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IFLA Core Activity for Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC (UBCIM) – Review of activities 2000-2001

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UBCIM like the other four core programmes of IFLA is now part of IFLA seven core activities. We experience, as the other former core programmes do, a restructuration and some financial difficulties. We, nevertheless, continue to work towards fulfillment of our main goals and there is close cooperation with the Division of Bibliographic Control.

May I remind you that UBCIM aims at creating and maintaining standards for machine-readable exchange, provides a focus for IFLA activities in the field and through its publication programme, disseminates relevant information. UBCIM is in charge of the maintenance and the promotion of the Universal MARC format, UNIMARC, through a group of experts, the Permanent UNIMARC Committee.

One of the main achievements of the Division and of UBCIM is, as you all know, the International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD). We are working together on disseminating these standards even further by posting all ISBDs step by step on the IFLANET. The ISBD(A)¹, (ER)² and (G)³ are accessible so far. The ISBDs have been translated into 26 languages and we have posted lists of ISBDs in 12 languages so far.⁴ We would welcome additional lists.

One of the main goals of UBCIM is the promotion and development of authority control at the international level. On this too we work with the Division through a joint Working Group “Functional Requirements And Numbering of Authority Records” (FRANAR). Françoise Bourdon, the Chair of FRANAR, will report herself on these activities.

The promotion and maintenance of the UNIMARC format through the Permanent UNIMARC Committee (PUC)⁵ continues to represent a major part of our activities. During the 12th meeting of the PUC in Vilnius last March, elections took place and Mirna Willer, from the National and University Library of Croatia and Jay Weitz, from OCLC, were respectively re-elected Chair and Vice Chair of the new Committee.

We had the satisfaction of knowing that one of our longest and most difficult tasks, the revision of the UNIMARC format for Authorities, published in 1992, had been successfully completed. The second revised and much enlarged edition of UNIMARC/A appeared in March and is available from K. G. Saur.⁶

The Concise UNIMARC format for Classification⁷ was posted for worldwide review (November 2000 – May 2001) and we are in the process of formalizing it.

Another new format will soon be posted for comments: the UNIMARC format for Holdings, being drafted by a Working Group chaired by Rosa Galva, from the National Library of Portugal.

Another subgroup of the PUC is considering additions to UNIMARC for description of music material. It is chaired by Cristina Magliano, from ICCU in Rome.

And we continue to make additions and changes to the UNIMARC bibliographic format, mostly in response to requests from users. The fourth update to the UNIMARC Manual – Bibliographic Format is scheduled for spring 2002.

If you wish to hear more about these developments, as well as other issues on standardization and information exchange, please come to the joint Workshop Division of Bibliographic Control / UBCIM and Permanent UNIMARC Committee scheduled on Thursday between 8:30 and 17:00.

The new edition of UNIMARC/A was partly responsible for an invitation I received from the National Institute of Informatics (NII) in Tokyo after I had met Professor Naito, from NII, in the Deutsche Bibliothek last year. NII is involved, in cooperation with the National Diet Library (NDL), in a project aiming at a standardized and harmonized cumulating of the name authority data in Chinese, Korean, and Japanese (CKJ) languages in other countries. The project target is an interchange format which conforms to UNIMARC/A. I was thus invited to a regional Workshop on CKJ authorities at NII in Tokyo where I gave lectures on IFLA work in authority control and the new edition of UNIMARC/A. I also had the opportunity to visit the National Diet Library and report on IFLA current projects in the field of bibliographic control.

Apart from this I have represented IFLA at several meetings, e.g., ISSN Conference of Directors (Washington, September 2000), ISBN Panel Meeting (Berlin, October 2000), CERL (Consortium of European Research Libraries), (Padua, November 2000), and ELAG (European Library Automation Group), (Prague, June 2001). ISBN meetings have provided a welcome opportunity to meet colleagues from the book trade and those of you who will attend the Workshop on Thursday will hear a presentation about ONIX, the Book Trade Product Metadata Standard, by Brian Green, from Book Industry Communication (BIC) who is interested in cooperating with IFLA in the field of authority control. Alan Danskin, from the PUC, will report on mapping ONIX-UNIMARC.

I have already mentioned at the beginning our publications programme. The UBCIM New Series (monographs) is published and distributed by K. G. Saur but we also have a programme of publications on demand distributed by the office.

Apart from UNIMARC/A (which is volume 22 in the New Series), Saur published as volume 23 the revised edition of GARE (Guidelines for Authority and Reference Entries), titled GARR (Guidelines for Authority and Reference Records (GARR))⁸. Volume 24 will be the proceedings of the satellite meeting on “Subject Retrieval in a Networked World” which took place at OCLC last week. Our last publication on demand is Structures of Corporate Name Headings⁹, final report of the Working Group on the revision of FSCH (Form and Structure of Corporate Headings), which was also posted on the IFLANET in January.

UBCIM publications have been translated into 28 languages. Although we are not directly involved in translations we have appointed coordinating centres in the countries concerned which liaise with us and I seize this opportunity to remind you that, for each planned translation, a permission form should be submitted to UBCIM.

Lastly, International Cataloguing and Bibliographic Control (ICBC), the quarterly journal of UBCIM continues to publish IFLA reports and conference papers, commissioned and unsolicited articles. The office welcomes all relevant contributions and news items. Tables of contents are posted on the IFLANET¹⁰.

References

¹ <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/pubs/isbda.htm>

² <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/pubs/isbd.htm>

³ <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/pubs/isbdg.htm>

⁴ <http://www.ifla.org/VI/3/nd1/isbdtran.htm>

⁵ <http://www.ifla.org/VI/3/puc.htm>

⁶ *UNIMARC Manual – Authorities Format*. Second revised and enlarged edition. München: Saur, 2001. (UBCIM Publications – New Series, v. 22).

⁷ <http://www.ifla.org/VI/3/p1996-1/concise.htm>

⁸ *Guidelines for Authority and Reference Records*. Formerly Guidelines for Authority and Reference Entries, recommended by the Working Group on an International Authority System, approved by the Standing Committees of the IFLA Section on Cataloguing and the IFLA Section on Technology. Second edition. Revised by the IFLA Working Group on GARE Revision. München: Saur, 2001. (UBCIM Publications – New Series, v. 23).

⁹ *Structures of Corporate Name Headings*. Examples contributed by the members of the Section on Cataloguing. Compiled and introduced by Ton Heijligers. Frankfurt am Main : IFLA UBCIM Programme, 2001. <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/scatn/final2000.htm>

¹⁰ <http://www.ifla.org/VI/3/admin/content.htm>