

Association for Library Collections and Technical Services

ALCTS Task Force on Romanization

Reporting to the ALCTS Non-English Access Steering Committee, the Task Force on Romanization will examine the current use of Romanized data in bibliographic and authority records, and make recommendations for best practices.

In particular, the Task Force will review Model A (*Vernacular and transliteration*) and Model B (*Simple multiscript records*) for multiscript data in MARC records (<http://www.loc.gov/marc/bibliographic/ecbdmulti.html>) and how these models are currently used in library systems and catalogs, including the Library of Congress catalog and OCLC WorldCat. The Task Force should consider the needs of library users for search and retrieval of items and the impact that Romanized data have on searches. The recent addition of non-Roman data to authority records and how library systems are using these records should also be considered.

The impact on library staff, including acquisitions, cataloging, circulation and interlibrary loan, should also be considered, particularly in situations where staff who are not language experts may need to process materials and requests.

The task force should address the following questions:

- Is Romanization still needed in bibliographic records, and if so, in which situations and/or for which access points? Should best or different levels of practices be adopted for Romanization?
- Can model A & B records coexist in library systems? If so, should guidelines for usage be adopted?

Time frame: The task force should complete a report by: December 15, 2009

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Text of the original recommendation (Task Force on Non-English Access Report, Revised March 16, 2007)

10. Examine the use of romanized data in bibliographic and authority records. Explore the following issues (including costs and benefits):
- 1) Alternative models (Model A and Model B) for multiscript records are specified in the MARC 21 formats. The continuing use of 880 fields (that is, Model A records) has been

questioned, but some libraries may need to continue to use Model A records. What issues does using both Model A and Model B cause for LC, utilities, and vendors?

- (2) Requirements for access using non-Roman scripts (in general terms -- defining requirements for specific scripts falls under Recommendation 2)
- (3) Requirements for access using romanization