Frequently Asked Questions:
Implementation of the BSR for Printed Books
Revised December 18, 2009

This revision is based on the original November 2009 FAQ, with additional questions from PCC list messages following the announcement of the January 4, 2010 implementation date. Answers reflect the collaborative efforts of the BSR Task Group, PCC leadership, chairs of the Standing Committees, OCLC, and the BIBCO Coordinator.

1. How is the BIBCO Standard Record (BSR) for printed books different from the present BIBCO Full and Core records?

The BSR is a "floor" record that promotes an essential set of fields and codes that are sufficient for user tasks. The BSR MAP lists those fields and codes. No MARC 21 fields or AACR2 content are excluded from use in the BSR. Emphasis is given to access points, not to extensive descriptive data. After meeting the BSR "floor" requirements, the record may contain any additional fields needed to serve the user, with no need to change the encoding level "blank". The BSR record allows more flexibility to apply cataloger judgment and local library policy regarding cataloging record content.

BIBCO full and core records required the cataloger to know how to apply two different sets of descriptive elements. BIBCO full level records, with encoding level "blank", prescribed use of all available fields and codes appropriate to the item in hand. BIBCO core level records prescribed use of a less-than-full set of fields and codes and the use of encoding level "4", with the option of adding fields or updating to full level.

2. Do the BSR guidelines apply to monographic materials in all formats?

Not yet. The initial BSR model covers only printed books, and does not cover non-book materials, rare books, or electronic books. The Standing Committee on Standards is charged with adapting the BSR for rare books, electronic books and non-book formats.

3. Does a BIBCO library need training to implement the BIBCO Standard Record?

No. BIBCO catalogers are invited to contribute the new records for printed books by following the BSR MAP and guidelines on the BIBCO home page. If members develop tutorials, they may be linked on this page as well.

4. What training material is available for the BIBCO Standard Record?

The Standing Committee on Training (SCT) will develop a short training document that will appear soon on the BIBCO home page. The materials will orient users to the BIBCO program and the elements of the BSR, but will not cover basic monographic cataloging. BSR is not a new cataloging code—it is another type of record. In addition, OCLC has

*expressed its willingness to cooperate with the PCC to present a Webinar session for
OCLC member libraries*

5. If my BIBCO library is not ready to implement on January 4, 2010, may we continue
to contribute BIBCO Full records and Core records for printed books under the
traditional encoding levels "blank" and "4"?

*No. It is the policy of the PCC leadership that all BIBCO libraries implement the new
BIBCO Standard Record for printed books on January 4, 2010. It is possible that some
core level records will enter OCLC via batch load even after January 3, 2010, but the
goal is to migrate all BIBCO institutions to the new BSR January 4, 2010, and as soon as
local conditions allow. Encoding level 4 will remain a valid encoding level in OCLC for
non-BIBCO records.*

6. Will OCLC do a global change to convert all core-level BIBCO records for printed
books contributed prior to January 4, 2010 to encoding level "blank"?

No conversion of records is planned.

7. When editing an existing core-level record, should the cataloger change the encoding
level to "blank"?

No. It is best not to expend time updating records that met previously existing standards.

8. If my printed book has accompanying materials, but the BSR MAP doesn't include
MARC 21 field and code 300 $e for accompanying materials, what do I do?

*Treat the accompanying materials as you always have done. The BSR MAP includes the
basic set of descriptive elements, but is not meant to prevent the addition of MARC 21
fields that the cataloger judges to be valuable.*

9. Is MARC 21 field 530 (additional formats available note) required in cases where
MARC 21 field 856 41 is available in the BSR record for the printed book (i.e., "single
record" concept)

*No. MARC 21 field 856 is sufficient to indicate that electronic access to the
manifestation is available.*

10. Concerns have been expressed about the use of Encoding Level [blank] for the BSR.
Can this usage be revisited?

*The PCC Policy Committee (PoCo), which includes representation from OCLC, reached
a decision in August 2009, and re-affirmed it at their November meetings. They do
understand that some institutions may need to adjust workflows due to encoding level
changes, but believe that this is the best long-term strategy. It is not an issue PoCo will
be revisiting.*

11. Will LC records cataloged following the new standard potentially replace OCLC master records cataloged at the current full level definition if the master record is not coded as "pcc"?

Yes, under current OCLC record loading processes this will happen (and has been the case for years).

12. Why is the 040 field not on the BSR MAP? Does OCLC supply 040 for all BIBCO records?

The BSR TG decided to include vital fields on the MAP that require cataloger action, not those fields that generally are system-supplied. As part of the OCLC record contribution process, the 040 field is automatically generated for BIBCO records, whether contributed directly through OCLC cataloging interfaces or batch-loaded.

13. OCLC workforms include some 008 fields that are not in the BSR MAP. They require either default values or cataloger-chosen values for validation and for accuracy in the record. The BSR MAP frees the cataloger from coding certain 008 fields. This will require the use of fill characters; this is not available for 008 fields in current OCLC workforms and thus will prevent validation. Will fill characters be made valid in OCLC for the following character positions?

> 008 element 18-21 Illustrations
> 008 element 22 Target audience
> 008 element 24-27 Nature of contents
> 008 element 28 Government document
> 008 element 29 Conference publication
> 008 element 30-34 Festschrift, Index, Literary form, Biography

OCLC is considering the impact of implementing fill characters, which is more complex for the BSR than it was for the CONSER Standard Record, due to the multiple character positions needed for Illustrations and Nature of Contents.

In addition, OCLC uses coded values from five of these character positions (i.e. Target audience, Government document, Conference publication, Literary Form, and Biography) to generate the Material Type index that can be used to limit searches and in record matching.

Any changes made to workform defaults would need to be released in a new version of the Connexion client.

14. Is OCLC prepared to accept and process change requests to add missing 008 values to records coded as Encoding level [blank] and 042=pcc?

Strictly speaking, the values wouldn't be considered missing because the 008 field is a fixed-length, positionally dependent field. OCLC is prepared to accept change requests to add appropriate coding to 008 fields in PCC records, with an emphasis on elements that affect indexing and matching.

17. For multiparts cataloged as a collection, is the single collection ISBN mandatory, with no further ISBNs needed? Is this like the core policy?

AACR2 1.8 says to use one ISBN for the set, and optionally, to use additional ISBNs for other volumes as desired. The BIBCO Standard Record has not changed this practice.

18. Does the scope of the BSR include reproductions? If yes, why, since the 007 field is not mandatory? And, does the MAP imply that the form of the descriptive cataloging of the resource (Leader 18) "a" is AACR2?

Yes, the scope of the BSR includes not only microform reproductions, but any reproduction that is not electronic. The "Form of item" code (008/23) is coded "a" for microfilm, "b" for microfiche, "c" for micro-opaque, and "r" for photocopy, depending on the type of print reproduction being cataloged. The 007 field may be added to the BSR if desired by the local library, just as any other field not in the BSR MAP may be added. Leader 18 (Descriptive Cataloging Form) code "a" defines the record as being AACR2, and would be applied to all BSR records (at least as long as we are using AACR2 as our cataloging rules).

19. If we decide locally to keep 300 $c mandatory, but other PCC and non-PCC libraries follow the standard and do not add the 300 $c, we fear that our workload will increase as we update their records for our own use.

It is true that if local practices require more fields than appear in the BSR, additional effort by cataloging staff may be needed. The differences of opinion among PCC partners and within some institutions on the importance of the 300 $c may prompt further discussions. Some at OCLC are concerned about the 300 $c being optional, because it is an element that is compared in record matching processes. This concern is likely to continue as the PCC develops BSRs for materials beyond the MAP for printed books.

20. Why does the BSR MAP stipulate 246 31 for parallel titles but the CONSER MAP 246 11? Why use different indicators for the same concept in different formats?

Discussion of this field recently among task force members and PoCo resulted in the recent agreement that in order to promote consistency among formats we recommend changing the BSR parallel record policy to be in conformance with serial practice (i.e., that we would change the BSR for parallel titles to use Field 246 with indicators 11).

21. If a title is "also known as" perhaps the judgment would be to use codes more indicative of special situations for these titles.

A statement to indicate this will be added to the MAP.

NON-BSR Implementation Issues:

22. Concerns have been mentioned regarding quality of current PCC records. What do I do if I find records that have quality problems?

This is not a BSR implementation issue. A BIBCO record 040 displays MARC 21 organization codes for the libraries which have created or edited the record. Questions about PCC records may be addressed to local BIBCO contacts as found on: http://www.loc.gov/catdir/pcc/bibco/bibcoliaisons.html

23. Why are PCC BIBCO records excluded by OCLC's Expert Community Experiment, while LC records can be upgraded?

This is not a BSR implementation issue. OCLC members may perform database enrichment on PCC records, including adding such things as contents notes, summaries, and call numbers in a scheme not already present. PCC records require the existence of authority records for all non-series access points. Only NACO participants can create authority records for access points that they add to records. If headings were added to PCC records without authority records being created or if headings were altered in PCC records to ones that did not have authority records, the bibliographic record would no longer meet the definition of a PCC record. OCLC has excluded PCC records from Expert Community editing for this reason. However, discussion is ongoing, and this exclusion may be changed in the future.

In the meantime, change requests for PCC records may be sent to OCLC at bibchange@oclc.org, submitted using the WorldCat Record Change Request form (https://www3.oclc.org/app/bibchg/) or sent using the "Report Error" function in the Connexion browser and client interfaces.

LC offers an Error Report Form at: http://www.loc.gov/help/contact-libarch-report.html