Making Your Library's Accessible Resources More Discoverable

David Norris & Violet Fox
March 23, 2022
GLA Carterette Series Webinar
What we’ll discuss today

- Introductions
- Why this work is important
- The state of accessibility information in MARC records
- MARC fields introduced in 2018
- Who’s using these fields
- How these fields display in catalogs
- What can you do to help
- Discussion & questions
Introductions

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Why is this work important?

- 3.5% of people in the U.S. are blind or visually disabled
- 4.5% of U.S. population is deaf or hard of hearing; 15% of adults have some amount of hearing loss
- 5-10% of people have learning disabilities such as dyslexia
Other important aspects of accessibility

- physical spaces for patrons
- your website
- the website of your ebook/streaming video platforms
- technologies like screen readers or special software
- staff training
What kind of accessible formats are in your institutions’ collections?
“When you do well, it spreads out; it is for the whole of humanity.”

- Desmond Tutu
What types of accessible materials are in your collection?

38 responses

- Adaptive technology: 7 (18.4%)
- Audio described videos: 17 (44.7%)
- Braille books: 14 (36.8%)
- Captioned videos: 25 (65.8%)
- Electronic books: 34 (89.5%)
- Large print books: 20 (52.6%)
- Tactile picture books: 13 (34.2%)
- Talking Books and audiobooks: 17 (44.7%)
- None of the above: 0 (0%)
The state of accessibility information in MARC records

- Who do we think of as being “disabled”?

- Who we consider in the context of our cataloging may have implications for what information we include

- How can we rethink how we catalog to make resources as accessible as we can?
Principles of Universal Design

Principle 1: Equitable Use
“The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.”

Principle 2: Flexibility in Use
“The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.”

Principle 3: Simple and Intuitive Use
“Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user’s experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.”

Principle 4: Perceptible Information
“The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user’s sensory abilities.”

Principle 5: Tolerance for Error
“The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.”

Principle 6: Low Physical Effort
“The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.”

Principle 7: Size and Space for Approach and Use
“Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user’s body size, posture, or mobility.”

MARC fields introduced in 2018

- 341 Accessibility Content
- 532 Accessibility Note
- 041 Language Code
341 Accessibility Content

This field uses controlled vocabularies to convey information about textual, visual, auditory, and/or tactile modes of access to the primary and/or secondary contents of a resource.

1st Indicator
0 Adaptive features to access primary content
1 Adaptive features to access secondary content

Subfields
$s$a Content access mode
$s$b Textual assistive features
$s$c Visual assistive features
$s$d Auditory assistive features
$s$e Tactile assistive features

https://www.w3.org/2021/a11y-discov-vocab/latest/

The MARC Accessibility Content Source Code sapdv stands for: Schema.org Accessibility Properties for Discoverability Vocabulary
532 Accessibility Note

Textual information describing the accessibility features, hazards, and deficiencies of a resource, including technical details relating to accessibility features.

1st Indicator

0 | Accessibility technical details
1 | Accessibility features
2 | Accessibility deficiencies

Subfields

$a | Summary of accessibility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language Note</th>
<th>English or French language soundtrack (5.1 surround) with optional subtitles in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese; closed-captioned in English for the hearing impaired.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility Notes</td>
<td>Closed captioning in English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniform title</td>
<td>2001, a space odyssey (Motion picture)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
041 Language Code

*Language code is exactly what it sounds like... the language of the resource!*

**Four new subfields added in 2018:**

- $p$ Language code of captions
- $q$ Language code of accessible audio
- $r$ Language code of accessible visual language (non-textual)
- $t$ Language code of accompanying transcripts for audiovisual materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>028</th>
<th>041</th>
<th>046</th>
<th>050</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>041</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 65539| $b$ Warner Home Video
| eng  | $a$ fre $j$ eng $j$ fre $j$ port $j$ spa $h$ eng $p$ eng $p$ fre |
| $k$  | 1968 |
| PN1997| $b$. T96 2001 |
## Other MARC fields to consider

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>506</td>
<td>Restrictions on Access Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>516</td>
<td>Type of Computer File or Data Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>521</td>
<td>Target Audience Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>538</td>
<td>System Details Note</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Who is using these fields?
How do these fields show up in catalog displays?

- **Your Mileage May Vary depending on your ILS**
- **Not all fields display in OPAC - including WorldCat**
How do these fields show up in catalog displays?

From the St. Catherine University Primo display:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series</td>
<td>Stanley Kubrick collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary/Audience</td>
<td>Audience note: MPAA rating: G. Summary: A science fiction film which</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>moves from the prehistoric birth of intelligence toward the emergence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>of man as pure thought somewhere in the future.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Note</td>
<td>English or French language soundtrack (5.1 surround) with optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>subtitles in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese; closed-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>captioned in English for the hearing impaired.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How do these fields show up in catalog displays?

- 341 and 532 fields are not indexed
- Accessibility subfields in 041 are not mapped for advanced search (in Alma)
- We can’t associate that metadata with other information, such as a title search
What can you do to make accessible resources more findable?

- start using these fields
- talk to your vendors
More Survey Results!

What types of accessibility metadata (if any) are utilized in your catalog?

35 responses

- Controlled vocabulary (e.g., w3...): 7 (20%)
- Local notes: 16 (45.7%)
- Local subject headings (e.g., 6...): 9 (25.7%)
- Local vocabulary: 3 (8.6%)
- LCSH/LCGFT: 27 (77.1%)
- MARC fields (041, 341, 532): 20 (57.1%)
- None: 5 (14.3%)
- If already present in records, I...: 1 (2.9%)
More Survey Results!

Institutional ILS

39 responses

- Alma: 41%
- Koha: 23.1%
- Polaris: 12.8%
- Sierra: 10.3%
- SirsiDynix Horizon: 4.6%
- SirsiDynix Symphony: 3.6%
- WorldShare Management Services: 2.6%
- Other: 0.5%
More Survey Results!

Does your ILS vendor support MARC accessibility fields?
39 responses
- Yes: 61.5%
- No: 25.6%
- Not sure: 12.8%

If no, have you reached out to the vendor to advocate for developing that support?
17 responses
- Yes: 94.1%
- No: 5.9%
- Our institution is so small that we A) significantly downsized our collection and B) do not plan to add materials to our collection
More Survey Results!

With which standards, if any, is your ILS compliant?

- ADA (for libraries in the U.S.): 5 (12.8%)
- Section 508 (for libraries in the U.S.): 4 (10.3%)
- WCAG 2.0: 2 (5.1%)
- WCAG 2.1: 5 (12.8%)
- None of the above: 1 (2.6%)
- Unsure: 31 (79.5%)
More Survey Results!

**Does your library or institution have an accessibility policy?**
- Yes: 38.5%
- No: 41%
- Revising/Developing one: 10%
- I think so, but am not totally sure: 8%
- unsure: 2%
- Unsure: 2%
- I do not know what is an accessibility policy: 0.5%
- Not sure: 0.5%
- Innovative provided one on request: 0.5%

**Does your cataloging or technical services department have accessibility metadata policies or guidelines?**
- Yes: 84.6%
- No: 10.3%
- Formal policy in development: 4.4%
- I do not know what is an accessibility policy: 0.5%
More Survey Results!

How would you rate your familiarity with the MARC accessibility fields?

- **041 Language Code**
  - Not at all: 10
  - Slightly: 2
  - Somewhat: 8
  - Moderately: 8
  - Very: 11

- **341 Accessibility Content**
  - Not at all: 23
  - Slightly: 7
  - Somewhat: 5
  - Moderately: 1
  - Very: 3

- **532 Accessibility Note**
  - Not at all: 22
  - Slightly: 7
  - Somewhat: 3
  - Moderately: 2
  - Very: 5
More Survey Results!

How many catalogers are at your institution (including paraprofessionals and copy catalogers)?

37 responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
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<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discussion!

- How is this information displayed in your catalog or discovery layer?
- How can we get vendors to see importance?
- What other blockers are in the way of doing this work?
Resources


Get in touch!

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