



Issues in Ebook cataloging

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The landscape

MARC record delivery with an ebook is the norm, at no added charge

Okay, its free to *you*...

...and you get what you pay for.

Is this model working?

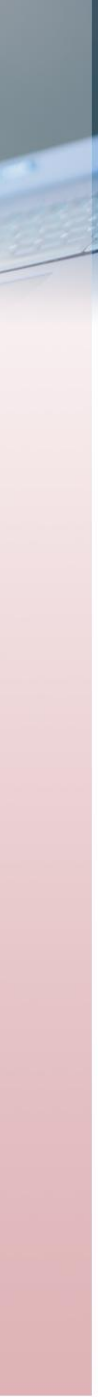
Are vendors living up to their obligations as MARC providers? *As catalogers?*

Are libraries expectations of vendor-supplied cataloging realistic?

Are users being served by the record management paradigm we have set up?

Is this model working?

Why is everybody so darned cranky?!



Cataloging “requirements”

“246 needed if special character (e.g. &) in first 5 words (standard cataloguing practice)”

“For multi-volume sets we should receive one marc record with all of the relevant links.”

“If we receive serial volumes they should be on a unified serial record.”

“Emphasis should be placed on a bibliographic description of the monograph that is consistent, accurate, well-formed, and follows standard library practice as far as possible.”—*PCC MARC record guide*

Tea leaves



Requirements or Performance review?

Not institution-specific

Corrective, not prescriptive

The library's frustration

- Limited local resources to manage the high influx of new e-materials
- Integrating incoming records of varying quality and structure is a challenge
- Confusing public displays are service issues, education issues
- This was supposed to *eliminate* work!

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Ebooks and shelfready



Ebook cataloging and shelfready

Shelfready services

- Community built applied standards
- Stable product
- Established cataloging structures, local decisions transitioned to vendors after they are established
- The custom-services-for-fee model stimulates partnership

Ebooks and Shelfready Services

Ebook cataloging

- Sourced to vendors from the get-go
- Volatile cataloging rules
- Volatile product
- Mass production model
- No “MARC relationship” with customers

The vendor's dilemma

Model is dependent on the e-reproduction paradigm

Increasing complexity of e-products means more cataloging time, less automated derivation, more decisions

- Born digital works
- Submonographic works
- Nontextual material

Killed by our own success

Increasing demand for ebooks and MARC

Consolidated burden = consolidated
decisionmaking

Decisions made based on managing the
crush of the work rather than cataloging
efficacy

Have we undone cooperative cataloging?

As libraries prefer e there is less contributed cataloging available

Economy of scale=consolidated burden

- Large cataloging demand placed on a small number of providers
- Record sharing vs competitive advantage
- Complex management infrastructure for delivery

So is this model working?

NO...

Libraries are not seeing the quality of records they want

Vendors cannot manage the demands placed on them in an economically viable manner

Users do not have the kind of access and discovery they are expecting

So is this model working?

YES!

The landscape is evolving appropriately
Most MARCs for ebooks are created with minimal effort and minimal problems
Libraries are learning to manage by exception
Vendors are working to reduce the exceptions

Is it sustainable?

- ??????

