

Informal Meeting of the Permanent UNIMARC Committee
2018 August 26, IFLA Congress, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

A report by Jay Weitz, Vice Chair of the PUC

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On 2018 August 26, IFLA's Permanent UNIMARC Committee (PUC) gathered during the IFLA Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for an informal meeting. In attendance were Ms. Saeedeh Akbari-Daryan (National Library and Archives of Iran); Ms. Nijolė Bliūdžiuvienė (Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania); Mr. Gordon Dunsire (Independent Consultant, Scotland, and Chair of the RDA Steering Committee); Mr. Massimo Gentili-Tedeschi (Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense and ICCU, Italy); Mr. Raj Kumar (India); PUC Chair Ms. Gordana Mazić (IZUM, Slovenia); Mr. Clément Oury (ISSN International Centre, France); Ms. Diana Šlapšinskienė (Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania); Ms. Ana Vukadin (National and University Library in Zagreb, Croatia); and Mr. Jay Weitz (OCLC, USA), PUC Vice Chair and rapporteur.

The minutes of the March 2018 PUC meeting in Rome were approved and subsequently added to the PUC website (<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/unimarc/puc2018minutes.pdf>) by PUC Web Editor Mr. Gentili-Tedeschi. He also added the most recent UNIMARC Guidelines (<https://www.ifla.org/publications/unimarc-formats-and-related-documentation?og=33>) and better organized access to the UNIMARC/Bibliographic (<https://www.ifla.org/publications/unimarc-bibliographic--3rd-edition--updates-2012-and-updates-2016?og=33>) and UNIMARC/Authorities (<https://www.ifla.org/publications/unimarc-authorities--3rd-edition--updates?og=33>) format updates.

The PUC greatly appreciates the formal inclusion in the 2018 IFLA Congress Programme of this informal business meeting as Session 119 on Sunday, 2018 August 26, 16:15-18:45 in Meeting Room 302.

PUC Membership

Ms. Vukadin will likely be added to the PUC as a new corresponding member in the 2019 election cycle. She noted that the National and University Library in Zagreb, Croatia, does not use UNIMARC, so she may not be eligible to be a standing member.

Criteria for membership on the PUC had been discussed and drafted at the March 2018 Rome meeting of the PUC. These criteria were combined with the current text on the PUC website, resulting in the following:

The PUC consists of a minimum of 7 and no more than 9 standing members, who are experts in UNIMARC and come from different countries and institutions having active UNIMARC experience. A maximum of 12 corresponding experts may be appointed for a two-year term by the Committee in consultation with the IFLA UNIMARC Strategic Programme to represent other geographical areas of UNIMARC expertise. The following criteria are recommended for both standing and corresponding membership in the PUC:

- Have professional familiarity with at least one of the UNIMARC formats through use, study, or research. Please submit a current CV.
- Work in an institution that uses UNIMARC or a UNIMARC-based scheme as the cataloguing format or as an exchange format. Please present a brief biography outlining familiarity with UNIMARC through cataloging and/or research.
- Obtain the support of one's institution. PUC work requires time. Attendance at the annual PUC regular meeting is vital for standing members; attendance at the informal meeting held at the annual IFLA Congress is optional but preferred. Please present a letter of support from the institution.
- Have sufficient fluency in English, because PUC business is conducted in English.

In principle, members represent countries, so only one standing member per country can be selected, although others may be corresponding members. Members should be willing to promote UNIMARC within one's community. A prospective member should plan for at least a four-year commitment to the PUC.

UNIMARC Formats

In early September 2018, Ms. Branka Badovinac (IZUM, Slovenia) will make available all the new and revised fields resulting from the March 2018 PUC meeting in Rome. Ms. Akbari-Daryan, Ms. Badovinac, Mr. Gentili-Tedeschi, Mr. Kumar, and Mr. Weitz will serve as an editorial group. A conference call will be scheduled for the group to work on the new online editions of the formats.

Final comments on revisions to U/A 223 were requested.

Ms. Akbari-Daryan's FRAD-UNIMARC mapping should be shared with the IFLA Bibliographic Conceptual Models Review Group (BCM RG, formerly the FRBR RG) for their comments. Although FRAD has now been superseded by the IFLA Library Reference Model, the mapping remains useful as an interim document. Following its review by BCM, the mapping can be added to the PUC Publications page on the web (<https://www.ifla.org/publications/unimarc-formats-and-related-documentation?og=33>).

Protocol Between PUC and RSC

The draft protocol between the PUC and the RDA Steering Committee (RSC) was further refined and has been sent to the RSC for its consideration. The submitted version follows:

Protocol Between the RSC and the Permanent UNIMARC Committee

Background

“RDA is a package of data elements, guidelines, and instructions for creating library and cultural heritage resource metadata that are well-formed according to international models for user-focussed linked data applications” – <http://rda-rsc.org/>

The RDA Steering Committee (RSC) maintains and develops vocabulary encoding schemes (VESs) for several RDA recorded elements. The vocabularies are amended following established RSC policies and procedures.

The RSC provides linked data versions of the RDA vocabularies in the Open Metadata Registry (OMR) and RDA Registry.

The RSC maintains, jointly with the IFLA ISBD Review Group, a mapping between ISBD and RDA elements.

UNIMARC (Universal MARC format) is a format for the representation and communication of bibliographic, authority, classification, and holdings information in machine-readable form, originally created by IFLA. The IFLA Permanent UNIMARC Committee (PUC) within the IFLA UNIMARC Strategic Programme is responsible for maintaining the UNIMARC format and for the editorial development of the UNIMARC documentation.

The PUC updates the UNIMARC format following established policies and procedures, and maintains and develops a number of VESs as UNIMARC code lists.

Purpose

The purpose of this protocol is to support communication between the editorial processes of the RSC and the PUC in order to support functional and semantic interoperability between data compatible with RDA and data compatible with the UNIMARC format.

The result of the editorial processes is RDA/UNIMARC mappings added to the RDA Toolkit.

Methodology

The protocol is intended to be light-weight to avoid significant changes to the current practices, priorities, and workflows of the RSC and PUC.

The usual channel of communication between the two groups are the RSC consulting liaison to the PUC and the PUC consulting liaison to the RSC, who are responsible for routine communication and reviewing each group's activity for potential issues.

Duties of the RSC

The RSC will:

- Inform PUC at the earliest opportunity of impending changes to RDA that may impact on UNIMARC.
- Liaise with PUC on the development and maintenance of linked data mappings between RDA and UNIMARC value vocabularies.
- Liaise with PUC on the development and maintenance of linked data mappings between RDA and UNIMARC element sets.
- Nominate a consulting liaison to the PUC.

Duties of the PUC

The PUC will:

- Inform the RSC at the earliest opportunity of impending changes to UNIMARC vocabularies that may impact on RDA.
- Liaise with the RSC on the development and maintenance of linked data mappings between RDA and UNIMARC value vocabularies.
- Liaise with the RSC on the development and maintenance of linked data mappings between RDA and UNIMARC element sets.
- Nominate a consulting liaison with the RSC.

Mr. Gentili-Tedeschi will add the final version of the protocol to the PUC website when it is approved by the RSC.

UNIMARC in RDF Project

The UNIMARC in RDF project still awaits IFLA action on funding the IFLA Namespace project.

Upcoming UNIMARC Work, Meetings, and Other Activities

Under the organizational leadership of Ms. Akbari-Daryan, the Fifth UNIMARC Users Group Meeting is planned for 2018 November 17-18 in Teheran, as part of the annual meeting of the Iranian Library and Information Science Association. Ms. Akbari-Daryan will send details so that they can be added to the PUC website. The Iranian Library and Information Science Association will handle most of the promotion. Ms. Olga Zhlobinskaya (Boris Yeltsin Presidential Library, Russia) is planning to present at the meeting. Others may be able to participate remotely.

The 29th meeting of the PUC is planned for 2019 May 9-10 at IZUM in Maribor, Slovenia.