

Preliminary Observations about MARC Codes

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This presentation is not a "how to catalog" class! But anyone in a library might someday "read" a record. MARC codes can help with reading.

Each line in a MARC record is a "field". Each field has a tag. Some have indicators and subfields.

Tags

- Three-digit codes at the left of the display of a MARC field
- Example: 110
- MARC tag for a corporate name Authorized Access Point (AAP) - formerly "heading"

Indicators

- Zero, one or two digits, to the right of the tag, that "indicate" something about the field.
- Example: 1101 (which might be displayed as: 110 1)
- MARC indicator for field 100, corporate name
- Indicator 1 Jurisdiction name
- Indicator 2 Name in direct order (not as subdivision of a jurisdiction)

Subfields

Each subfield is prefaced by a two-character subfield code consisting of:

- (1) The subfield delimiter. Not any one character, but it has to be represented somehow! Usually by use of the double-dagger symbol, dollar sign, square box, cent sign, c with cedilla, and others.
- (2) An alphanumeric character
- Example: 1101 \$b MARC subfield code for Subordinate unit, such as a Department.

If no subfield code is displayed at the beginning of a MARC field (as with OCLC Connexion), subfield a is assumed.

How Can I Find Out about MARC Codes?

- Information is publicly available via the Library of Congress web site (<http://www.loc.gov>). Click on "Especially for Librarians" and select "MARC 21 Documentation". Or go directly to:

<https://www.loc.gov/marc/authority/> for authority data, and

<https://www.loc.gov/marc/bibliographic/> for bibliographic data.

You don't need to know everything in this documentation! But to the extent that you are curious, you can peruse it to your heart's content.