

Legislative Library of British Columbia MARC Records

By Nancy Stuart

In December 2009 the Legislative Library of British Columbia launched a new MARC Records Batch Service. The MARC records available are based on the current issue of the British Columbia Publications Monthly Checklist. The MARC records include only the records for publications which have electronic formats. Since many libraries were not receiving the print equivalent, they wanted to load an electronic resource record for the publication. This required modifying the MARC file, something many of the smaller libraries were not able to do easily. The BCCATS (British Columbia Cataloguing and Technical Services) Interest Group of BCLA initiated a project to create a provider neutral electronic resource record and make it available to all BC libraries.

The Project

BCCATS members meet twice a year to discuss issues relevant to cataloguing and technical services. At the May 2010 meeting, members discussed the issue of libraries having to modify the LLBC MARC records. The question was asked. Why couldn't one library make the modifications and then share the records with the other libraries?

During the late summer and Fall of 2010 BCCATS members from UVic, UNBC, SFU, UBC and Kwantlen Polytechnic University worked collaboratively to produce a provider neutral electronic resource record for the LLBC MARC Records Batch Service. We all met prior to the BCCATS meeting on Sept 24, 2010 to create a draft MARC record. This was taken to the main BCCATS meeting where 31 members met, 7 of whom were participating via teleconferencing, including the BC Legislative Library participant. The draft MARC record was approved. The MARC records would have to be freely available, so BC ELN (British Columbia Electronic Library Network) offered space on their website and servers.

UVic volunteered to produce the provider neutral record from the MARC Records Batch Service. The webpage will be updated monthly and there will be links back to the LLBC MARC Records Batch Service webpage.

The BC Legislative Library staff has been very accommodating in helping get this project up and running. There are still a few details to work out, but the electronic MARC records should be available by the end of January or early February 2011 on the BC ELN website.

Conclusion

This is our first attempt to share cataloguing records with the BC cataloguing community. During this collaborative venture we learned much from each other. This underscored for us why collaboration is so important. Each member had a piece of the puzzle and it wasn't until we all came together that all the pieces fit together.

Watch for an announcement about the project.

Contributing members are: Linda Woodcock, Kwantlen; Penny Swanson, SFU; Paul Burry, UNBC; Nancy Stuart, UVic; Sue Andrews, UBC; Sandy Gordon, UVic; Charles Hogg, LLBC; Marilyn Carr-Harris, LLBC; Heather Morrison, BC ELN. Thanks also to all the other BCCATS members for their input and support.

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