

How to express MARC in XML

[discussion paper]

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(Some) topics to discuss:

1. [Beside the huge (historical) merits of the MARC formats], detection of MARC's drawbacks:

- un-normalized records;
- 1:1 principle not observed;
- (relative) rigidity.

2. (Hidden) XML features in MARCs

- elements: fields/subfields;
- attributes: indicators;
- types: manifestations, persons, corporate bodies, works...
- (hidden) relations.

3. Main problem: conserving or extending/refining the MARC semantics ?

Plan A: conserving - see MARC 21 XML Schema [www.loc.gov/standards/marcxml/], i.e. problem solved !

Plan B: extending/refining: changing the data model ?

4. Merging the bibliographic and authority and holdings formats ?

5. Record structure: conserving the "MARC blocks" or moving closer to the "presentation record" ?

"Presentation record", i.e. something like:

```
<identifiers>
```

```
...
```

```
</identifiers>
```

```
<descriptivePart>
```

```
... [ISBD zones]...
```

```
</descriptivePart>
```

```
<headings>
```

```
...
```

```
</headings>
```

```
<etc>
```

```
...
```

```
</etc>
```

- 6.** How to handle the bibliographic relationships ? More generally, is a (complete) bibliographic file a topic map ?
- 7.** (If we extend the data model) how to express FRBR entities ?
- 8.** How to deal with the coded information ? More generally, how to handle the "language/culture independence" ?