

Virtual AskQC Office Hours

Thank you for joining us!
We will begin at 1:00 PM Eastern Time

Attendees are in listen-only mode

AskQC@oclc.org (Ask Quality Control) is the longstanding email address to which catalogers can send questions to OCLC Metadata Quality staff about cataloging policies, standards, and practices.



November 14, 2018

Virtual AskQC Office Hours

OCLC MARC Update

OCLC Metadata Quality



Housekeeping

After the session you will be directed to a quick, optional survey

November 2018: Virtual AskQC Office Hours feedback survey

Topic: How the OCLC MARC update process works

Please take moment to provide feedback on today's office hour session. The responses are for informational purposes only and optional. Thank you for attending today's session!

1. Did you find today's session useful?

- Yes
- No
- Sort of

2. Why did you choose the answer you did in question 1?

3. Are there topics you would like us to cover in the future?



Housekeeping

After the session you will be directed to a quick, optional survey

All session recordings, slides, and notes are available at oclc.org/askqc

The screenshot shows the AskQC website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for 'Home', 'Product', and 'Services Guide'. The main heading is 'AskQC' with a sub-heading 'Last updated: Dec 7, 2019' and a link to 'Find AskQC office hour information, recordings, and supporting materials.' Below this, there is a section for 'AskQC office hours' and a table titled 'Time and call-in information for AskQC office hours'. The table lists three office hours sessions with columns for 'TOPIC', 'DATE/TIME (GMT-7)', 'TOLL-FREE CALL-IN NUMBER', and 'REGISTRATION LINK'. Each row includes a link to the recording and a list of call-in numbers.

TOPIC	DATE/TIME (GMT-7)	TOLL-FREE CALL-IN NUMBER	REGISTRATION LINK
Meet Volunteer Query	Wednesday, November 12, 2019 1 PM Eastern Standard Time	US/Canada: 1 877 858 8585 UK: 30 30020777 • Global call-in numbers • Toll-free dialing instructions	Register
Product record and language of interface	Wednesday, November 13, 2019 1 PM Eastern Standard Time	US/Canada: 1 877 858 8585 UK: 30 30020777 • Global call-in numbers • Toll-free dialing instructions	Register
How the OCLC MARC update process works	Wednesday, November 14, 2019 1 PM Eastern Standard Time	US/Canada: 1 877 858 8585 UK: 30 30020777 • Global call-in numbers	Register

On the call today



Jay Weitz
Sr Consulting
Database Specialist



Bryan Baldus
Consulting
Database Specialist



Charlene Morrison
Database
Specialist II



Robin Six
Database
Specialist II



Laura Ramsey
Section Manager,
WorldCat Quality



Nathan Putnam
Director,
Metadata Quality

Please submit questions through chat

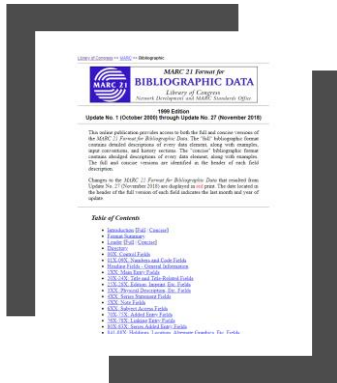


THE OCLC MARC UPDATE PROCESS

OR, "I'M JUST A FIELD"




How the OCLC-MARC Update Process Works, Or, "I'm Just a Field"



MARC21

- Henriette Avram (1919-2006)
- MARC Advisory Committee, including MARBI (1973-2013)
- MARC Advisory Committee (2013-)



How the OCLC-MARC Update Process Works

What we now know as MARC 21 did not spring fully-formed from the brow of Henriette Avram in 1968 at the Library of Congress. It evolved slowly and painstakingly, code-by-code, field-by-field, subfield-by-subfield over the past fifty years. By the time what we now call WorldCat became available in 1971, MARC was already changing.

Between 1973 and 2013, most of the changes made to MARC went through a group called the MARC Advisory Committee (MAC), which included the Committee on Representation in Machine-Readable Form of Bibliographic Information, mercifully shortened to and familiarly known as MARBI. MARBI was an interdivisional committee of the American Library Association (ALA) with representation from the divisions now known as the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS), the Library and Information Technology Association (LITA), and the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA).

In 2013, MAC was revamped, no longer sponsored by any ALA division (<http://www.loc.gov/marc/mac/index.html>).

MAC continued to advise the MARC Steering Committee, consisting of representatives from the Library of Congress (LC), Library and Archives Canada (LAC), British Library (BL), and Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (DNB), and to serve as a discussion forum on the MARC formats and MARC data.

Marc Advisory Committee (MAC)

National Libraries

- British Library
- Biblioteca Nacional de España
- Deutsche Nationalbibliothek
- Library and Archives Canada
- Library of Congress
- National Agricultural Library
- National Library of Australia
- National Library of Medicine

Other Constituencies

- CC:DA Association (MLA)
- SAC • OCLC
- MAGIRT • OLAC
- AALL • PCC
- ARLIS/NA • PLA
- ACRL/STS • SAA
- AVIAC • VRA
- ISSN Review Group
- Music Library



How the OCLC-MARC Update Process Works

Just like MARBI before it, the current MAC meets at every ALA Annual Conference and Midwinter Meeting. Unlike MARBI, MAC members, from various national libraries, library organizations, and specialist communities, all have a vote in making changes to MARC.

National Libraries:

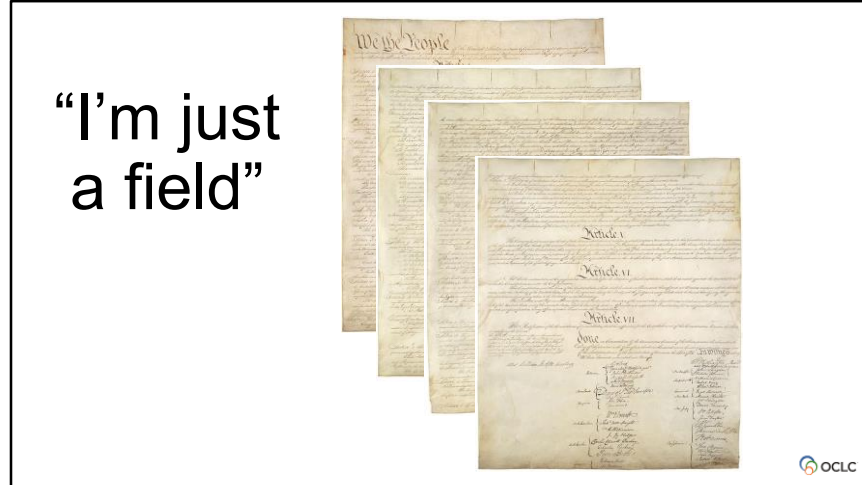
- British Library
- Biblioteca Nacional de España
- Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

- Library and Archives Canada
- Library of Congress
- National Agricultural Library
- National Library of Australia
- National Library of Medicine

Library association committees and groups, networks, and communities of users:

- ALA, CaMMS, Cataloging Committee: Description and Access (CC:DA)
- ALA, CaMMS, Subject Access Committee (SAC)
- ALA, CaMMS, Maps and Geographic Information Round Table (MAGIRT)
- American Association of Law Librarians (AALL)
- Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA)
- Association of College and Research Libraries, Science and Technology Section (ACRL/STS)
- Automation Vendors Information Advisory Committee (AVIAC)
- ISSN Review Group
- Music Library Association (MLA)
- OCLC
- Online Audio-Visual Catalogers (OLAC)
- Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC)
- Public Library Association (PLA)
- Society of American Archivists (SAA)
- Visual Resources Association (VRA)

The MAC Terms of Reference (http://www.loc.gov/marc/mac/MAC_ToR.html) make clear that any user of MARC 21 may submit discussion papers or proposals, regardless of one's affiliation with any of the constituent entities.



How the OCLC-MARC Update Process Works

"I'm Just a Field"

When I started thinking about how to explain the OCLC-MARC Update process, it occurred to me to follow a particular MARC element through the whole sequence of events, from idea to reality, not unlike what *Schoolhouse Rock* did with "I'm Just a Bill." It turned out that using the image of "Bill" might have been unconstitutional. So instead, we've substituted an image of one of the biggest "bills" of all, The United States Constitution, and encourage you to imagine the animated *Schoolhouse Rock* "Bill" wearing a button identifying him as "Field" and singing "I'm just a field." Between the Constitution and LC, we're still on Capitol Hill and we're still stuck in committee, the MARC Advisory Committee.

The idea

Need to differentiate subject access points for:

- Named events that cannot be regarded as responsible agents (such as earthquakes or wars)
- Named events that can be regarded as responsible agents (such as conferences or meetings)

The screenshot shows the OCLC Research website page for FAST (Faceted Application of Subject Terminology). The page features a search bar at the top right, a navigation menu with links for Themes, Partnership, People, News & Events, Publications, and Grants & Awards, and a main content area. The main content area includes a search bar, a navigation menu with links for Overview, Outputs, Applications, and Data Science, and a main text area with sections for 'About FAST', 'Background', and 'Team Members'. The 'About FAST' section explains that FAST is derived from the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) and is designed to be more flexible and modern. The 'Background' section notes that FAST was developed in large part to meet the perceived need for a general use subject terminology scheme. The 'Team Members' section lists several individuals, including Jill Ulmer, Lisa Ma Chan, Chris Barton, Kay Clifton, and Rebecca Dean. The URL <https://www.oclc.org/research/themes/data-science/fast.html> is displayed at the bottom of the page.

How the OCLC-MARC Update Process Works

The Idea

The creation of a new MARC element, be it a new field, new indicator, new subfield, or what have you, begins with an **Idea**. The element we'll follow actually began here at OCLC, as a result of the work on Faceted Application of Subject Terminology (FAST) within OCLC Research (<https://www.oclc.org/research/themes/data-science/fast.html>).

Without going into a lot of detail here, FAST heightened awareness of a longstanding ambiguity in MARC 21, the need to differentiate subject access points for named events that *cannot* be regarded as responsible agents (such as earthquakes or wars) from named events that *can* be regarded as responsible agents (such as conferences or meetings).

The Discussion Paper

“Coding Named Events in the MARC 21 Authority and Bibliographic Formats”

Submitted by OCLC in December 2015 for discussion at the ALA Midwinter 2016 Meetings of MAC

The Library of Congress >> Especially for Librarians and Archivists >> Standards

MARC STANDARDS

HOME >> MARC Development >> Discussion Paper List

MARC DISCUSSION PAPER NO. 2016-DP09

DATE: December 9, 2015
REVISED:

NAME: Coding Named Events in the MARC 21 Authority and Bibliographic Formats

SOURCE: OCLC

SUMMARY: This discussion paper presents options for coding of named events used as subject access points in the MARC Authority and Bibliographic formats.

KEYWORDS: Named Events (AD, BD); Subject Access Points (AD, BD); Faceted Subject Terminology (AD, BD); FAST (AD, BD); Field 611 (BD); Field X11 (AD, BD); Field 647 (BD); Field X47 (AD, BD)

RELATED: [2002-DP03](#), [2002-13](#)


STATUS/COMMENTS:
12/09/15 -- Made available to the MARC community for discussion.

01/09/16 -- Results of MARC Advisory Committee discussion: The discussion and a straw vote demonstrated that most of MAC preferred Option 2 (define a new X47 series of fields) on the basis that it would be desirable to maintain a distinction between named events which cannot be regarded as responsible agents and those which can (in existing X11 fields). OCLC will pursue Option 2 in a proposal and will add 5c and 5d for place and date.

Discussion Paper No. 2016-DP09: Coding Named Events

1. BACKGROUND

<http://www.loc.gov/marc/mac/list-dp.html>



How the OCLC-MARC Update Process Works

The Discussion Paper

Those within OCLC who were most familiar with the issues got together to draw up a **Discussion Paper** for the MARC Advisory Committee (MAC). In the paper, “Coding Named Events in the MARC 21 Authority and Bibliographic Formats,” they laid out the context of the problem they were trying to solve and, in this case, two possible options. In December 2015, OCLC submitted the discussion paper for consideration at the MAC

meetings during the 2016 ALA Midwinter Meeting.

As you can see in the “Status/Comments” section, a straw poll of MAC members revealed a clear preference for one of the options, as well as other suggestions for improving the eventual proposal.

Historical links to MARC Discussion Papers from 1995 to the present are available on the MARC Standards website at <http://www.loc.gov/marc/mac/list-dp.html>.

The proposal

“Defining New X47 Fields for Named Events in the MARC 21 Authority and Bibliographic Formats”

Submitted by OCLC in May 2016 for discussion at the ALA Annual 2016 Meetings of MAC

[The Library of Congress](#) >> [Especially for Librarians and Archivists](#) >> [Standards](#)



MARC STANDARDS

[HOME](#) >> [MARC Development](#) >> [Proposals List](#)

MARC PROPOSAL NO. 2016-05

DATE: May 27, 2016

REVISED:

NAME: Defining New X47 Fields for Named Events in the MARC 21 Authority and Bibliographic Formats

SOURCE: OCLC

SUMMARY: This paper proposes the establishment of a new X47 series of fields to accommodate coding of named events used as subject access points in the MARC Authority and Bibliographic formats.

KEYWORDS: Field X47 (AD, BD); Field 647 (BD); Named Events (AD, BD); Subject Access Points (AD, BD); Faceted Subject Terminology (AD, BD); FAST (AD, BD)

RELATED: [2016-DP99](#)

STATUS/COMMENTS:

05/27/16 - Made available to the MARC community for discussion.

06/25/16 - [Results of MARC Advisory Committee discussion](#): Approved as submitted, with the understanding that OCLC will generate and distribute a list of LCSH headings which are modelled as events in FAST.

08/10/16 - [Results of MARC Steering Group review](#): Agreed with the MAC decision.

Proposal No. 2016-05: Defining New X47 Fields for Named Events

1. BACKGROUND

<http://www.loc.gov/marc/mac/list-p.html>



How the OCLC-MARC Update Process Works

The proposal

Taking the results and recommendations emerging from the MARC Advisory Committee, the OCLC stakeholders revised the discussion paper into a **Proposal**, “Defining New X47 Fields for Named Events in the MARC 21 Authority and Bibliographic Formats.” It addressed the concerns raised in the MAC discussion and provided much more detail about the set of proposed set of fields.

Again as you can see in the “Status/Comments” section, the proposal was approved with the proviso that OCLC would “generate and distribute a list of LCSH headings which are modelled as events in FAST.”

Historical links to MARC Proposals from 1995 to the present are available on the MARC Standards website at <http://www.loc.gov/marc/mac/list-p.html>.

The MARC21 Update

“MARC Format Update No. 23, November 2016”

Released by LC, November 17, 2016, about five months following the MAC meetings

Library of Congress >> MARC >> Bibliographic >> Appendix G

Appendix G - Format Changes

MARC 21 Bibliographic **November 2016**

This section is provided for the lists of format changes that accompany each update to the *MARC 21 Format for Bibliographic Data*.

**MARC 21 FORMAT FOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA
FORMAT CHANGE LIST**

Update No. 23, November 2016

This page documents the changes contained in the twenty-third update to the 1999 edition of the *MARC 21 Format for Bibliographic Data*. Update No. 23 (November 2016) includes changes resulting from proposals that were considered by the MARC 21 community during June 2016.

UPDATE 23 CHANGES

■ *New content designators:*

Fields

- 647 Subject Added Entry-Named Event (R)
- 885 Matching Information (R)

Indicators

- 028 1st indicator Type of number:
- 6 - Distributor number

Subfields

- 5e Relator term (R) in 752 (Added Entry-Hierarchical Place Name)
- 5f Authority record control number or standard number (R) in 257 (Country of Producing Entry)
- 5g Authority record control number or standard number (R) in 377 (Associated ¹ ~~1~~)

<http://www.loc.gov/marc/status.html>

OCLC

How the OCLC-MARC Update Process Works

The MARC 21 Update

Some months following the MAC meetings at ALA, the Library of Congress announces a new **MARC 21 Update** with the official versions of new and changed MARC elements incorporated into the respective “base edition” of MARC 21:

- Bibliographic, February 1999
- Authority, October 1999
- Holdings, January 2000
- Classification, January 2000
- Community Information, January 2000

Historical links to all of the MARC 21 Format Updates from 2000 to the present are available on the MARC

Standards website at <http://www.loc.gov/marc/status.html>.

The OCLC Technical Bulletin

OCLC “Technical Bulletin 267”
(oc.lc/tb267)

Documents OCLC-MARC Bibliographic, Authority, and Holdings format and MARC Code changes, usually during the third quarter of the calendar year

OCLC Technical Bulletins (oc.lc/tb)

OCLC WorldCat Validation Release Notes (oc.lc/release-notes)

How the OCLC-MARC Update Process Works

The OCLC Technical Bulletin

Usually once a year during the third quarter of the calendar year, OCLC issues a **Technical Bulletin** that announces the OCLC-MARC Bibliographic, Authority, and Holdings format and MARC Code changes to be implemented. Most of the changes are from the two most recent MARC 21 Updates and all MARC Codes announced by LC in Technical Notices issued since the most recent OCLC-MARC Update. Additionally, we often include other changes requested by members of the OCLC cooperative and suggested by OCLC staff. With the most recent OCLC-MARC Update a few weeks ago, we have also begun issuing **OCLC WorldCat Validation Release Notes**, which may be found on the OCLC website at https://help.oclc.org/Librarian_Toolbox/Release_notes.

Ordinarily, within a few weeks of the release of the OCLC Technical Bulletin, we install the OCLC-MARC Update and

announce the implementation via an array of discussion lists, the OCLC Connexion Message of the Day, and elsewhere.

The screenshot shows the OCLC documentation page for '647 Subject Added Entry--Named Event (R)'. It includes sections for 'Record Type', 'Input Standards', 'Subfields (R--Repeatable / NR--Nonrepeatable)', and 'Definition'. The 'Input Standards' section lists various standards like Library of Congress Subject Headings, LC subject heading for children's literature, Medical Subject Headings, National Agricultural Library subject authority file, etc. The 'Subfields' section lists codes like #4, #C, #D, #G, #I, #J, #K, #L, #M, #N, #O, #P, #Q, #R, #S, #T, #U, #V, #W, #X, #Y, #Z, #AA, #AB, #AC, #AD, #AE, #AF, #AG, #AH, #AI, #AJ, #AK, #AL, #AM, #AN, #AO, #AP, #AQ, #AR, #AS, #AT, #AU, #AV, #AW, #AX, #AY, #AZ, #BA, #BB, #BC, #BD, #BE, #BF, #BG, #BH, #BI, #BJ, #BK, #BL, #BM, #BN, #BO, #BP, #BQ, #BR, #BS, #BT, #BU, #BV, #BW, #BX, #BY, #BZ, #CA, #CB, #CC, #CD, #CE, #CF, #CG, #CH, #CI, #CJ, #CK, #CL, #CM, #CN, #CO, #CP, #CQ, #CR, #CS, #CT, #CU, #CV, #CW, #CX, #CY, #CZ, #DA, #DB, #DC, #DD, #DE, #DF, #DG, #DH, #DI, #DJ, #DK, #DL, #DM, #DN, #DO, #DP, #DQ, #DR, #DS, #DT, #DU, #DV, #DW, #DX, #DY, #DZ, #EA, #EB, #EC, #ED, #EE, #EF, #EG, #EH, #EI, #EJ, #EK, #EL, #EM, #EN, #EO, #EP, #EQ, #ER, #ES, #ET, #EU, #EV, #EW, #EX, #EY, #EZ, #FA, #FB, #FC, #FD, #FE, #FF, #GA, #GB, #GC, #GD, #GE, #GF, #GG, #GH, #GI, #GJ, #GK, #GL, #GM, #GN, #GO, #GP, #GQ, #GR, #GS, #GT, #GU, #GV, #GW, #GX, #GY, #GZ, #HA, #HB, #HC, #HD, #HE, #HF, #HG, #HH, #HI, #HJ, #HK, #HL, #HM, #HN, #HO, #HP, #HQ, #HR, #HS, #HT, #HU, #HV, #HW, #HX, #HY, #HZ, #IA, #IB, #IC, #ID, #IE, #IF, #IG, #IH, #II, #IJ, #IK, #IL, #IM, #IN, #IO, #IP, #IQ, #IR, #IS, #IT, #IU, #IV, #IW, #IX, #IY, #IZ, #JA, #JB, #JC, #JD, #JE, #JF, #JG, #JH, #JI, #JJ, #JK, #JL, #JM, #JN, #JO, #JP, #JQ, #JR, #JS, #JT, #JU, #JV, #JW, #JX, #JY, #JZ, #KA, #KB, #KC, #KD, #KE, #KF, #KG, #KH, #KI, #KJ, #KK, #KL, #KM, #KN, #KO, #KP, #KQ, #KR, #KS, #KT, #KU, #KV, #KW, #KX, #KY, #KZ, #LA, #LB, #LC, #LD, #LE, #LF, #LG, #LH, #LI, #LJ, #LK, #LL, #LM, #LN, #LO, #LP, #LQ, #LR, #LS, #LT, #LU, #LV, #LW, #LX, #LY, #LZ, #MA, #MB, #MC, #MD, #ME, #MF, #MG, #MH, #MI, #MJ, #MK, #ML, #MN, #MO, #MP, #MQ, #MR, #MS, #MT, #MU, #MV, #MW, #MX, #MY, #MZ, #NA, #NB, #NC, #ND, #NE, #NF, #NG, #NH, #NI, #NJ, #NK, #NL, #NM, #NO, #NP, #NQ, #NR, #NS, #NT, #NU, #NV, #NW, #NX, #NY, #NZ, #OA, #OB, #OC, #OD, #OE, #OF, #OG, #OH, #OI, #OJ, #OK, #OL, #OM, #ON, #OO, #OP, #OQ, #OR, #OS, #OT, #OU, #OV, #OW, #OX, #OY, #OZ, #PA, #PB, #PC, #PD, #PE, #PF, #PG, #PH, #PI, #PJ, #PK, #PL, #PM, #PN, #PO, #PP, #PQ, #PR, #PS, #PT, #PU, #PV, #PW, #PX, #PY, #PZ, #QA, #QB, #QC, #QD, #QE, #QF, #QG, #QH, #QI, #QJ, #QK, #QL, #QM, #QN, #QO, #QP, #QQ, #QR, #QS, #QT, #QU, #QV, #QW, #QX, #QY, #QZ, #RA, #RB, #RC, #RD, #RE, #RF, #RG, #RH, #RI, #RJ, #RK, #RL, #RM, #RN, #RO, #RP, #RQ, #RR, #RS, #RT, #RU, #RV, #RW, #RX, #RY, #RZ, #SA, #SB, #SC, #SD, #SE, #SF, #SG, #SH, #SI, #SJ, #SK, #SL, #SM, #SN, #SO, #SP, #SQ, #SR, #SS, #ST, #SU, #SV, #SW, #SX, #SY, #SZ, #TA, #TB, #TC, #TD, #TE, #TF, #TG, #TH, #TI, #TJ, #TK, #TL, #TM, #TN, #TO, #TP, #TQ, #TR, #TS, #TT, #TU, #TV, #TW, #TX, #TY, #TZ, #UA, #UB, #UC, #UD, #UE, #UF, #UG, #UH, #UI, #UJ, #UK, #UL, #UM, #UN, #UO, #UP, #UQ, #UR, #US, #UT, #UU, #UV, #UW, #UX, #UY, #UZ, #VA, #VB, #VC, #VD, #VE, #VF, #VG, #VH, #VI, #VJ, #VK, #VL, #VM, #VN, #VO, #VP, #VQ, #VR, #VS, #VT, #VU, #VV, #VW, #VX, #VY, #VZ, #WA, #WB, #WC, #WD, #WE, #WF, #WG, #WH, #WI, #WJ, #WK, #WL, #WM, #WN, #WO, #WP, #WQ, #WR, #WS, #WT, #WU, #WV, #WW, #WX, #WY, #WZ, #XA, #XB, #XC, #XD, #XE, #XF, #XG, #XH, #XI, #XJ, #XK, #XL, #XM, #XN, #XO, #XP, #XQ, #XR, #XS, #XT, #XU, #XV, #XW, #XX, #XY, #XZ, #YA, #YB, #YC, #YD, #YE, #YF, #YG, #YH, #YI, #YJ, #YK, #YL, #YM, #YN, #YO, #YP, #YQ, #YR, #YS, #YT, #YU, #YV, #YW, #YX, #YZ, #ZA, #ZB, #ZC, #ZD, #ZE, #ZF, #ZG, #ZH, #ZI, #ZJ, #ZK, #ZL, #ZM, #ZN, #ZO, #ZP, #ZQ, #ZR, #ZS, #ZT, #ZU, #ZV, #ZW, #ZX, #ZY, #ZZ.

The OCLC Documentation

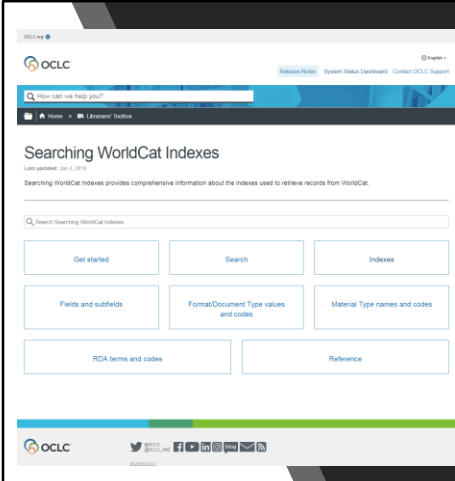
OCLC Bibliographic Formats and Standards (oc.lc/bfas)

OCLC-MARC Local Holdings Format and Standards (oc.lc/lhr)

How the OCLC-MARC Update Process Works

The OCLC Documentation

As soon as an OCLC-MARC Update is implemented, we begin the process of making changes to the OCLC documents *Bibliographic Formats and Standards* and *OCLC-MARC Local Holdings Format and Standards*.



The OCLC Indexing


WorldCat indexing is implemented on a schedule independent of the OCLC-MARC Updates

Searching WorldCat Indexes
(oc.lc/indexes)

How the OCLC-MARC Update Process Works

The OCLC Indexing

In general, changes to WorldCat indexing occur on a schedule independent of the rest of the OCLC-MARC Updates. As a result, changes to the ***Searching WorldCat Indexes*** document are not made until later, once the appropriate changes have been made to the indexes.



The OCLC Authority Files

Authorities: Format and Indexes: LC-NACO Authority File (oc.lc/authorities)

LC Guidelines Supplement to the MARC 21 Format for Authority Data ("The Blue Pages")
<https://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsolcmarcsuppl.pdf>

How the OCLC-MARC Update Process Works

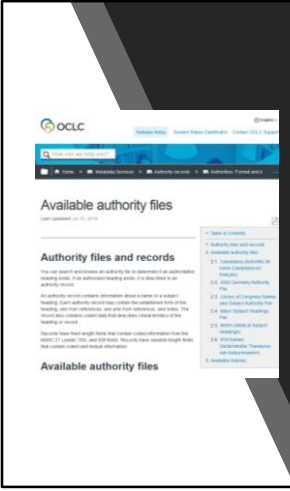
The OCLC Authority Files

The OCLC document ***Authorities: Format and Indexes***

(https://help.oclc.org/Metadata_Services/Authority_records/Authorities_Format_and_indexes) gives the full information about the valid authority fields and the indexes for each of the files. OCLC now maintains what amounts to two sets of validation rules for its authority files.

More familiar is the long-established set of rules that govern OCLC's version of the traditional Library of Congress-Name Authority Cooperative (LC-NACO) Authority File. These validation rules, covering LC names and LC subjects, conform to the *LC Guidelines Supplement to the MARC 21 Format for Authority Data*, popularly known as "*The Blue Pages*" (<https://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsolcmarcsuppl.pdf>). Validation changes to the LC-NACO Authority File have to be coordinated among LC, OCLC, and each of the other NACO nodes. LC has delayed making any such changes

for several years now, although there have been signs that they could be happening in the not-too-distant future.



The screenshot shows the OCLC Authority Files interface. It features a search bar at the top, a navigation menu, and a main content area with sections for 'Available authority files' and 'Authority files and records'. A sidebar on the right lists various authority files with their respective sources.

The OCLC Authority Files

Non-LC Authority Files

- Canadiana (Autorités de noms Canadiana en français)
 - Source: Bibliothèque et Archives Canada
- GND Germany Authority File
 - Source: Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (German National Library)
- Māori Subject Headings File
 - Source: Ngā Upoko Tukutuku
- MeSH (Medical Subject Headings)
 - Source: U.S. National Library of Medicine
- NTA Names (Nederlandse Thesaurus van Auteursnamen)
 - Source: Koninklijke Bibliotheek (National Library of the Netherlands)

How the OCLC-MARC Update Process Works

The OCLC Authority Files

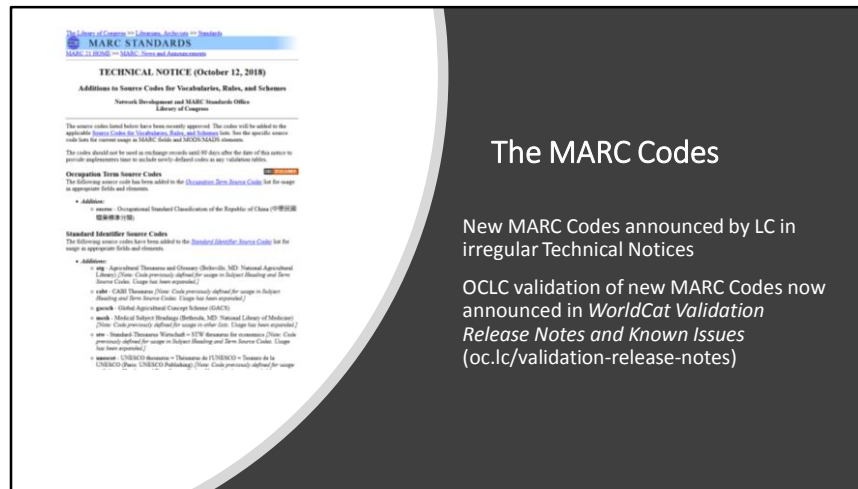
The other, newer, and less-familiar set of **OCLC Authority** validation rules covers all of the non-LC authority files that are made available only through OCLC’s Record Manager:

- Canadiana (Autorités de noms Canadiana en français)
 - Source: Bibliothèque et Archives Canada
 - The Canadiana Name Authorities in French is used by Library and Archives Canada (LAC) and other Canadian libraries when creating bibliographic descriptions in French.
- GND Germany Authority File
 - Source: Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (German National Library)

- GND is an Integrated Authority File that contains over 9 million records for Persons, Corporate bodies, Conferences and Events, Geographic Information, Topics and Works.
- **Māori Subject Headings File**
 - Source: Ngā Upoko Tukutuku
 - Māori Subject Headings provide subject access in te reo Māori to materials for and/or about Māori.
- **MeSH (Medical Subject Headings)**
 - Source: U.S. National Library of Medicine
 - Subject authority file: 630,000 records
- **NTA Names (Nederlandse Thesaurus van Auteursnamen)**
 - Source: Koninklijke Bibliotheek (National Library of the Netherlands)
 - Name authority file: 2,571,933 records representing only personal names.

The OCLC document *Authorities: Format and Indexes*

(https://help.oclc.org/Metadata_Services/Authority_records/Authorities_Format_and_indexes) also gives the full information about the valid authority fields and the indexes for each of these files. Changes from OCLC-MARC Updates may take some time to filter out to this document. As with bibliographic indexing, authority indexing occurs on a schedule independent of the rest of the OCLC-MARC Updates. As a result, changes to the *Authorities: Format and Indexes* document are not made until later, once the appropriate changes have been made to the authority indexes.



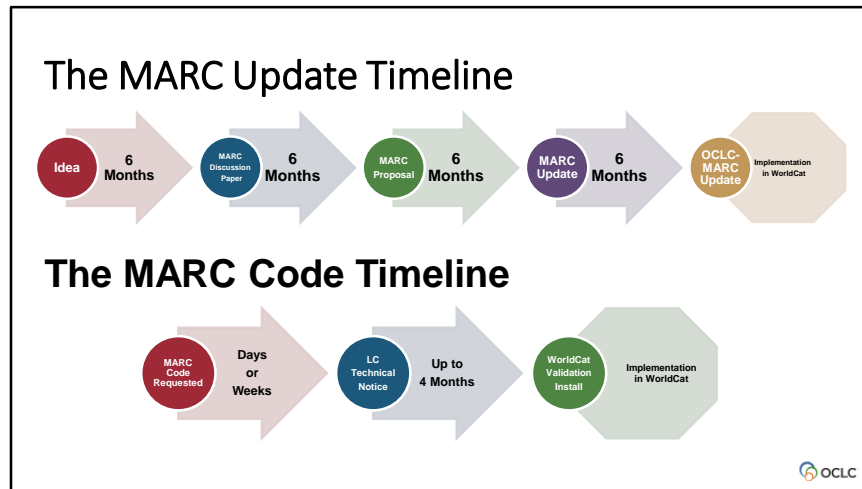
How the OCLC-MARC Update Process Works

The MARC Codes

New **MARC Codes** are announced by the Library of Congress in irregularly-scheduled Technical Notices, on the average of about 11 or 12 per year. Each LC Technical Notice includes the proviso: “The codes should not be used in exchange records until 60 days after the date of this notice to provide implementers time to include newly-defined codes in any validation tables.” In recent years, OCLC has tried to validate new MARC Codes at the next opportunity for installation of validation changes. Ordinarily, that happens once each quarter, but that often varies. Sometimes that can be more quickly than sixty days, but sometimes longer.

In the past, OCLC has announced just once each year in its Technical Bulletin all of the new MARC Codes validated since the most recent OCLC-MARC Update, even though some codes have been valid for months by that time. As mentioned earlier, we now have the new mechanism of WorldCat Validation Release Notes and Known Issues

(https://help.oclc.org/Metadata_Services/WorldShare_Record_Manager/WorldCat_validation_release_notes_and_known_issues), where we have begun announcing and linking to the LC Technical Notices that have been implemented each quarter. That means not just more timely MARC Code implementations, but also more timely notifications that they may now be used in WorldCat.



How the OCLC-MARC Update Process Works

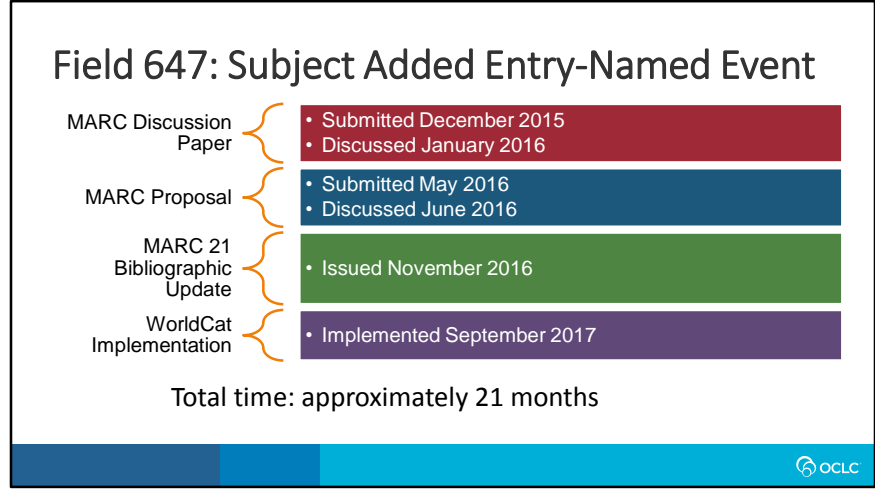
The MARC Update Timeline

This really rough timeline is a worst-case scenario, but certainly not unusual. From an element’s idea stage through its implementation in WorldCat as part of an OCLC-MARC Update can take as long as two years. Each of these six-month periods may be longer or shorter, depending upon many circumstances both in the MARC Advisory Committee or at OCLC. Discussion Papers may have to be revised more than once. Proposals may be rejected and need to be reworked. Occasionally, a Discussion Paper may be fast-tracked and be voted upon as though it were a Proposal, which shortens the timeline.

The MARC Code Timeline

The timeline for new MARC Codes tends to be much more brief and flexible because they don’t need to go through

the MAC approval process. The typical time from the request of a new MARC Code until it can be implemented in WorldCat would typically be four to six months, again depending upon many factors at LC and at OCLC.



How the OCLC-MARC Update Process Works

The Results: MARC Update Timeline

The idea for Bibliographic field 647, Subject Added Entry--Named Event, became the subject of a MARC Discussion Paper submitted to MAC in December 2015, for discussion at the MAC meeting at ALA Midwinter in January 2016, the next month. The MARC Proposal was submitted in May 2016 and was approved the next month at ALA Annual in June 2016. LC issued the MARC 21 Bibliographic Update in November 2016. The field was implemented in WorldCat in early September 2017 as part of the 2017 OCLC-MARC Update. This entire cycle took roughly 21 months...

Field 647: Subject Added Entry-Named Event

647 7 Bunker Hill, Battle of ꞑc (Boston, Massachusetts : ꞑd 1775) ꞑ2 fast ꞑ0 (OCoLC)fst01710024

647 7 Hurricane Katrina ꞑd (2005) ꞑ2 fast ꞑ0 (OCoLC)fst01755264

647 7 Eruption of Mount Saint Helens ꞑc (Washington : ꞑd 1980) ꞑ2 fast ꞑ0 (OCoLC)fst01353018



How the OCLC-MARC Update Process Works

The Results: MARC Update Timeline

...at which point you can see such Bibliographic fields as these in WorldCat:

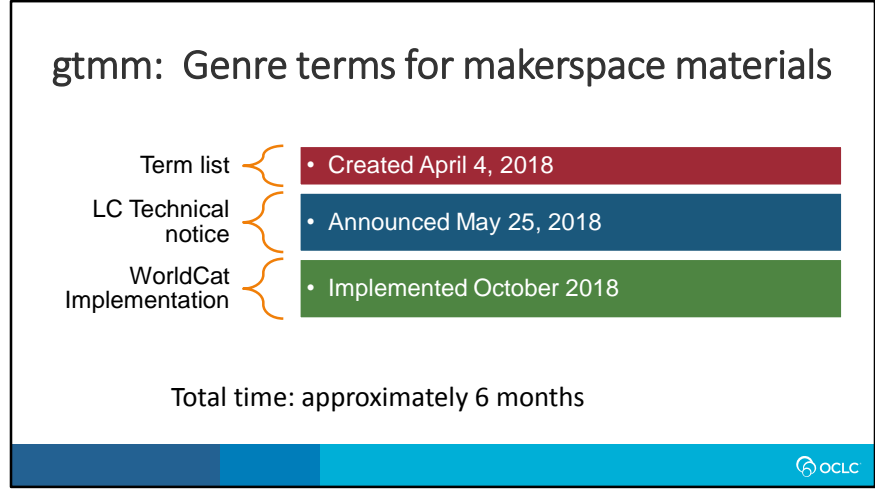
647 7 Bunker Hill, Battle of ꞑc (Boston, Massachusetts : ꞑd 1775) ꞑ2 fast ꞑ0 (OCoLC)fst01710024

647 7 Hurricane Katrina ꞑd (2005) ꞑ2 fast ꞑ0 (OCoLC)fst01755264

647 7 Eruption of Mount Saint Helens ꞑc (Washington : ꞑd 1980) ꞑ2 fast ꞑ0 (OCoLC)fst01353018

This would be a typical cycle for the odd-numbered MARC 21 Bibliographic Updates issued late in a calendar year

(September through December). Even-numbered MARC 21 Bibliographic Updates issued in the second quarter of a calendar year (April through May) would usually have a timeline shorter by roughly four to seven months. But remember that there are lots of variables.



How the OCLC-MARC Update Process Works

The Results: MARC Code Timeline

As noted earlier, the timeline for new MARC Codes is much shorter because there are fewer steps, but it is also subject to many variables both at LC and at OCLC.

Let’s look at one new MARC *Genre/Form Code and Term Source Codes* (<http://www.loc.gov/standards/sourcelist/genre-form.html>) that was implemented as part of the 2018 OCLC-MARC Update in early October 2018.

Code **“gtmm”** is for the list of *Genre Terms for Makerspace Materials* (<https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc1132759/>), which the University of

North Texas made available online on April 4, 2018. UNT requested a MARC Code, which was announced in the LC Technical Notice dated May 25, 2018 (<http://www.loc.gov/marc/relators/tn180525src.html>). The code was implemented in WorldCat as part of the OCLC-MARC Update 2018 in early October 2018. That was roughly six months in all. But again, that can be longer or shorter depending upon many factors...

gtmm: Genre terms for makerspace materials

655 7 Electronic textiles. †2 gtmm

655 7 3D printers. †2 gtmm

655 7 Cameras (DSLR) †2 gtmm

655 7 Video cameras. †2 gtmm



How the OCLC-MARC Update Process Works

The Results: MARC Code Timeline

...Now you could see fields such as these 655s in WorldCat:

655 7 Electronic textiles. †2 gtmm

655 7 3D printers. †2 gtmm

655 7 Cameras (DSLR) †2 gtmm

655 7 Video cameras. †2 gtmm

Questions about the topic?



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Please submit questions through chat



Any cataloging questions?



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Please submit questions through chat



Thank you!

Send cataloging policy questions at
anytime to:

askqc@oclc.org

Session links available at:

oclc.org/askqc

Next Virtual AskQC Office Hours:

We will resume office hours in January.

Look for information posted to OCLC-CAT and
the Record Manager Community Center.

**Because
what is
known must
be shared.**SM

