

## PCC Task Group Final Report Transmittal & Tracking Sheet

<b>Name of task group</b>	PCC Task Group on Developing Guidelines for Using ISO 639-3 Language Codes for Library Cataloging
<b>Date task group charged</b>	June 1, 2022
<b>Date task group discharged</b>	January 23, 2024

This form is to be used to track progress on the review, approval, and implementation of the final reports of PCC task groups and committees. A link to this form can be found in the task group charge. Thereafter, the form should be updated each time the report is transmitted to a different body for review or action. Additional rows may be inserted as needed. The PCC Secretariat will insert the completed form as the cover sheet for the report when the process is complete.

### **Submission of report (completed by chair/leader of group):**

Use the chart below to record the date the report was first submitted, the name of the PCC task group or committee submitting the report, and the title of the report.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name of Group</b>	<b>Title of Report</b>
8/15/22	Task Group on Developing Guidelines for Using ISO 639-3 Language Codes for Library Cataloging	Interim report
11/15/23	Task Group on Developing Guidelines for Using ISO 639-3 Language Codes for Library Cataloging	Final report

### **Review of report (completed by PCC chair prior to passing report on for review):**

Use the chart below to record the date the report was submitted for review, to which body, and its current status (e.g. in process, completed, etc.).

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name of Body</b>	<b>Status of Review</b>
8/26/22	PoCo	since this TG reports to SCS, the report was sent to PoCo for awareness, but not for approval
8/26/22	SCS	vetted by SCS

11/4/22	PoCo	The guidelines were discussed at PoCo Annual.
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**Decisions regarding report:**

Use the chart below to record decisions made regarding the report.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name of Body</b>	<b>Decisions Made</b>
11/22/22	PoCo	Approved and published guidelines to PCC website
1/12/23	PoCo	Revised guidelines and republished to PCC website
1/11/24	PoCo	Discussed final report
1/22/24	PoCo	Accepted final report

**Implementation of report:**

Use the chart below to record actions taken regarding implementation of the decisions.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name of Body</b>	<b>Actions Taken</b>

# Final Report of the SCS Task Group on Developing Guidelines for Using ISO 639-3 Language Codes for Library Cataloging

The [SCS Task Group on Developing Guidelines for Using ISO 639-3 Language Codes for Library Cataloging](#) was charged with developing a set of guidelines for how to use ISO 639-3 language codes in MARC records by revising and building upon the [guidelines developed for the BABEL test](#). The task group reviewed the feedback that was received during the test and updated the guidelines in light of experience gained during real-world use. The [official guidelines](#) for the use of ISO 639-3 language codes in MARC records were approved by the PCC on November 22, 2022. The task group also created a [Google form](#) to enable catalogers using the guidelines to ask questions or provide feedback. The form is being monitored by Chris Dillon (British Library) and Robert Rendall (Columbia). Based on initial feedback from catalogers, an update with minor revisions was published in January 2023. No additional comments have been received since then.

Most of the test recommendations were carried over. The guidelines continue to recommend only using ISO 639-3 language codes in addition to MARC language codes in shared cataloging in order to support interoperability. This decision could be reconsidered after an official mapping between the two vocabularies has been completed and tools to facilitate the translation of codes between the vocabularies have been put into place. Anticipating the development of mapping tools, the task group recommended that catalogers focus on adding ISO 639-3 language codes in situations where they provide more specific information than is possible with MARC language codes. The guidelines continue to recommend using the most specific code that can be determined. The guidelines also continue to state that if a 041 field using ISO 639-3 language codes is created, it should include all relevant languages from the resource.

The task group notes that there are a number of outstanding issues surrounding language coding in library cataloging. The [recommendations](#) of the first PCC language coding task group should be re-examined to identify future work. Some of the most important tasks include

- Authoritative publication of ISO 639-3 as linked open data (a collaboration is in progress between SIL and the Library of Congress to post this on [id.loc.gov](#))
- Authoritative mapping between the ISO 639-3 language codes and the MARC language codes (mapping is in progress [here](#))
- Expansion of the guidelines to cover BIBFRAME cataloging once the ISO 639-3 vocabulary is available as linked data
- Guidelines for vendors and others who develop systems, such as cataloging modules and discovery interfaces, that make use of language codes in MARC records
- Examination of the feasibility of providing additional structured language information in different records, such as codes for written scripts or dialects