MarcEdit Workshop

By Nancy Stuart.

On February 3, 2010, approximately 20 attendees from Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, and as far away as Kelowna participated in a 4 hour MarcEdit workshop led by Linda Woodcock, Technical Services Librarian from Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

Some had never used MarcEdit and were anxious to learn about it. Others had limited experience. MarcEdit is open source software developed by Terry Reese and is now in version 5.2. It is a wonderful MARC editing tool, well loved by the library community.

This was a hands-on workshop so we learned by doing. Some of the exciting things you can do with MarcEdit are clean up e-book records; add genre headings; change a |x to |v; add local fields and call number fields; and write and save scripts to process MARC files.

We began by learning how to break and make a MARC file. Another useful action we learned was to join or split files. We then moved on to editing the records in a file. We learned how to add and delete fields, add new subfields, update old or incorrect indicators and how to edit fixed fields. There was plenty of practice time as we worked through exercises on the aspects presented. We were able to have a hands-on experience because the workshop was held in the Technology Lab of the Vancouver School Board Office. During practice time, Linda answered questions and also made a note to follow up on other issues.

Once the file was edited, we compiled the file into MARC ready for loading into a library catalogue. In the last part of the session, Linda showed us how to batch process multiple files and how to write scripts using the script wizard. Linda did an excellent job of teaching the basics of MarcEdit and allowing for lots of hands-on experience. The MarcEdit workshop clearly exceeded the participant's expectations.

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