

Final Recommendations of the Joint MLA/OLAC 33X/34X Task Group

August 4, 2017, amended November 21, 2017 and September 11, 2018

Context

The initial impetus for the formation of the task group came from Jay Weitz's request for input from both our groups as he was working on the OCLC-MARC update 2017, particularly in reference to the 23 additions to the Genre/Form Code and Term Source Codes list (<http://www.loc.gov/standards/sourcelist/genre-form.html>). This request led to the realization that best practices of both groups varied in regard to MARC 344 and 347. It seemed like a good idea to have both groups discuss these same issues together.

The group considered 3 issues:

1. Inconsistent treatment of RDA and non-RDA terms in MARC 344 and 347
2. Consideration of consistent treatment of MARC 344 and 347 across formats
3. Implementation of the new \$2 source codes

The deliverables include recommendations for each of the three issues and identification of next steps for activities involving the various best practices.

Amendment, November 21, 2017: The scope of the three issues (above) was broadened to include any applicable MARC 34X field, not just 344 and 347 (e.g., applicable to 340, 345, 346, and 348). The original recommendation for Issue 3 regarding treatment of 33X fields was reconsidered in light of LC and OCLC retaining the current practice. Minor changes in wording and formatting have been made for clarification. September 11, 2018: Issue 3 recommendation was amended to provide clarity.

Recommendations

Issue 1- Address Inconsistency in treatment of non-RDA terms in MARC 34X fields

Final Recommendation:

Recommend that separate fields be used when both RDA and non-RDA terms apply within a MARC 34X field.

Next Step:

Form a joint subgroup to explore existing vocabularies or create new vocabularies for elements that do not have RDA vocabulary available or where the RDA vocabulary is insufficient. Alternatively, each community can proceed with activity on their own, consulting the other community on elements of interest to both communities.

Issue 2- Consider consistent treatment of MARC **34X** across formats

Final Recommendation:

Recommend consistent treatment of MARC 34X across (music and video) formats with exceptions only as needed.

Next Step:

Form a joint subgroup to review both communities' sets of best practices to see where practices line up or diverge and make recommendations for revision.

Issue 3- Consider Implementation of the new \$2 source codes for 33X and 34X

Final Recommendation:

Recommend retention of current practice for MARC 336/337/338 fields; that is, do not apply the new \$2 source codes.

Recommend separate fields when different source codes apply to vocabulary within a MARC 34X field. Recommend use of new \$2 source codes for MARC 34X fields.

Amendment, September 11, 2018: Add sentence to recommendation: "Recommend use of new \$2 source codes for MARC 34X fields."

Next Step:

Investigate whether a change to MARC to make \$2 repeatable for 33X and 34X fields would be desirable or feasible. Form a subgroup to do this or assign to OLAC CAPC chair and/or MLA Encoding Standards Subcommittee chair.

Amendment, November 21, 2017: After consultation with those close to MAC, it is recommended not to pursue this next step at the present time.