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EDITORIAL

On 15th October 2002 Roy Tennant declared that "MARC must die" in the Library Journal, fifteen years later in 2017 he reflected on this article on the OCLC Research blog – Hanging Together – and described the 'firestorm of criticism' that had arisen in the wake of his original article. He also noted that during the intervening years, the idea had ceased to be controversial. The majority of us still work with MARC, despite the repeated assertions that it is on its way out, but replacements, such as BIBFRAME, are on the rise. We should also consider, however, that there are plenty of metadata practitioners who don't use MARC at all – and for both these reasons therefore this issue of C&I is dedicated to exploring non-MARC cataloguing and metadata practices.

Helen K. R. Williams showcases an exciting Wikidata project undertaken by LSE Library's Metadata team to enhance the discoverability of a set of oral history interviews about the British Suffrage Movement which were conducted between 1974 and 1981. Williams has previously contributed to C&I (206: 2-6) with a paper on the LSE Wikidata thesis project and we hope readers will be interested in seeing how LSE's contribution to Wikidata continues and has enhanced staff skills alongside increasing the discoverability of their resources.

Ourania Karapasias's article uses a case study approach to illustrate the process of converting MARC records to enriched TEI-XML files that form meaningful digital objects in Manchester Digital

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Collections. The case study comes from the Dante Digital Library project which is digitising 99 editions of Dante Alighieri's Divine Comedy. Karapasias demonstrates the advantages of using TEI files to more accurately represent the descriptive complexity of digitised early printed books.

Jessica Roberts from the People's Collection Wales talks about their decolonisation toolkit which was released in 2025 and provides structured guidance for dealing with discriminatory and colonial language within the context of descriptive metadata on the digital heritage platform. A variety of case studies indicate the kind of issues that might be encountered and how they have been addressed. As contributions to PCW are welcomed from everyone, not just heritage staff, it is crucial to have clear guidelines in place.

Carol Hunter describes a project that arose out of necessity when the Covid pandemic led to her team at the National Library of Scotland working from home without access to their library management system. By utilising spreadsheets staff, with or without cataloguing experience, were able to input data from digitised HMSO catalogues, which was subsequently ingested by Alma. The success of the project has led to this process being used more extensively for routine metadata tasks.

Many of us are contributors to Jisc's National Bibliographic Knowledgebase, and in her article Jennie-Claire Crate talks about the challenges of ingesting data through different transfer methods, deduplication of records, and working with non-standard metadata.

Our final article by Anne Welsh discusses why non-MARC cataloguing systems are used, and offers some useful things to think about if you find yourself dealing with one.

We also have two book reviews: one of Ethics in Linked Data and one of Records and Information Management.

Our next issue in December will be looking at various aspects of RDA, if you wish to contribute an article on this topic please contact the editors at catalogueandindex@gmail.com.

Karen F. Pierce & Fran Frenzel, September 2025