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Recommendations Regarding Series Tracing for I-Share Libraries

Prepared by the I-Share Cataloging and Authority Control Team (ICAT)

February 2011

Introduction

In August 2008, the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) Steering Committee initiated a new series policy in which transcription of the series statement is mandatory but the tracing of series via the use of series authority records is optional (see <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/pcc/Response-series-policy-2008.pdf>). The Final Report of the Task Group on BIBCO Standard Record Requirements includes the proviso that the decision to trace a series is a matter of local cataloging policy (see <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/pcc/bibco/BSR-Final-Report.pdf>). The PCC implementation of the guidelines in this Final Report began January 4, 2010. These recommendations were prepared in response.

Recommendation #1: ICAT recommends that each library continue tracing series so they can be found using the series indexes.

Explanation: ICAT believes consistent series access is important to many users and recommends that I-Share libraries continue to trace series using authorized forms.

There is a new entry on the CARLI Shared SQL page that is designed to help staff identify bibliographic records with a series statement currently coded as 490 0 (untraced) that perhaps should be changed to a 490 1 / 8XX combination (traced, using current series coding). Library staff interested in pursuing this type of database maintenance project should see the query called "Bibliographic records with 490 ind1 equals 0" at http://www.carli.illinois.edu/mem-prod/I-Share/secure/sql/sql-local_cat1.html#4901is0

Recommendation #2: ICAT recommends that libraries discontinue the use of the 400/410/411/440 fields for series added entries in favor of using the appropriate 490/8XX combination for records being added to the I-Share catalog.

Explanation: October 2008, the Library of Congress approved the proposal to make fields 400/410/411/440 obsolete in the MARC 21 format. All transcribed series statements are entered in the 490 field whether or not they match the authorized form of the series title. All series added entries are entered in the appropriate 8XX field. In many cases a 490 and an 8XX will be identical, but they serve different functions: the 490 is a descriptive field--the series transcribed as it appears on the item--and the 8XX is an added entry in the authorized form. The most common combination will be a 490/830 combination (series title added entry).

Recommendation #3: The Task Force recommends that each library make its own decision whether or not to edit existing I-Share catalog records with 400/410/411/440 fields to change them to the appropriate 490/8XX fields.

Explanation: The I-Share Voyager catalog is still indexing the 400/410/411/440 fields, so ICAT feels it isn't vitally important to retroactively improve existing catalog records to conform to the new MARC coding standards regarding series tracing.