual Qatar National Library Subject Headings (QNLSH) aligned with Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH), publishing QNL bibliographic records as BIBFRAME/Linked Open Data through EBSCO's Bibliograph, and making QNL authority files available via the Fihrist Web Portal. Prior to QNL, she was a Principal Cataloger at the

Bibliotheca Alexandrina (2006–2012), where she helped develop the "Bibalex" authority files with bi-script links to LC authority data, coordinated their inclusion in VIAF (2009), and contributed to Dewey Decimal Classification expansions for Arabic and Islamic studies.

She has also actively contributed to IFLA through initiatives such as preparing ISBD Arabic examples (2010), co-translating the IFLA International Cataloguing Principles (ICP) and glossary into Arabic (2008), and serving on the ISBD Review Group (2017–2021); she is currently a co-opted member of the Subject Analysis and Access section. Iman is deeply engaged in advancing the use of AI and linked data to enhance the discoverability of Arabic information resources, particularly in multilingual contexts. Guided by a strong belief that technology alone is insufficient without robust, interoperable knowledge structures, she advocates for the development of comprehensive ontologies representing the richness of Arab history and culture. Through her work with IFLA and peers, she continues to promote collaborative approaches, strategic planning, and capacity building to support this transformation.