

# PRACTICE TO PRODUCTION WITH BIBFRAME

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# Practice to Production with **BIBFRAME**

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# Fundamentals: BIBFRAME and RDF

- **BIBFRAME is an RDF ontology (vocabulary)**
  - A set of RDF (Resource Description Framework) classes and properties that enable effective use of data that describes library resources
  - And BIBFRAME was developed with the then new cataloging rules as a guide, RDA
- **Why RDF?**
  - It is a widely adopted semantic web standard for data interchange on the web – developed by the W3C (World Wide Web Consortia).
  - RDF basic structure is triples – subject - verb – object. It can thus effectively work with a triple store platform to enable increased linking.

# Practice phase at LC

- **Used pilots to test starting in 2015**
  - Not easy because of LC's size
    - 300+ catalogers
    - Scattered – Washington, New Delhi, Cairo, Rio, etc.
    - Item variation – over 200 languages, over 10 scripts
    - Many media – books, serials, moving images, maps, audio, printed music, etc.
  - Director of Cataloging, Beacher Wiggins, was willing to commit the resources
    - He wanted to test with all forms of media, all languages and scripts, all locations
- **First pilot – exploring**
  - Using BIBFRAME 1.0 ontology
  - Started simple - simple editor, basic datastore, rudimentary documentation
  - But 40 skilled catalogers

# Pilot expanded

- **Second pilot**
  - BIBFRAME 2.0 – Pilot catalogers wanted a closer relationship to RDA
  - Needed more participants so increased to 100
    - Included more media, such as moving images, more variation with non-Latin language catalogers, catalogers in our foreign offices
  - Whole LC catalog converted from MARC to BIBFRAME and kept updated
    - at first daily, then every 5 minutes
  - MARC to BIBFRAME conversion was key – and it was continually refined
    - MARC issues: duplication, punctuation

# Essential components: Marva and ID

- **For Pilot 2 a new Editor developed, Marva**
  - Marva is supported by “lists” from LC’s Linked Data Service (ID)
  - ID included names, LCSH, languages, countries and many small lists of terms needed in cataloging
  - ID provides efficiency to catalogers through type-aheads and lookups -- and consistency to the descriptions
- **BUT pilots required double keying of descriptions** – into BIBFRAME system and into MARC system

# Two initiatives to move toward Production

- **Using the BIBFRAME system with Voyager ILS**
  - BIBFRAME system would replace only the MARC ILS's cataloging piece
  - The ILS and its OPAC would not be disrupted
  - BUT it requires a viable BIBFRAME to MARC conversion that is good MARC and takes account of the ILS's MARC preferences
  - However, it would enable us to:
    - Stop creating records twice, in BIBFRAME and in MARC systems
    - Continue BIBFRAME explorations in a linked data environment (BIBFRAME system) without impact on the Library's user services (MARC ILS/OPAC system)
    - Teach us more about BIBFRAME implementation

# And ...

- Meanwhile we are **embarking on a replacement of the MARC-based ILS**
  - Selected FOLIO, a community-developed open-source library services solution that supports linked open data
  - It will also use BIBFRAME, a requirement for the new system



# Thanks for listening!

Resource website for BIBFRAME information – ontology, conversions  
MARC/BIBFRAME record comparisons: [www.loc.gov/bibframe](http://www.loc.gov/bibframe)