



Evolving bibliographic standards: the role and place of UNIMARC

THE UNIMARC LANDSCAPE: UPDATED OVERVIEW

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- ① UCA Strategic goals 2007-2009
- ② The importance of the users community



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1 UCA Strategic goals 2007-2009

GOAL 4 *Advance knowledge of UNIMARC usage and promote mechanisms and actions towards sharing of expertise ...*

- ▶ programmes at IFLA conferences
- ▶ users meetings (*2nd Meeting, Florence, 14 March 2008, preparation for 3rd Meeting in 2010*)
- ▶ UNIMARC bibliography (translations and literature on UNIMARC)
- ▶ Online availability of UNIMARC basic training materials



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① UCA Strategic goals 2007-2009

GOAL 4 *Advance knowledge of UNIMARC usage ...*

Need to know:

- ▶ Extent and type of UNIMARC usage
- ▶ Including UNIMARC-based formats
- ▶ UNIMARC expertise and training
- ▶ UNIMARC publications

2 The importance of the users' community



UNIMARC SURVEY 2008

This questionnaire, issued by the IFLA UNIMARC Core Activity, is aimed at updating knowledge on the usage of UNIMARC and related editorial and training activities.

This information is very important for IFLA and the UNIMARC community. Please provide your answer and help in disseminating the questionnaire to other users.

1. UNIMARC USAGE

1.1 Does your Institution use, or have used, UNIMARC?

Never

Yes, until (specify date)

Yes, being currently used



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UNIMARC SURVEY 2008

- ▶ Where is UNIMARC used? Who is using UNIMARC?
- ▶ Are there many changes in the UNIMARC geography?
- ▶ What purposes in using UNIMARC? Internal ? for exchange?
- ▶ Is UNIMARC being taught in LIS?



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THE SITUATION COMPARED TO 1998

1998 - Questionnaire sent to ca 118 institutions. 60 responses from 41 countries

Use of UNIMARC				UNIMARC-based format	UNIMARC expertise	UNIMARC training	
Internal		Exchange only				current	planning
current	planning	current	planning				
18	7	8	9	4	35	22	8

2008 - Questionnaire sent to ca 150 institutions. 80 responses from 33 countries

Use of UNIMARC		UNIMARC-based format	UNIMARC expertise	UNIMARC training
Internal	Exchange only			
23	10	5	10+5	14+1



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THE SITUATION COMPARED TO 1998

UNIMARC SURVEY 2008

- ▶ # of countries using UNIMARC or UNIMARC-based – increased
- ▶ # of countries using UNIMARC to exchange records only – stable
- ▶ # of countries stating UNIMARC expertise – decreased
- ▶ # of countries with UNIMARC teaching - decreased



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THE SITUATION COMPARED TO 1998

UNIMARC SURVEY 2008

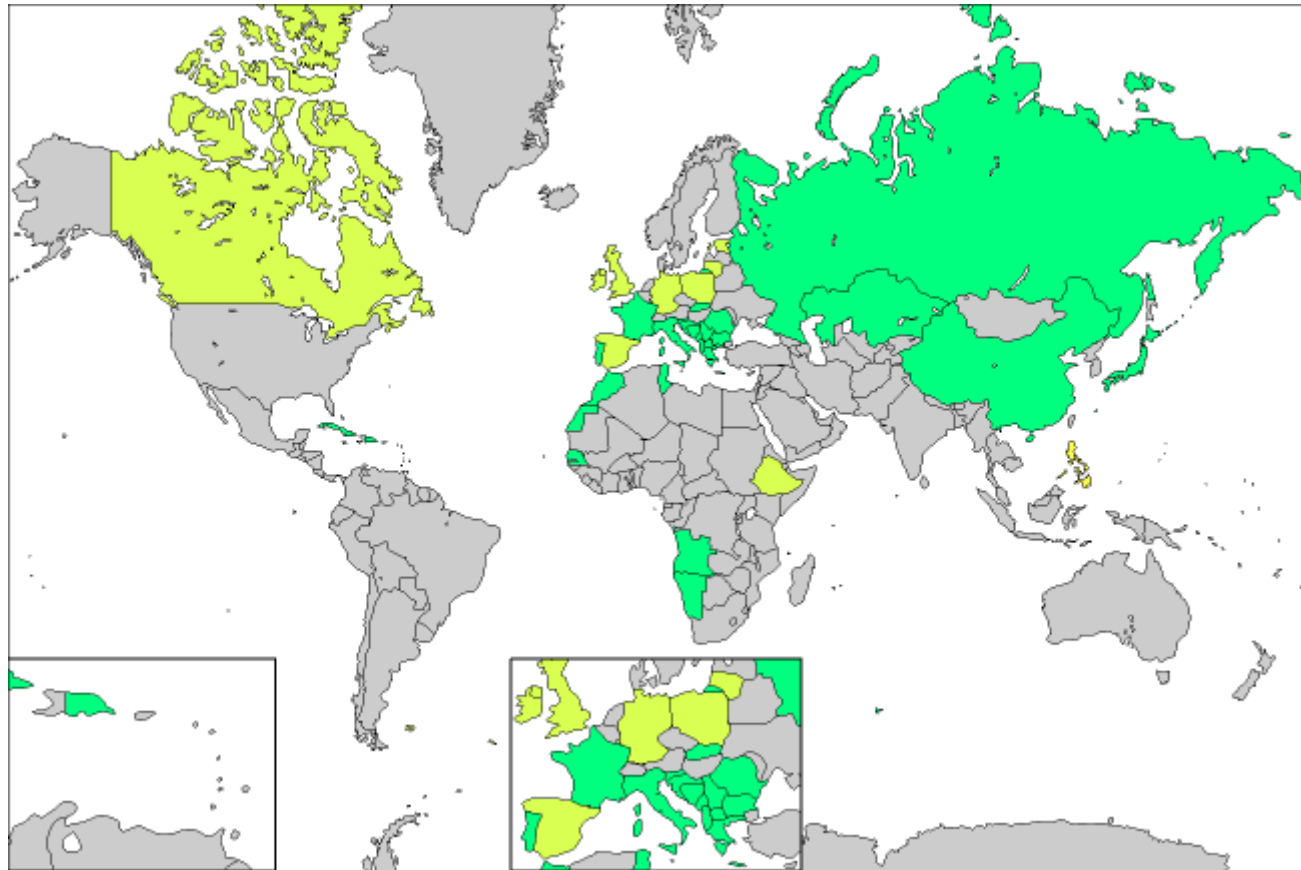
- ▶ # of countries using UNIMARC or UNIMARC-based – increased despite
 - not all UNIMARC countries responded (at least 2)
 - some countries have moved to MARC 21 - South Africa, India, Czech Republic, Switzerland (these did not answer also)
- ▶ planning to leave UNIMARC
 - Belgium, Slovakia (reasons: lack of ILS support)

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CURRENT LANDSCAPE

- UNIMARC as internal format
- UNIMARC as exchange format only





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UNIMARC SURVEY 2008 – other aspects

- ▶ # of countries stating UNIMARC expertise – decreased
 - focus of librarianship is more diffuse nowadays?
Novel concerns...
- ▶ # of countries with UNIMARC training/teaching - decreased
 - less library institutions provide training but UNIMARC is taught regularly in LIS schools in 15 countries



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UNIMARC SURVEY 2008 – other aspects

- ▶ for 61% of countries, UNIMARC is used in most libraries
- ▶ for 72% of countries, both UNIMARC/B and UNIMARC/A are used
- ▶ only 1 (one) library implemented UNIMARC/Holdings
- ▶ in many countries using mostly UNIMARC there are also libraries using other formats, notably USMARC/MARC21
- ▶ availability of UNIMARC documentation in different languages
 - not sufficiently answered, deserves further enquiry



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Countries

Albania
Angola
Bosnia and Herzegovina (COMARC)
Bulgaria (COMARC)
China (CNMARC)
Cuba
Cyprus
France
Greece
Iran (IranMARC)
Italy
Japan (JAPANMARC)
Lithuania
Macedonia (COMARC)
Montenegro (COMARC)
Morocco
Namibia
Portugal
Romenia
Russia (RUSMARC)
Senegal
Serbia (COMARC)
Slovakia
Slovenia
Tunisia

UNIMARC Publications

English
Portuguese (1989, 2008)
French (2007)
Spanish (Cuba, 2003, Spain, 1996)
Greek (1993-1996)
Persian (Iran,2002)
Italian (2000)
Russian
Slovene
Lithuanian
Croatian
Serbian
Slovak (1994-1996)
Chinese (2004)
Japanese (Authorities, 1991)
Romanian



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CONCLUSIONS?

- ▶ UNIMARC installed base is significant and quite stable
- ▶ covers an important share of European, African and Eastern bibliography
- ▶ currently, very few intentions to move from UNIMARC
- ▶ predominance as a proper production format over the exchange function
- ▶ slow implementation of newest components (authorities and holdings)



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CONCLUSIONS?

ALL GOOD REASONS TO MAINTAIN UNIMARC

- ▶ the need is out there and is evident
- ▶ the significant investments so far and the costs of changing
- ▶ the responsibility of IFLA towards the installed base
- ▶ the 'standard' lies below, at the macro level
- ▶ there will always be 'flavours' to data definition



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LOOKING BEYOND THE SURVEY...

- ▶ since 2000, decreasing diversity of MARC formats – two major sources of MARC definition and data: UNIMARC and MARC21
- ▶ diversity of ILS decreasing steadily – successive mergers, yet major vendors (eg. ExLibris and SirsiDynix) support UNIMARC
- ▶ in the era of interoperability and the semantic Web, there is more to standardization than the single standard approach
- ▶ should we make ourselves and the market players more aware of the actual UNIMARC landscape, to improve support to the UNIMARC community



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HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE AND CONTRIBUTE?

To enhance the availability of information for all, send us:

- ▶ translations of UNIMARC formats in your languages
- ▶ bibliography on UNIMARC published in your countries
- ▶ information on the availability of UNIMARC data, training programmes and materials
- ▶ reports of implementation with different systems / vendors
- ▶ information to access/contact users groups/clubs

✉ send to:

Maria Inês Cordeiro
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HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE AND CONTRIBUTE?

To help maintain UNIMARC and develop it to your needs:

- ▶ submit proposals of changes / additions to UNIMARC
- ▶ inform about inconsistencies detected in UNIMARC documentation

e.g. the PUC gets many comments resulting from the French translations

 send to

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Chair, Permanent UNIMARC Committee
A.Hopkinson@mdx.ac.uk



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Thank you!

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