Overview

On the use of UNIMARC in Lithuanian libraries and the role of the National library

The application of UNIMARC in Lithuania has been related to the planning and creation of Lithuanian Integrated Library Information System (LIBIS). On 8 July 1993 the Lithuanian Research Library Consortium, which laid the methodological basis for this system was established. On 7 July 1994 the draft of LIBIS was presented to the libraries of Lithuania.

The coming of UNIMARC to Lithuania also coincided with the reorganisation of national bibliographic control as in 1992 the Lithuanian Book Chamber established in 1945, a predecessor of the present-day Centre, was reorganised into the Centre of Bibliography and Book Science and transferred the functions of a national bibliographic agency to Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania (NLL). After it became a centre of national bibliographic methodology, the NLL had undertaken the automation of national bibliography, which required, first of all, linguistic support including the selection of internal national format for the representation and communication of bibliographic and related information in machine-readable form.

The NLL had also undertaken some methodical activities in consolidating libraries to accept the same format and other IFLA documents. Lithuania was one of many countries that did not have a national MARC format and were on the verge of taking a decision to accept UNIMARC as their in-house format best suiting national cataloguing tradition that had been related to the Central European tradition.

In quest of the best software solution it was decided to create software with the assistance of Lithuanian specialists, which could be able to meet LIBIS requirements: to catalogue documents presenting names of authors and titles in the language and script of the original work and to make complex multi-level records necessary for the national bibliography.

Software was to allow:

Creation of a separate National Bibliography Data Bank and guaranteeing of automated preparation and publication of national bibliography.
The solution of methodological problems of linguistic support in Lithuania was heavily influenced by the arrival of UBCIM Office consultants. A member of the PUC, Mirna Willer (National and University Library, Zagreb, Croatia), was sent to Lithuania in October 1993 to provide UNIMARC training to several institutions. She was sponsored by the UBCIM Programme and the National Library of Lithuania.

The Regional UBC/UNIMARC Workshop for the Baltic States and Scandinavia with participation of Russia that took place in Vilnius, in June 1994 had a very deep impact on the development of linguistic support including UNIMARC development and implementation in Lithuania as well as the development of the national bibliographic control. The workshop was attended by the leading specialists in UNIMARC: Francoise Bourdon, Ross Bourne, John D. Byrum, Fernanda Campos, Alan Hopkinson, Dorothy McGarry, Marie France Plassard, Sussane Santiago, Hartmut Walravens and Mirna Willer.

This seminar was organised by the UBCIM Programme and the Division of Bibliographic Control in collaboration with the National Library of Lithuania and sponsored largely by the Soros Foundation. Among the participants (around one hundred) were representatives from the Baltic States, Scandinavia and Russia as well as international IFLA experts. It was the first seminar of this kind to include presentations on ISBN and ISSN by the directors of the international agencies.

This seminar also initiated the UNIMARC training courses organised for Lithuanian librarians.

One more seminar on The Function of Bibliographic Control in the Global Information Infrastructure took place in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 17-19 June 1998. It was an international seminar on bibliographic control organised and hosted by the National Library of Lithuania in co-operation with the IFLA UBCIM Core Programme and the IFLA Permanent UNIMARC Committee. The seminar extended the vision and comprehension of metadata as well as broadened the scope of metadata application.

The representative of National Library has been participating in the activities of PUC since 1996 assisting in an instant application of UNIMARC innovations in the development of LIBIS software and installation of these novelties in Lithuanian libraries. The 12th meeting of the PUC was held in Vilnius (Lithuania) in March 2001.

The implementation and application of UNIMARC in Lithuania has proved to be highly perspective; therefore, some former Soviet Union and now independent countries such as Moldova, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kirghizia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Byelorussia have been inviting the NLL specialists to share experience of UNIMARC usage.

One of the most important modules in the continuous training programme of Lithuanian specialists carried out in the Specialist Training Institute is UNIMARC and its relation with ISBD. The lecturers of this course are the specialists from the NLL.

For several years Vilnius University has been providing a study course on machine-readable formats, which was undoubtedly initiated by the automation process taking place in the libraries of Lithuania and UNIMARC development. The course of studies on UNIMARC and computer cataloguing has also been lectured by the specialists of the National Library.

Some of the libraries, however, have bought systems that use other MARC formats, for example two university libraries in Kaunas and the Library of the Academy of Science, etc. A factor that influenced making such decision was that some libraries found UNIMARC too complex for their needs and difficult to use. Notwithstanding, the research libraries that chose ALEPH software with MARC 21 as an internal format followed the agreement to use UNIMARC in their libraries.
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNIMARC IN LITHUANIA

Our library has implemented UNIMARC since 1993.

One can distinguish some levels of the impact of UNIMARC on support and development of the Lithuanian Integrated Library Information System (LIBIS):

• Cataloguing in publication;
• Union Catalogue;
• Cataloguing and Authority Files Creation;
• National Bibliographic Data Bank;
• Subsystems of Analytical Bibliography, Electronic Resources, Retroconversion;
• Digitisation programmes;
• Assignment of the International Standard Numbers (ISSN, ISBN, ISMN);
• Statistical control of Lithuanian documents;
• Creation of Integrated Virtual Library Information System;
• Scientific, methodical and publishing activities.

LIBIS SOFTWARE USERS according to the data of 2005:
5 (out of 5) county libraries
60 (out of 60) public libraries
7 main and special libraries:
M. Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania
Library of Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
Library of Ministry of Defence
Lithuanian Library for the Blind
Lithuanian Library of Medicine
Lithuanian Technical library
Lithuanian Library of Agriculture

We have some UNIMARC tools in Lithuanian.

In 1993 the Centre of the Bibliography and Book Science at M. Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania translated and published "UNIMARC Manual".


Translated from: UNIMARC: an introduction, 1994


ISBN 9955-541-03-2
Based on: UNIMARC guideline No. 3: Older Monographic Publications (ANTIQUARIAN)

UNIMARC guideline No. 6: Electronic Resources was used for the compilation of Guidelines for the creation of computer records of e-resources during the development of Subsystems of Electronic Resources.


The guidelines include Lithuanian samples making the work of the cataloguers much easier. Guidelines and other aforementioned documents allow the cataloguers to prepare complete bibliographic and authority records, which fully conform to International standards and requirements. It should be noted that the above mentioned guidelines became the basis for LIBIS linguistic support. It accumulates national cataloguing practices, documents of bibliographic record and authority records as well as formats of bibliographic and authority records into a single unit.

However, seven years have passed since the publication of the guidelines; therefore, the terminology has undergone a major change.

At present a specialist working group established in National Library is working on the preparation of a new edition of Kompiuteriniu bibliografiniu ir autoritetiniu irašu sudarymo metodikos (Guidelines for Creation of Computerised Bibliographic and Authority Records), where the following documents are going to be referred to:

UNIMARC Manual : Bibliographic Format. It includes the changes published in Updates 4 and 5.
UNIMARC Manual : Authorities Format. 2nd. revised and enlarged version is prepared now for implementation.

For the purpose of terminology update UNIMARC/B and UNIMARC/A concise bibliographic and authority formats is also published. Anyone interested, please go to our website and follow the references:

http://www.lnb.lt/lnb/selectLanguage.do?language=en

PUBLICATIONS

Electronic Publications

Kompiuteriniu bibliografiniu ir autoritetiniu irašu sudarymo pagrindai (Creation Outlines of Machine-Readable Bibliographic and Authority Records)

http://www.lnb.lt/stotisFiles/uploadedAttachments/irasu_sudarymo_pagrindai20050127266.pdf