Bibliographic Control in the Context of the Integrated Library Systems of the Baltic Countries

by

Regina Varnienė

The Centre of Bibliography and Book Science
Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

Three years ago various initiatives were undertaken to improve information delivery to users in the Baltic Countries.

One of these projects was the creation of the Integrated Library Systems in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The main goals of these systems included the realization of shared cataloguing and bibliographic control, which are being implemented in close co-operation between all Baltic countries.

Disregarding the existing analogy among the principal stipulations and rules in projecting the Integrated Library Systems in the Baltic countries, each of these systems should be considered individually, as most questions concerning the systems have been resolved quite differently, e.g., the design of the integrated system and its separate sub-systems, as well as formats selected for the bibliographic and authority records, cataloguing rules, adequate software, etc.

Lithuania

The idea of shared cataloguing was introduced in Lithuania in 1998 via the creation of the Union Catalogue — the biggest sub-system of the Lithuanian Integrated Library Information System (LIBIS).

Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania took the lead by establishing LIBIS and thus became the main operational centre of the Union Catalogue (UC).

According to LIBIS and a detailed Union Catalogue project[2], the UC is the biggest and the most important LIBIS database, compiled by libraries co-operating in the preparation of bibliographic records.

The main goal of the UC is to eliminate duplication in cataloguing and to provide users with bibliographic information about the documents published in Lithuania and abroad, which are stored in the Lithuanian libraries, including their depository location.

The Consortium of the research libraries of Lithuania decided to assign the cataloguing of foreign publications to the various libraries in accordance with their specializations. The Centre of Bibliography and Book Science of the National Library of Lithuania is responsible for cataloguing documents published in Lithuania.

Recently, sixteen research libraries of the Consortium were involved in the creation of the UC. As stated by the libraries' agreement, they are able to use common data for their local purposes and to contribute their own records to the UC.

The UC is developed according to the following requirements:
■ capacity should be provided for full UNIMARC bibliographic records;
■ the database contains multi-level records;
■ links in multi-level records are assured;
■ it is possible to modify or delete fields or subfields without rekeying the entire field or subfield;
■ the master record contains all call numbers, notes, subject headings, etc., which might be requested by different locations;
■ all copies of the same edition of the title are linked to the master record of the title concerned.

Following the recommendations of UBCIM and of the CoBRA projects[3], a separate national bibliographic database was created.

According to the project, this national bibliographic database will guarantee bibliographic control of all types of documents published uc Lithuania, starting with the first book published in 1547 till nowadays, including Lithuanian documents published abroad.

This aim will be achieved by the creation of 4 modules of the national bibliographic database.

The retrospective bibliography module provides for:
■ formation and compilation of the analytical records of periodicals (1823–1890),
■ compilation of bibliographic records of books (1547–1994),
■ compilation of bibliographic records of periodicals (1823–1940).

The major part of this module is available in machine-readable form, but not in the UNIMARC format. These records will be converted in the nearest future in the framework of the Conversion project.

The current bibliography module must ensure the compilation of:
■ bibliographic records of periodicals (1994–   )
■ bibliographic records of books (1994–   )
■ analytical bibliographic records of periodicals (1994–   )
■ analytical bibliographic records of collected articles (1994–   )
■ bibliographic records of fine arts (1994–   )
■ bibliographic records of sheet music (1996 -)
■ bibliographic records of computer files (1996–   ).

The current bibliography has been available in machine-readable form since March 1994 in the PROCITE format.

The compilation of the current national bibliography in UNIMARC, employing new software, started on 1 June 1998.

The factual data module consists of:
■ a collection of ISBN and ISMN records files, which contain information about the publishers and data about the specialists responsible for the system's functioning,
■ a collection of ISSN records files, which contain information about serial publications and their publishers, data on the persons responsible for ISSN, their phone and fax numbers, etc.,
■ a collection of statistical data on Lithuanian printed materials. It contains data about the type, design and purpose of the publication, its contents, place of publication, publisher's name, language of the text, size of publication, etc.

The authority records module provides a compilation of names of persons, corporate bodies, titles of classical works, titles of series, geographical names, pseudonyms and subject headings.

The contents of the national bibliographic databases should foster the rational utilization of the work of cataloguers and technical resources and help to avoid duplication in cataloguing the documents published in Lithuania.

The current bibliography in UNIMARC has been made available to other libraries via the national bibliographic database since 10 June 1998. The retrospective national bibliography will be available only after the Conversion project, which will start in the nearest future.

According to the LIBIS project requirements, another copy of the UC is stored in Kaunas Technological University.

Libraries participating in the creation of the UC follow the new cataloguing rules[4], which were developed in 1997. They are based on the ISBDs and conform to the European cataloguing traditions, especially regarding treatment of the corporate bodies and uniform headings.

The cataloguing rules also cover all types of media, including electronic resources, as defined by the new legal deposit law No.1389 (22 November 1996)[5].

To create bibliographic and authority records in UNIMARC and in order to comply with the new cataloguing rules, a new software was developed by the local programmers of the joint-stock company "Sigmanta". This software supports all operations of the UC in the area of acceptance and transmission of records.

Since May 1997, "Sigmanta" has been developing a software for Lithuanian libraries, designed for the Union Catalogue sub-system of LIBIS. The UC of LIBIS is being implemented in the operational centre of the National Library of Lithuania, which collects information from the electronic catalogues of all LIBIS member libraries. During the implementation phase, nine libraries have submitted information for the UC in the ISO 2709 format. At present, significant progress is being achieved by importing bibliographic records from those libraries. On 25 May 1998 approximately 55 000 records had been installed in the LIBIS UC, fully conform to the requirements set up for bibliographic description.

The LIBIS software is developed on the basis of DBVS ORACLE, using the ORACLE Context Cartrige module for the creation of retrieval indexes. The software presents the following peculiarities:
■ information maintenance and processing are realized in the UNIMARC/Bibliographic and UNIMARC/Authorities formats;
■ the system incorporates name and subject databases presently used in Lithuania;
■ the UNIMARC/Bibliographic and UNIMARC/Authorities databases, which reflect the existing cataloguing traditions in Lithuania, are used for the qualitative evaluation of the bibliographic descriptions;
■ both data input and processing are achieved via UNICODE coding, which enables multi-language and multi-character data storage;
■ retrieval and usage of bibliographic information are supported via OPAC and OPAC-WWW, which present information in the UNICODE coding;
■ the cataloguing sub-system provides best possibilities for the arrangement of bibliographic records in UNIMARC and for hierarchic and parallel links with the name and subject authority databases.

At present, the development of the acquisition modules (ILL, Z39.50, etc.) is in progress.

Latvia

In Latvia, the common database for the creation of the Union Catalogue of the Consortium of Latvian research libraries will be set up in the nearest future in the framework of two projects

[Library Information Network] and LATLIBNED (Latvian Library Network).

The National Library of the Republic of Latvia is responsible for the bibliographic database of documents published in Latvia, created according to the 1992 law which specifies that the database should be built up in coordination with other libraries and designed in order to develop a Union Catalogue ". . . to provide users with data".

The libraries of the Consortium of Latvia have agreed on the following principles of the Union Catalogue:
■ the UC will be open and accessible not only to the members of the Consortium but also to other users obtaining information via Internet;
■ the UC will provide information retrieval with uniform access to the complete, reliable and updated information on library collections;
■ the UC will include bibliographic and holdings information on all types of documents deposited at the libraries regardless of the language of publication;
■ the UC will ensure bibliographic control of records, effective serials control and authority control and, in addition, conformity to international standards and regulations, thus enabling proper information exchange with the libraries and information users;
■ the UC will ensure the data export/import with other library information systems, as well as conversion of the existing manual catalogue into machine-readable form;
■ the UC will enable compilation and printing of all types of bibliographic indexes;
■ the UC will promote coordination of acquisition and cataloguing processes.

The major part of the national bibliography has recently been made available in electronic form:
● Latvian periodicals (1768–1995) — 21 123 entries;
● press statistics (since 1995) — 6 300 entries (annual increase — 21 000);
● Latvian periodicals (1991–1995) — 2 150 entries (annual increase — 500);
● Latvian national analytics (since 1996) — 233 000 entries (annual increase — 90 000 entries);
● Latvia and Latvians in the world press (since 1997) — 5 200 entries;
● database of national books (since 1997) — 2 500 entries.
Information in text file form:
● database of Latvian national analytics (1994–1995) — 130 000 records;
● database of national books (1993–1996) — 6 300 records;
● Latvia and the Latvians in the world press (1991, 1993–1996) — 18 800 records.
Online catalogues:
● online catalogue of current national books (1998–);
● online catalogue of national analytics (1998–);
● online catalogue of the system of periodicals (Latvian periodicals 1768–1997; the project has been carried out with the support of Soros Foundation Latvia).

Members of the Consortium have agreed to use the USMARC format as well as the corresponding USMARC/Authority.

The National Library of Latvia has already prepared 21 678 authority records based on the USMARC format.

AACR2 is currently applied for cataloguing in the National Library only. The Consortium supports partial application of the AACR2 in all libraries. ISBDs in Latvian are not yet available. The libraries are using the original ISBDs, which are published in English.

According to the projects, (Library Information Network and LATLIBNET) and as the new legal deposit law, which was passed in November 1997, the bibliographic description of all types of media, including electronic, should be contributed to the Union Catalogue.

Estonia

The "Information System of Estonian Libraries" project was completed in 1994[6].

The general aim of this project was to create an Integrated Information System in Estonian libraries.

The main tasks of this system are:
● formation of a user-friendly information and communication system;
● automation of the main routine processes;
● creation of machine-readable databases, including library collections, national bibliography and special bibliographies.

The idea is based on the distribution of cataloguing work and using the shared bibliographic database by all libraries.

According to the project of the creation of the Integrated Library System of Estonia, bibliographic records will be created only once and used by all libraries. Only acquisition and circulation data will be different for each library.

According to the agreement of 14 September 1995 signed by the Estonian research libraries, they assigned the creation of the main databases of two Union Catalogues to Tallinn and Tartu.

The national bibliography is not a separate subsystem, but one of the integral parts of the Union catalogue of the National Library of Estonia.

The National Library of Estonia is responsible for the creation of bibliographic databases of all national documents, including documents in the Estonian language published abroad.

As the main legal deposit library, it is responsible for the compilation of the current national bibliography — monographs and serials, as well as the analytical bibliography. All materials included since 1991 are in a relatively easily convertible, machine-readable form.

The Estonian Academic Library is another legal deposit institution, which receives documents on natural sciences. The Library is responsible for the compilation of the bibliographic databases and for the publication of a retrospective national bibliography.

The databases covering the years 1675–1940 (documents published abroad) and the years 1851–1917 for the documents published in Estonia are available online and are presented in the USMARC format.

Cataloguing of foreign documents is assigned to Estonian libraries according to their specialization.

In April 1996, the Estonian Consortium of research libraries made its final decision: the information system of Estonian libraries would be based on ILS INNOPAC.

The Consortium also decided to have two mirror UC in Tallinn and Tartu. Due to financial constraints, compilation of the UC is shared between these two centres. The prime task, to have two equal mirror files of the UC, will be achieved very soon.

The Consortium of Estonian research libraries adopted USMARC, which suits the American system INNOPAC, as main format for the bibliographic and authority records. The Estonian Integrated Library System project has as main requirement the use of the same software and hardware, which guarantees the integration of the libraries involved in the project into all the system components.

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