



Mercian Metadata Group
'AGM': 27 April 2022: 11:00-13:00

Location: Aston University Library, Workshop A

Present: Richard Birley (Birmingham City University), Jaycie Carter (Birmingham City University), Jane Faux (Newman University), Galen Jones (Open University), Corinne Lambert (Leicester University), William Peaden (Aston University), Sally Rimmer (Derby University), Shannon Searle (Cranfield University), Nick Williams (Nottingham University),

Apologies: Gaz Johnson (Mercian Collaboration), Judith Keene (Worcester University – MC Steering Group Sponsor), Masniza Sore (Northampton University)

Minute taker: Richard Birley

Agenda

1. Reflections of the year
 - a. Direction of group: forging new links
 - b. Officer succession
2. Plan M/OCLC deal [here](#)
3. MARCEdit training 2.0
4. E-forum ideas
5. RDA and application profiles
6. AOB
 - a. MDG 2022 conference (WP)

Minutes

1) Minutes of the last meeting: agreed after the following discussion:

RDA/RIMMF session: this would need to be an in-person event. To update colleagues, The UK RDA Committee and working with CILIP/Facet Publishing on creating training. At this year's MDG conference there will be a whole day on RDA. Will is currently a member of the UK Committee, which is always happy to welcome new members.

MarcEdit Workshop: this was delivered, and the event was well attended and received by participants. We are planning on holding another later this year.

eBook management eForum: this was delivered with 'systems' colleagues joining us for the first time.

Special collections eForum: as several of us (e.g., Will at Aston, Richard at BCU) have recently begun working with special collections we are hoping to deliver this later in the year.

Application profiles: ongoing. There was a brief discussion about the usefulness, or otherwise, of the RDA Toolkit if profiles are ever adopted.

Decolonialising subject indexes: Will has raised this standing item with the MDG. Their current focus is on their Cataloguing Ethics document, where there is concern over how 'representative' of the sector the responses they have received are. Nick described how at Nottingham University they have begun replacing offensive headings on an ad hoc basis.



Action: Will to speak to Philip Keats about the issues surrounding uploading alternative thesauri (e.g., <https://homosaurus.org/>) and the question of modifiable terms.

Reflecting on the group's activity: the following question was posed, 'are you happy with the way the group has worked over the last year'? The consensus broadly validated the work of the group and its contribution to the sector in the Mercian region. Sally commented that the overall 'social situation' had made organising and running events more difficult but the events that had been delivered were of value.

a) Direction of group/Forging new links

For the year ahead, while it was acknowledged that 'technical' (e.g., MarcEdit) events work better online it was argued that it is hard to gauge the level of engagement when online. With this in mind, it was felt that any RIMMF event would need to be in person. This was followed by a brief discussion on the value of this kind of event given the issues around RDA in a MARC environment, even though RIMMF 4 does connect to the RDA directory.

Action: Will to speak to UK RDA Committee re guidance on convincing our SMTs on the value of pursuing RDA and on whether they can provide interested Mercian institutions in 'locally useful' information and on how to participate at a national level.

Action: Richard to contact all Mercian institutions to make new, reforge old, contacts with metadata workers across the region. While we recognise that not all MC institutions will have specialised metadata staff, we believe that all MC institutions would benefit from participating in the group.

b) Officer succession

Ed Kirkland (Warwick University) has effectively stepped down from his role as MMG'S Secretary. Sally Rimmer (Derby University) has kindly volunteered to fill the role. Masniza Sore (Northampton University) remains a forum moderator.

Action: Will and Richard to contact Ed and Sally.

2) Plan M/OCLC deal:

MADSIG have invited us to attend their 'coffee morning' where they are planning to have a general discussion about the purchase of data, for example, OCLC 'deal', Plan M, NBK (e.g., there is an option from JISC to have BDS records excluded from Catalogue Hub imports on request). MADSIG has been set up by Gavin Philips as a metadata subgroup. One of its aims is to assess how well suppliers are implementing Service Agreement rules (see: SUPC framework). They would like a member of MMG, ideally from a MUAL institution, to represent the MC at their meetings.

Action: All to consider volunteering.

3) MarcEdit training:

Gavin Philips has contacted Will about collaborating with MADSIG. The proposal is to have two sessions, a 'basic' session in the morning followed by an 'advanced' one in the afternoon with both MMG and MADSIG members present and/or presenting. Essentially this would be a repeat of our previous session truncated with new topics with colleagues from 'southern' libraries. August and November were proposed as potential times with November being preferred.

Action: Will and Richard to get back to group on progress.

4) eForum ideas:

i) Special collections: see notes above.

ii) Data procurement (Plan M, BDS' ALL, etc.)

iii) Decolonialisation: this led to further discussion around broader EDI related questions. Generally, solutions are still local with institutions still identifying/defining the issue/s. Participants gave examples of local solutions. Corinne gave an example of how at Leicester they are working on subject headings for a collection of books from the 1950s. There was also discussion around adding 'warnings' to records citing examples from Durham University and some work Will has done at Aston. There were questions about the effectiveness of this approach, for example, where would this information be recorded in the record and how would it appear in the discovery layer.

Action: Will to investigate wider groups.

5) RDA Application Profiles

Although there doesn't appear to be much appetite for this in the community any more we were meant to have a mini meeting discussing RDA. This didn't happen. Open Cataloguing Rules and RDA were all briefly discussed without any firm conclusions.

Action: All are requested to feedback on the usefulness of RDA training, Application Profiles and so on.

6) AOB

Galen proposed two possible future activities:

System focussed workshops: configuring discovery layer using tags.

Cataloguing databases: exporting to NBK and others.