

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum



DATE: May 16, 2023

To: Program for Cooperative Cataloging and Other Library of Congress Constituents

From: Beacher Wiggins, Director *Bjw* 05/17/2023
Acquisitions & Bibliographic Access

Subject: Expanding Inclusion of Armenian and Thai Scripts in Bibliographic Records,
Effective May 16, 2023

NOTE: The changes apply only to bibliographic records and not name authorities submitted via NACO

In 2021, the Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access (ABA) Directorate and Collections Discovery and Metadata Services (CDMS) at the Library of Congress agreed to experiment with expanding the use of non-Latin scripts in Voyager beyond the traditional MARC-8 Repertoire of UTF-8 (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Perso-Arabic, Hebrew/Yiddish, and Cyrillic). The focus of the test was on Thai and Armenian scripts. This round of workflow focused only on bibliographic records because of requirements for NACO nodes exchange that make name authorities more complicated than bibliographic records.

During 2022, staff from the Asian and Middle Eastern Division (ASME), Cairo and Jakarta Overseas Offices and the Asian Division conducted tests with many colleagues in ABA and CDMS assisting and/or observing.

Participating staff tested all functionality to the extent possible, including original cataloging input, record update, external record import, printing, searching, display of characters in the OPAC and the loc.gov (P1). CDMS staff led the testers to analyze test records at each stage of the testing. In addition, CDMS tested and evaluated record distribution results in the production environment to ensure no surprises for customers that use CDS distribution files.

ABA participants discussed issues related to the use of punctuation and numbers to assure correct transliteration and comprehension and resolved variances with changes to Transliterator configuration for Armenian. The Proposed Punctuation Instructions for Non-Latin Scripts document was reviewed and approved by the Policy, Training and Cooperative Programs

Division, and has been forwarded to PCC Standing Committee on Standards for review and adoption.

Upon finding the test results favorable, ABA and CDMS concurred with the recommendation to move the Thai and Armenian test into production.

The official implementation date is May 16, 2023, when the deployment of ILS workstation applications will take place. Bibliographic records in Armenian and Thai henceforth will contain original script.

This outcome has opened doors to fuller Unicode functionality in the current MARC/Voyager environment and helps prepare for Library Collection Access Platform (LCAP) implementation of Unicode, improving accessibility on Library collections and enhancing services for global institutions and users.