National Bibliographies
the Chinese Experience

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China National Bibliography: History

• China National Bibliography (中国国家书目 (1985)) was published in 1987.
• Compiled by the National Library of China
• Ceased to be published in 1994, because of
  – Financial problem,
  – Annual increase of publications,
  – Limited market.
Online National Bibliography

• Online database of the National Library of China is regarded as the electronic version of the China National Bibliography
CNB: Printed to Electronic

• Problem 1: Low legal deposit rate
• Problem 2: NLC doesn’t collect children’s books and school textbooks
• Problem 3: Lack of cooperation among Chinese libraries
CNB: Printed to Electronic

• Online Library Cataloging Center (OLCC, 全国图书馆联合编目中心) a part of the Acquisitions & Cataloging Department (图书采选编目部) of NLC, discussing with Ex Libris to make an online cataloging module in its Aleph500 system

• To form a National Union Catalog.
CNB: Online Services

- Online Library Cataloging Center is distributing CNMARC records
- Source: NLC and other participating libraries
- Z39.50 access
- National center and provincial subcenters
- 1.2 million records with 0.1 million new records every year
Legal Deposit Policies in China

• No legal deposit law
• Regulations by government departments
• Not very effective
• Legal deposit copies (monographs):
  – GAPP (General Administration of Press and Publications): 1 copy
  – National Depository Library: 1 copy
  – National Library of China: 3 copies
Reasons of Low Deposit Rates

• NLC is not responsible for ISBN registration.
• About 70% for monographs.
• We are appealing to draft a national library law, which should include legal deposit issues.
Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan

- Hong Kong returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1997
- Macau returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1999
- Special administrative regions of the People’s Republic of China and have some independent powers: no legal deposit copies
- Taiwan: Political, not technical reasons.
- OLCC can provide CNMARC records of these publications collected in NLC.
Different Formats and Rules

- Mainland China: CNMARC based on UNIMARC
- Hong Kong: MARC21 and Western cataloging rules
- Macau: CNMARC and MARC21
- Taiwan: CMARC (similar to CNMARC) and MARC21
- Different rules, e.g. romanization of “毛泽东” : “Mao Zedong”, “Mao, Zedong”, “mao ze dong”.
Another National Bibliography?

• National Depository Library (NDL) under GAPP publishes *National Register of Books* (全国总书目) annually.

• A kind of national bibliography partly based on CIP information.

• Acquisitions librarians sometimes use it as “Books in Print”

• It doesn’t strictly use library cataloging rules, and does not have output functions.
Authority Control

• Controversies among different library systems in China: Chinese characteristics and internationalization.

• NLC plans to correct records in its name authority database and the corresponding headings in bibliographical records.

• NLC is also making efforts to realize coordination with other libraries.
Problems (I)

• Two “national bibliographies”.
• No foreign languages in the China National Bibliography.
• Narrow coverage.
Problems (II):

• Services to Foreign Libraries:
  – Conversion from CNMARC to MARC21 formats
  – 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

• National Library of China is trying to consolidate its position as the national bibliographical agency.
• Make the National Bibliography Database more complete.
• Provide records with different formats for different users.
Thank you!
谢谢！

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