ENHANCEMENT OF COMARC AS A RESULT OF EXPANDING COBISS.NET

Nadia Karachodjukova
St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library
14 May 2014, Maribor
Library automation in Bulgaria

- Late library automation
- Under the conditions of financial constraints for the libraries
- The absence of a consistent state policy
- Renewal of library technologies in the early 90s with extra-budgetary support from foundations
UNIMARC format in Bulgaria

UNIMARC format became appropriate for Bulgarian libraries because of:

- UNIMARC format was developed by IFLA International Programme for UBC and approved by The Conference of European National Libraries (CENL) as primary format for exchange of machine-readable bibliographic data between national bibliographic agencies;
- Originally UNIMARC was created for exchanging records and records are created according to different national cataloging rules;
- It is theoretically developed and not reliant on old practices as MARC21;
- Due to the fractional segmentation of data, libraries using UNIMARC are capable of converting records into MARC21, whereas the reverse conversion is not so successful.
UNIMARC in Bulgarian language

- In 2002 UNIMARC Manual: bibliographic format, 1994 edition was translated into Bulgarian.
  - The Bulgarian translation includes also the changes and additions made by UBCIM up to March 2002.

- Available online at:
  http://www.lib.bg/prevodi/unimarc/index.html
Translations of IFLA publications into Bulgarian

- ISBD (G)
- ISBD (CR)
- ISBD (ER)
- ISBD (NBM)
- Guidelines for the application of the ISBDs to the description of component part
- FRBR
- FRANAR
ISBD Consolidated Edition
CDS/ISIS in the Bulgarian National Library

1992-2010

The purpose of the program created through it was to:

- create information database that meets the international standards in order to make it possible to exchange machine-readable bibliographic records both within the country and abroad;
- provide the opportunity for printed output of the created database, thereby automating the activity of issuing the Current National Bibliography, without changing the basic requirements of its optimal model;
- use a software product that is flexible enough to ensure the completion of the assigned tasks as well as to have the potential for developing the automation of other library activities and at the same time be consistent with the financial capacity of the library at the time.
COBISS in Bulgaria

- 2006: The Agreement on the establishment of the COBISS.Net network
- 2008 – 2010: Conversion into COMARC format: 820,000 records
- October 2010: COBISS3 installed in the production environment in Bulgaria
Development of the COMARC format

- COMARC format is pragmatically oriented
- Libraries with common cataloguing principles and rules
- The uniformity is an advantage for the COBISS system
Changes in COMARC format

- Added new fields in:
  - blocks 7XX and 9XX of COMARC/B
  - block 7XX of COMARC/A

- Need of new fields in COMARC/B
  - field 545
COBISS.Net

- Slovenia
- Serbia
- Macedonia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Montenegro
- Bulgaria
- Albania
Strategic approaches

- When adapting and developing the communicative format based on UNIMARC, a decision should be made whether:
  - to include only fields necessary up to that stage
  - or
  - to include a maximum number of fields, so that no additional changes are necessary in case any future problems arise.
UNIMARC advantages

- UNIMARC reflects the international experience in the electronic cataloging of documents;
- UNIMARC was created following the general principles and at the same time including the specificities of national libraries and bibliographic agencies in order to ensure the international exchange of bibliographic data in machine-readable format;
- UNIMARC is the most modern and best-structured Bibliographic Exchange Format, designed to be used in National Bibliographic Agencies and suitable for serving as a model for the development of new communication formats;
- UNIMARC reflects the specificities of the bibliographic agencies;
- UNIMARC is maintained and developed by PUC at IFLA.
THANK YOU!

n.karachodjukova@nationallibrary.bg