

MQCC minutes April 17, 2002

PRESENT: Gary Harris (MCO), Christopher Gould (MCO), Richard Amelung (SLU Law), Anna Zaidman (SLU Pius), David Owens (UMSL), Kathleen Schweitzberger UMKC), Carol Riley (UMKC), Jim Dutton (MCO), Maggie Trish (UMR), Mary Aycock (UMR), Wendy Fritzel (MU HSL), Jessica Longaker (MU Law), Cindy Shearrer (MU Law), Alla Barabtarlo (MU Ellis), Norma Fair (MU Ellis), Nancy Stancel (UMKC Law), Bob Thomas (OCLC), Robin Kespohl (MCO), Frances Benham (SLU Pius)

1. Announcements & Introductions

Introductions were made, no announcements.

2. Minutes from February 27, 2002 meeting.

Approved as revised. M.Trish will post to the web.

3. MCO update

MCO has been preparing for the meeting with Bob Thomas of OCLC/MARS which included running test loads and subsequent analysis of the results of the loads. G.Harris posted them in his message to B.Thomas on April 9, 2002.

4&5. OCLC/MARS Authority Control Service discussion with B.Thomas.

There are about 200 institutions subscribing to the service, Yale, Harvard, NYP Library and about 20 other libraries being some of the larger and comparable in size to the MERLIN database. R.Kespohl has a full customer list. It's not unusual for OCLC/MARS to do big loads and it's considered normal work. Small updates are driven by users and subscribers through an ongoing dialogue with them. B.Thomas is working on a new software program in Java that should allow the application of cataloging rules to pattern situations making maintenance easier through better reports. OCLC/MARS is also working on a module to standardize and to substitute GMDs based on what customers use locally. OCLC/MARS is constantly introducing small changes. A.Zaidman asked if OCLC/MARS notifies its users of the changes they make. OCLC/MARS does not do that but instead depends on feedback from users. R. Amelung pointed out that often it is difficult for us to be reactive in this process; we are rather proactive due to possible delays in our dealing with reports especially after large loads. A list of changes issued by OCLC/MARS in some form would allow us to provide our feedback when necessary. B.Thomas noted this request.

Forthcoming changes at OCLC and its database will not affect OCLC/MARS Service in the nearest future. OCLC/MARS will satisfy all authority control needs to the new OCLC system.

In response to G.Harris' email of 4/9/02:

B.Thomas said that it would be possible to take the MERLIN authority file as a base for rebuilding history files and reloading updated records into MERLIN at no cost to us. MCO will have to pull the files of records and do some preprocessing. It will take 2-4 weeks for OCLC to do their part. The format of LCCNs will have to be examined so that records overlay correctly. OCLC/MARS will make changes in their specifications to synchronize authority records with their usage in bibliographic records.

At the time of the meeting, MCO had completed step 9 of the MERLIN Database Authority Cleanup Project. In test loading of 23,000+ name authority records from Backfile 1, 38 records didn't overlay, 16 records should show up in the Blind Reference Report, 7 would have inserted, 5 are in "new replace old" (z) category. C.Gould and R.Kespohl are experimenting with |z-records to see if it will be possible to engage the overlay process. Out of 24,000+ subject authority records from Backfile 1, 90 didn't overlay. There were no corresponding authorities for 61 of them. 25 records would require manual intervention. There were no attempts to set up automatic overlay of subject authority records on |z.

A.Zaidman asked if AACP could handle a potentially large number of changes to the headings in bibliographic records generated by reloading the updated authority records. G.Harris and C.Gould will make sure that loads occur in batches to control AACP to avoid bringing the system to a halt. B.Thomas added that most significant changes in the authority records do not affect 1xx fields and thus in most cases AACP does not get engaged.

R.Kespohl recommended that we proceed with automatic overlay on title authority records taking into consideration protection of fields with local information (C.Gould and R.Amelung resolved a few remaining overlay protection problems with 050, 082 and 690 fields during the lunch hour). MQCC is inclined to go ahead and to add this step to our profile with OCLC/WLN.

R.Kespohl created review files of LC-replacing-local authority records. 5,000+ names are in file 133; almost 1,500 titles are in file 138, subjects are in review file 128, but the duplicates might have been resolved already. R.Amelung will confirm if this is the case. The work with these files has to be finished before we start rebuilding our history files if we are going to retain the local history file. Otherwise, it doesn't have to be tied to this timeframe.

The question of the local history file and its viability was then discussed.

B.Thomas said that out of 200+ institutions only about 5 maintain a local history file with OCLC/MARS. The process involving local history file maintenance by a vendor is overly complicated and cumbersome. It was pointed out that it never really worked satisfactorily for MERLIN. R.Amelung and A.Zaidman again proposed to consider ceasing the maintenance of the local history file at OCLC/MARS taking into consideration a number of factors, most importantly:

- an ever decreasing number of local authority records in MERLIN (about 50,000 out of a total of 1,200,000+), and
- the fact that it would be possible to make the headings unique enough to avoid overlays on them, and to delete those without any cross-reference structure.

The proposal was generally received favorably, N.Fair asked for a delay on voting to be able to bring this matter back to her institution for a decision. It was agreed to make a final decision by May 1, 2002. If no consensus is reached by then, the MERLIN Library Directors Committee will make a decision. (As a reminder, local records either have no 001 field or 001 field contains UMS).

The process and timing of collecting adds and deletes and the sequence of MCO steps was then discussed. C.Gould will update the MERLIN Database Authority Cleanup Project document to reflect all the changes, decisions made, as well as the strategy for pulling the entire MERLIN authority file, or only the national portion of it, pending the decision regarding the local history file. MCO will delete all authorities coded for delete, pull authority file(s) and send to OCLC, and pull final Backfile4. This document will be posted on the MQCC list and reviewed by the Committee.

Regarding not sending records with headings that are not meant to be used as subjects, B.Thomas said that this study is under way at OCLC. The program was matching on headings and not on usage although sometimes the records were sent because LC coded them incorrectly. Also, since III does not allow indexing of 18x fields, MQCC requested that 18x records not be sent to us until otherwise indicated.

To the question of MERLIN getting duplicate records from OCLC/MARS, B.Thomas said that the regeneration of the MERLIN history file at OCLC will clean this up keeping in mind that the records are going to “overlay” and not “insert”. C.Gould said that the pull strategy will change when we are in full production. B.Thomas asked to be notified when we are not getting something we should be getting.

B.Thomas also indicated that within 2 years we will see positive changes to bib. reports. They will be similar to authority reports. Partial Match reports, for example, will be much more specific. B.Thomas solicited any ideas we might have.

In response to W.Fritzel’s question, C.Gould suggested that until the clean-up is complete, we:

DO: ALL, No Match, Partial Match, Split Headings, Deletes reports

and

DO NOT DO: Significant Changes, New Authorities (OCLC/MARS), LC Replacements for LC and Local (OCLC/MARS), Updates (OCLC/MARS)

6. AACP -- Comments/discussion about the service since it has been turned back on.

Generally, everybody was happy with AACP and could recommend it to other clusters.

7. Maintenance of 229 field -- Should we start rotating this monthly task?

The pull strategy was reviewed and a new one was suggested and C.Gould will incorporate it in Appendix C.3.1 of the MERLIN Standards. It was decided to rotate the maintenance of 229 fields.

8. Approval of Appendix C.

SLU Pius requested that references to SLU HSC in Appendix C be eliminated and their share of the distribution be incorporated in SLU Pius. C.Gould will resubmit the document for approval.

9. 856 for free access items.

MQCC agrees to follow MCDAC's recommendation to add "z Free online access" for government documents. MERLIN Standard 8.2.4.1.5.2. will need to reflect this decision.

10. Adding journal links from IEEEExplore to the MERLIN catalog.

MQCC will follow MRSC's recommendation to provide a single link to the IEEEExplore site which lists all the conferences, rather than multiple links to each individual conference. MQCC will reflect this decision in MERLIN Standards.