

Topics on Cutting-Edge Technology in LIS

The article on "Copy Cataloguing in India: a Viewpoint" is a part of the series of Topics on Cutting-Edge Technology in LIS. The author of this article Sh. Rajesh Chandrakar, Scientist B and Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET Centre explain about the copy cataloguing facility especially in the online environment for the Indian librarian. Sh. Chandrakar and Dr. Arora can be contacted at rajesh@inflibnet.ac.in and director@inflibnet.ac.in, respectively.

The libraries in India, especially the corporate, research and academic libraries, are currently moving towards digitization of their library collections after automating the library functions in first stage. These libraries are now working for improving the library services by implementing ICT and ICT based Web 2.0 and Library 2.0 services. The library automation, which was discussed during 1990s, is hardly a topic of discussion for many professionals as they have moved on with the pace of technology to more recent topics such as digitization, digital libraries, Library 2.0, IRs, etc.

The higher education system of India consists of more than 412 universities and 20,000 colleges across the countries [1]. From our experiences of visiting various universities and colleges across the country, it is observed that only 35% of the universities and colleges located in the urban cities, seem to have completed the computerization of their libraries. As per our experiences, many libraries, especially the college and public libraries, are yet to computerise their day-to-day functions due to lack of budget, infrastructure, and skilled manpower. Library automation and retrospective conversion of library collections, therefore, remain important activities to be discussed and deliberated upon. We opined that the retrospective conversion is one of the major areas that should be discussed in greater length with an aim to help libraries to create / download quality bibliographic records for their library automation.

The retrospective conversion is a process of converting the existing library catalogue in to the machine readable format. The process of retrospective conversion is challenging, time consuming and is a very expensive task for the library. Every library that automates its catalogue has to go through the process of retrospective conversion of library collection. There are two ways to do the retrospective conversion of library catalogues. The retrospective conversion can be done either by referring to the physical book or

using the print catalogue of the book, but, either method is time-consuming, expensive and labour-intensive. The copy cataloguing of bibliographic records from other sources could be better option for retrospective conversion.

The authors in this article discuss retrospective conversion and explain the possibility of an inexpensive way of doing retrospective conversion of the library catalogues by using the copy cataloguing functionalities offered by various agencies viz. Library of Congress, British Library and IndCat of INFLIBNET Centre.

What is Copy Cataloguing?

Copy Cataloguing is a process of cataloguing items using pre-catalogued machine readable records. It involves finding a machine-readable record (MARC) from other libraries or libraries in a network that matches the item in hand. The philosophy of copy cataloguing is that one need not catalogue an item which has already been catalogued by someone, especially if it could be downloaded over the Internet.[2] The process of cataloguing is costly. Copy cataloguing provides the solution to save the cost of cataloguing and time of library staff. What cataloguers are looking for is the most appropriate record available from other online catalogue by using an exhaustive search process, while working independently. The goal is to locate an appropriate bibliographic record and download it in the local LMS (Library Management Software). Traditionally, cataloguers in developed countries have been copying catalogue records that member libraries have contributed to bibliographic utilities over network such as OCLC. Libraries in India, however, did not have any such options till now. However, the INFLIBNET, has recently, made it possible through its union catalogue named IndCat.

The Process of Copy Cataloguing

The procedures involved in copy cataloguing are as follows:

- ▶ Search for the bibliographic record in bibliographic databases that allows copy cataloguing
- ▶ If record is available in database, download the record in ISO 2709 format

- ▶ Add local information such as class number, book number, bar code and local notes.
- ▶ Validate record.
- ▶ Save the record in the database of your LMS software.

Sources for Copy Cataloguing

There are a number of sources for copy cataloguing. The libraries in developed countries are doing copy cataloguing for years by using copy cataloguing services offered by bibliographic utilities over networks such as OCLC, British Library, and Publisher's databases. Libraries in the UK, mostly use the COPAC (CURL OPAC- catalogue of largest research university libraries in UK) and the British Library databases. Libraries in the US use the Library of Congress Catalogue and OCLC WorldCat for retrospective conversion of their collection. In developed countries, "ready catalogue" provided by the publishers at the time of selling the books are used for cataloguing new collections of the libraries (Mason, 2009). Additionally, most of the integrated LMS software provides copy cataloguing facility. On other hand, Indian libraries may exceptionally use ready catalogue of publishers; mostly they may not be aware of the service as none of the Indian publishers provide ready catalogue with few exceptions of publishers like DK Agencies, New Delhi, who provides MARC records of their publications. Considering the facts mentioned above, it is important for the cataloguers to know about copy cataloguing services of various agencies. Indian libraries may use following sources for copy cataloguing:

- 1) INFLIBNET's IndCat
- 2) Online Catalogue of Library of Congress
- 3) British Library's Integrated Catalogue
- 4) Ready Catalogue by Publisher
- 5) WorldCat of OCLC

1. IndCat : Online Union Catalogue of Indian Universities

IndCat is an online union catalogue of Indian universities. Member universities of the INFLIBNET Centre contribute the bibliographic records of their library collections to the Centre. The Centre does quality checking of the records and if found suitable for IndCat, makes available online through IndCat not only for Indian academic community but also for everyone. The online catalogue of Indian universities contains over 10 million bibliographic records of books from 112 universities across the country. In the Indian higher education system, we do know that most of the disciplines being taught are somewhat common in the universities and colleges. The courses and the disciplines taught in the university and colleges influence the library collection, therefore, most of the libraries do have common collections on various subjects. As such, libraries

attempting copy cataloguing afresh, are likely to find records for their books in IndCat. According to the policy of the INFLIBNET Centre, the member library of the Centre submits bibliographic records quarterly to the Centre, which are available online on IndCat platform. The IndCat bibliographic records are available to everyone free-of-cost on <http://indcat.inflibnet.ac.in>. By using the copy cataloguing feature of the IndCat, the library can avoid creating catalogue records afresh at the time of cataloguing their library collections.

2. Catalogue of Library of Congress

The Library of Congress is a national library of America located in the Washington, DC. It has regional branches in almost all countries across the globe. The bibliographic records created in the branch libraries at regional level are submitted to the online catalogue of the Library of Congress at head office in the Washington. India also has a branch library of US Library of Congress at American Center, New Delhi. The important Indian books are being catalogued by this regional office and submitted to the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. The bibliographic records are accessible to anyone through the website <http://catalog.loc.gov/>. The online catalogue of the Library of Congress has facilities to search and download the records in MARC21 based ISO 2709 format.

3. British Library's Integrated Catalogue

The British Library is the national library of the UK and has three branches – St. Pancras, Colindale and Boston Spa in UK. The Integrated Catalogue of the British Library has more than 13 million items in its collection. The libraries can download any MARC records from the Integrated Catalogue, for free, one-by-one, provided the records represent their actual library holdings, from the website <http://catalogue.bl.uk>. Instruction for downloading the record is provided in help menu under "Downloading MARC records" heading.

4. Ready Catalogue by Publisher

Most publishers and booksellers offer ready catalogue of their publications in MARC format. The publishers and booksellers provide MARC records of the books, at the time of sale to the library. For example, D.K.Agencies (P) Ltd. (<http://www.dkagencies.com/>) based in New Delhi is one of the prominent and reliable suppliers of South Asian books who has a ready catalogue of all their books in MARC21 format. It would be appropriate for Indian librarians to ask the local suppliers to supply ready catalogue records of the books in MARC format. That will help librarians save time and money. Most importantly, they may get quality records of their library collection. It may also provide relief for the manpower shortage in the library to some extent.

5. WorldCat from OCLC

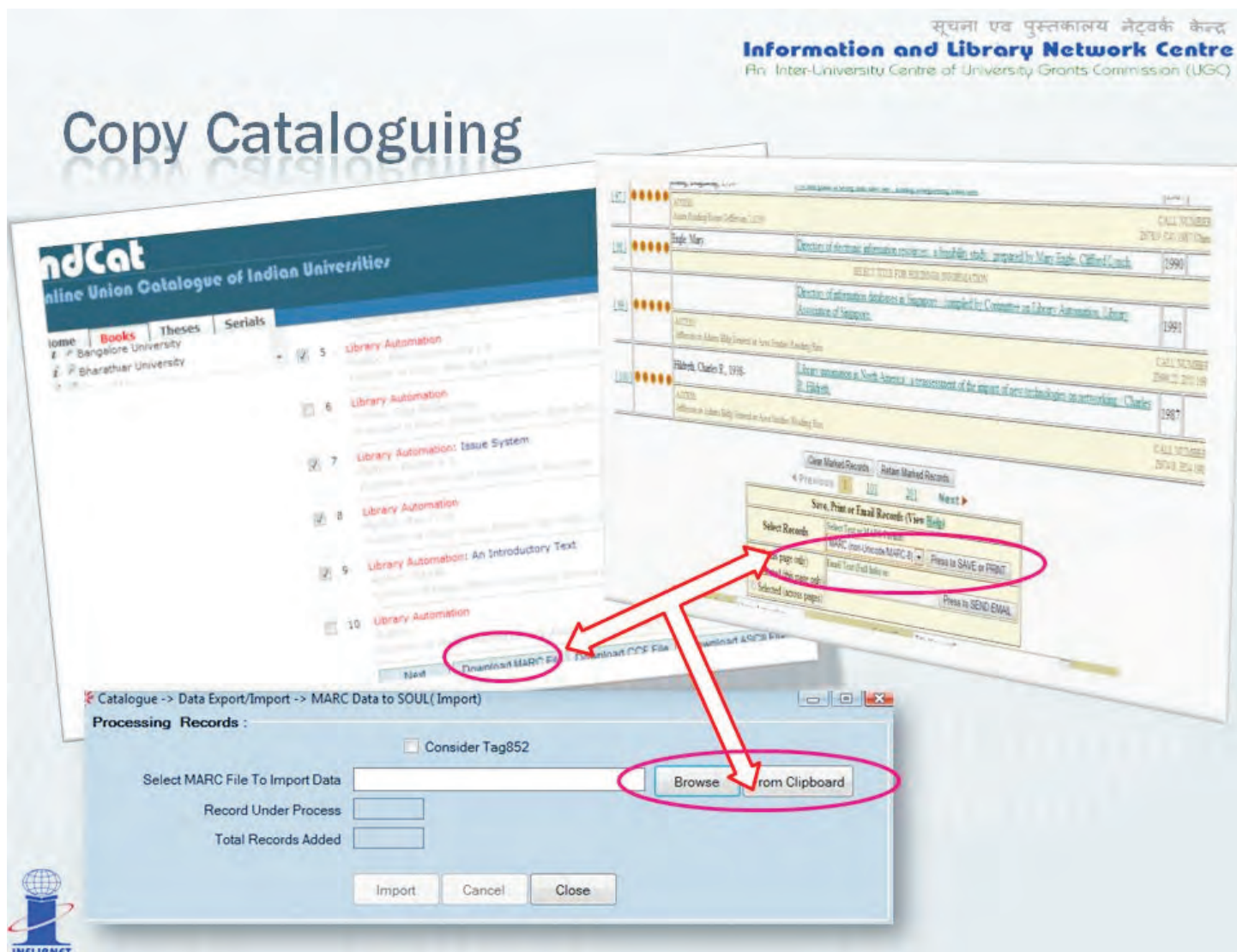
WorldCat from OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) is a global online catalogue of library collections. Apart from the libraries in US, libraries from various countries are also member of OCLC. WorldCat is a shared catalogue of member libraries of OCLC and the copy cataloguing facility of the database is accessible to the member libraries through the connection software of OCLC at <http://www.worldcat.org/> website. Thus, the copy cataloguing facility of this database merely benefits to its member libraries. It is essential to become a member of the OCLC for getting benefits of this service.

Feature of Copy Cataloguing in SOUL 2.0

SOUL (Software for University Libraries) is an integrated library management software developed by INFLIBNET Centre,

Ahmedabad.[3] SOUL 2.0, with advanced features was recently launched at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on 29th January 2009 by Prof. Sukhadev Thorat, Chairman, University Grants Commission, New Delhi (Chandrakar, 2009). The software has a number of new features added to it and copy cataloguing is one of them. The key features of SOUL 2.0 are given in INFLIBNET Newsletter Vol. 15, No.3 (July to September 2008) available at <http://www.inflibnet.ac.in/publication/newsletter>.

The MARC21 based bibliographic records available in the online databases can be used in SOUL 2.0 software through copy cataloguing feature. SOUL 2.0 uses MARC21 based ISO 2709 format, a globally accepted standard for copy cataloguing. The copy cataloguing feature of SOUL 2.0 has been tested successfully by using bibliographic records from the Library of Congress, WorldCat, British Library and IndCat.



Picture shows bibliographic records downloaded from Library of Congress and IndCat database into SOUL 2.0 software

Conclusion

Keeping in mind the manpower and budget cuts in the libraries and increasing demands of ICT based library services, it is left to the librarians to exploit the technology for the betterment of the library and its users. We conclude by suggesting that for the retrospective conversion of the library catalogues, Indian libraries should use the copy cataloguing facility available with whatever software they are using for automating the library. The authors would also like to suggest that librarians should request MARC records from the publishers for new books purchased by the library. This should be compulsorily implemented by libraries, so that publishers in India think seriously in this area and start providing MARC records with the supply of books.

Further, keeping in mind the future implementation of the RFID system in the library, librarians in India should also ask publishers to supply books with RFID tags. This step will help them to a greater extent when the RFID system in the library will be implemented. The Book Industry Communication (BIC is an independent organisation set up and sponsored by the Publishers Association, Booksellers Association, the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals and the British Library to promote supply chain efficiency in all sectors of the book world through e-commerce and the application of standard processes and procedures) in the UK has already recommended publishers and subscription agents to supply books with RFID tags to libraries.

References

- ▶ Mason, Moya K. (2009), Copy Cataloguing: Our Quest for the Perfect Copy.
<http://www.moyak.com/researcher/resume/papers/clog4mkm.html> (Accessed n 05.03.2009)
- ▶ Chandrakar, Rajesh. (2009), SOUL 2.0: a new version of SOUL software.
<http://www.inflibnet.ac.in/blog/?p=101> (Accessed on 05.03.2009)

Website

- ▶ <http://www.ugc.ac.in>
- ▶ <http://www.elillinois.org/cleo/stdnt/copycatalog.ppt>
- ▶ <http://www.inflibnet.ac.in/soul>

Bibliographies:

- BIC – <http://www.bic.org.uk>
- British Library's Integrated Catalogue – <http://catalogue.bl.uk>
- COPAC – <http://copac.ac.uk>
- Copy Cataloguing Procedures – <http://lib.nmsu.edu/depts/bibsvs/ccproc.html>
- DK Agencies (P) Ltd. – <http://www.dkagencies.com/>
- IndCat – <http://indcat.inflibnet.ac.in>
- Library of Congress Catalogue – <http://catalog.loc.gov>
- OCLC – <http://www.oclc.org>
- WorldCat – <http://www.worldcat.org>

The INFLIBNET centre invites paper from the professionals on different library technologies pertaining to the ICT (information and communication technology) for publishing in the "Topics on Cutting-Edge Technology in LIS" column of the INFLIBNET Newsletter. Interested professionals may submit their proposal of paper to either director@inflibnet.ac.in or rajesh@inflibnet.ac.in

