# ACCESS LEVEL RECORD FOR SERIALS OBJECTIVES
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## THE CONSER SERIALS ENVIRONMENT

CONSER works with serials in a shared cataloging environment. Any change in the creation of CONSER records needs to take into account the nature of serials, the realities of shared cataloging, and the more-than-30-year history of the CONSER database. The database contains records that range from those resulting from retrospective conversion of LC printed cards in the 1970's to those created under all versions of AACR, AACR2, U.S. MARC and MARC 21 standards. Whether currently published or not, serials represented by CONSER records are never truly "dead." The serials can be acquired in print or digital form by other libraries at any time and the CONSER records for such serials need to be usable by those libraries. CONSER records also need to be updated on an ongoing basis to reflect significant changes in the serial. Thus, CONSER serial records can never be fully divorced from the varying rules and conventions under which they were created but nonetheless need to be created in such a way as to allow them to be interpreted and used well into the future.

## FUNCTIONALITY

- The record should function as a single "CONSER standard" (or "CONSER-authenticated") record, replacing the various levels of CONSER records that are currently represented by existing authentication codes (e.g., lc, lcd, msc) and encoding levels (e.g., full, core, minimal). The record should be a "floor," not a "ceiling." Catalogers can add elements essential to meet user needs for a particular title. CONSER institutions will be free to add nationally-relevant elements that meet recognized specific needs. Existing encoding levels and authentication codes will be re-assessed if this new standard record is adopted.

- The data contained in an "access level" record for serials should be sufficient to enable a user conducting a name, title, subject, genre, keyword, or identifier search of the catalog to find, identify, select, and obtain (tangible resources) or access (intangible resources) the resource represented by the record.

- The content rules used to create the data in the record should conform sufficiently with those used to create other records in national databases to enable a user to search effectively across various resource types and retrieve access level records along with other types of records relevant to the search. The records must be able to function as part of a coherent shared catalog.

- The record should provide sufficient data to function within a library integrated systems environment as a basic description to which supplementary data required for standard applications such as acquisitions, e-resource management systems, collection analysis reporting, and inventory management can be linked.

- The record should be "sharable," that is, able to be understood and updated by catalogers in libraries other than the creating library.

- The record should function effectively in the context of federated search and meta-search applications.

### COST-EFFECTIVENESS (OVERALL COST SAVINGS COULD BE ACHIEVED IF AT LEAST TWO OF THE FOLLOWING THREE OBJECTIVES WERE MET)

- The cost of creating an "access level" record should be less than the cost of creating a "full level" record for the same resource.

- The cost of maintaining the record should be less than the cost of maintaining a full level record for the same resource.

- Training required to create an access level record should be less extensive than training required to create a full level record for the same resource.

### CONFORMITY TO CURRENT STANDARDS

- The records should support the basic FRBR user tasks: find, identify, select, and access.

- The content rules used to create an access level record should conform to current standards for descriptive cataloging (AACR2) and subject access (LCSH, etc).

- The content designation of data contained in the record should conform to MARC 21 specifications.

- Conformity of access level records with AACR2, LCSH, and MARC 21 standards should permit their distribution to MARC record subscribers.