China National Bibliography at the Crossroad

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Basic Facts about NLC

• 1909: Metropolitan Library was founded.
• 1916: Began to received legal deposit copies.
• 1931: New premises were built in Wenjin Street. They are now the Branch Library.
Legal Deposit Policy

• No legal deposit law
• No National Library Law
• Some rules and regulations by the State Council or by GAPP (General Administration of Press and Publications)
• Rules and regulations are not very effective
Legal Deposit Copies

• Books:
  – 1 copy to Book Department of GAPP,
  – 1 copy to National Depository Library of GAPP,
  – 3 copies to National Library of China.
Low Legal Deposit Rate to NLC

• Because NLC is not responsible for ISBN registration,
• rules and regulations are not effective,
• the legal deposit rate of NLC is just 70%.
• NLC has to pay additional money to buy book to realize the coverage of 98%, not including school textbooks and children’s literature.
National Bibliographies

• National Depository Library publishes *National Register of Books* annually
  – Mainly used by acquisitions librarians

• National Library of China
  – published printed version of *China National Bibliography* during 1985-1993,
  – Distributing MARC records now.
Online Library Cataloging Center

- Online Library Cataloging Center is responsible for the distribution of MARC records.
- OLCC is a part of the Acquisitions & Cataloging Department (http://olcc.nlc.gov.cn).
- Records from NLC and other participating libraries.
- 1.2 million bibliographical records for monographs and about 100,000 new records every year.
CIP, BIP and NDL

• National Depository Library under GAPP is responsible for CIP.
• CIP information is not accurate.
• CIP is not done by professional librarians.
• CIP doesn’t release MARC records.
• CIP doesn’t have authority control.
• Some people are considering to use CIP information for BIP or national bibliographies, but there are no results yet.
National Bibliographies: Printed to Electronic

• Low legal deposit rate doesn’t allow NLC’s catalog to cover all publications in China.
• Since NLC doesn’t collect children’s books and school textbooks, the coverage is even narrower.
• Lack of cataloging cooperation between NLC and other Chinese libraries, NLC’s database cannot include some titles.
• Some solutions are considered.
Roles of NLC – Rule Maker

- *CNMARC Authority Format* (2002)
- *Chinese Library Classification and Classified Chinese Thesaurus*
Roles of NLC – Bib. Services

- China National Bibliography (1949-Present): 1.2 million records and 100,000 new records every year;
- Bibliographical Records for Monographs during 1911-1949: 140,000 records;
- Bibliographical Database of Rare Books in NLC: 47,000 records;
- Foreign languages, A/V materials, E-publications, etc.;
- Best quality and fullest level.
Roles of NLC – Training

• The Online Library Cataloging Center provides training courses for Chinese librarians two or three times a year.

• NLC hosts seminars and conferences on library cataloging irregularly.
Bibliographical Formats

• Chinese Libraries use CNMARC and MARC21.
• NLC uses UNIMARC-based CNMARC for Chinese publications and MARC21 for foreign publications.
Classification & Subject

• NLC uses *Chinese Library Classification* for all publications,

• Uses *Classified Chinese Thesaurus* for Chinese publications,

• Uses LC name and subject authority files for Western publications.
Union Catalogs

- Online Library Cataloging Center (OLCC) hosted by the National Library of China
  - 900 users mainly from public libraries, no holding records now
- CALIS (China Academic Library and Information System, hosted by Peking University Library
  - 500 users mainly from university libraries, with holding records
- Some rules and regulations are not compatible between the OLCC and CALIS.
Authority Control

- NLC have a name authority database with 600,000 records.
- NLC drafted a rule for the description of name authority records according to GARR.
- There are controversies over the name authority control and the selection name headings in China, especially between NLC and CALIS.
Foreign Languages

• NLC uses MARC21 format.
• NLC uses LC name authority file and LCSH for Western languages.
• Japanese, Russian and Korean: no authority control.
• We hope to learn experiences from Japanese and Korean colleagues.
Problems: Authority Control (1)

- Should a Chinese national authority database use Chinese characters in the established heading?
- If yes,
  - How we can process 稲浜みのる (Inahama Minoru) without corresponding Kanji (Chinese characters)?
  - Shall we use 莎士比亚 (Chinese form of William Shakespeare) as the established heading?
Problems: Authority Control (2)

• If we use LC Name Authority File for Western languages, Japanese authority file for Japanese publications, Russian, Korean, etc., how can we process names with different forms (Chinese, Romanized, Cyrillic) existing?
• Shall we create different records with see also references?
Problems: 2 “national bibliographies”

• One (by NDL) is more complete but not for libraries,
• The other (by NLC) is not complete but is for libraries.
Problems: Foreign Languages in NB

• No foreign languages in the China National Bibliography:
  – Publications in foreign languages in China are cataloged in the database for foreign languages and not included in the National Bibliography database.
Problems: Narrow Coverage

• NLC’s database doesn’t include
  – School textbooks,
  – Children’s and juvenile literature.
• They are included in some national bibliographies of other countries.
Problems: Services to Foreign Libraries

• Conversion from CNMARC to MARC21,
• Conversion from *Chinese Library Classification* to DDC,
• Conversion from Chinese characters to Pinyin Romanization and creation of 880 fields for Chinese characters,
• Manual and automatic conversion.
Conclusions

• China National Bibliography is at the crossroad of its development.
• Will it development in its own way?
• Will it development in the direction of internationalization?
• Will Chinese bibliographical records be used by more libraries?
• How to realize a complete authority control in China?
Thank You

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