Summary of Publications Patterns Initiative ALA midwinter meeting Jan. 13th, 2008, Submitted by Julie Su

Kathy Klemperer's talk on ONIX for serials was very informative. It was useful to have someone explain all three applications of ONIX for Serials: Serials Online Holdings (SOH), Serials Product Subscriptions (SPS), and Serials Release Notification (SRN). An interesting point was made in regard to SOH, that it is able to express coverage with an "embargo" period.   Kathy and Diane Hillman both pointed out that within the three types of messages, SPS is used for both print and electronic subscriptions and SPS is most likely have to have an impact on publication patterns because of the need to project and predict the next issue. Diane Hillman believes if publishers can see the benefit of using publication patterns to predict the next issue release, they may be interested. I wonder if it is possible to embed publication patterns in the xml-based ONIX messages at the point of communicating the coverage information?   Can these publication patterns be harvested from ONIX messages and converted to MARC format and stored in a shared pattern database? I also wonder if patterns are useful for Serials Release Notification (SRN) and/or SOH version 1.1.

According to Linda Gable, OCLC is planning to provide coverage information in the next phase of eSerials Holdings Service. OCLC currently uses ONIX SOH data (title and ISSN only) from the PAMs to find matching online bibliographic records to set e-holdings. I wonder if publication patterns from 891 or from other source could be used to generate either local holdings records or holdings information for eSerials Holdings.

The meeting ran out of time for any other discussions. From my brief conversation with Linda Miller following the meeting I understand that she has been working with the ONIX group to make sure that Holdings (and patterns?) data elements are included in the ONIX standards; she also said that she would be happy to write up a MARBI proposal requesting a new MARC Holdings code for the embargo information.

Julie's thoughts on the Publication Pattern Initiative --

Perhaps it is time for us to review the Publication Pattern Initiative and to assess the past achievements, current status, and future directions.

Accomplishments:

        The original mission of the Pattern Initiative (2000 to 2004?) is to cooperatively build a shared CONSER database of publication patterns to facilitate and support local check-in functions; and to promote the full use of MARC Holdings standard by ILS systems.

        The Initiative has been successful in promoting MARC Holdings as nearly all ILS systems have implemented the standard to various degrees, and have used publication patterns to set up predictive check-in systems. Building the CONSER publication

patterns database is an ongoing effort and is the core activity of the Initiative. Major milestones include OCLC's adoption of MARC Holdings format and the use of the CONSER contributed publication pattern data (MARC 891 field) to aid the creation or updating of Local Holdings Records. Both OCLC and ILS systems are working to ease the exchange of holdings data between systems. Although several other projects have been developed and are still in progress, I am only focusing on the Publication Pattern database project here.

Challenge:

  With the paradigm shift from print to online format, the number of print subscriptions in local libraries is shrinking rapidly, so is the demand for publication patterns which are used to set the predictive check-in system. It is noted that libraries do not check in electronic journals. Consequently, libraries participating in the Patterns Initiative receive fewer print issues and have fewer patterns to contribute to the CONSER Publication Pattern database. In this scenario, the total number of pattern contributions may drop quickly, as more and more libraries cancel print subscriptions in favor of online format.

Statistics

In order to find out if format shift has any impact on the Publication Pattern Project, we need to collect some data such as:

- The total number of CONSER records with 891s.

- The total number of pattern contributions by year, and the growth rate since the initial load of 40,000 records from Harvard.
:
- Pattern participating libraries' annual print subscription count as compared with their annual pattern contribution count from 2000 to 2007.

- Identify all impact factors including the change of resource and staffing level for the project.

- Asking OCLC Local Holdings Service to provide a report on the impact of the 891s on the creation and updates of local holdings records. If such data are not available, survey OCLC Local Holdings participants if they find the presence of 891 pattern helpful in the creation and subsequent update of local holdings records.

Future goals may include:

- Continue supporting the ILS check-in system and function?

- Continue supporting the OCLC local holdings records?

- Further explore the application of universal holdings in support of the concept of Super Records.

- Explore the usefulness of publication patterns for electronic serials:

  o For publishers in their upcoming issue release? SPS and SOH?

  o For ILS vendors and libraries that batch check-in print journals using the shipping list or batch check-in e-journals using the coverage update file.

  o Can the format of pattern information be cross-walked from XML to MARC format and vice versa?

  o Populate publication pattern data (MARC891s) in CONSER e-serials records by copying the existing publication pattern data (MARC 891s) from the print records. Will these patterns be useful for the creation of local data records for eSerials Holdings?

  o Patterns may be useful for libraries that wish to check-in or claim electronic journals using electronic coverage data from the access management services and load into ILS check-in system. The incoming data can automatically match against the predicative check-in system which was established according to the publication pattern.   Anything that does not match will flag for an error report subject to further investigation. Issues that match the prediction will automatically checked in and display to the public. Issues that are not received will become claimable.

  o Automate check-in for electronic journals by uploading PAM's monthly report file (PAMs) using ONIX for serials message with publication pattern to ILS systems, if ONIX message can be converted from XML to MARC format.

Expansion of pattern participations.

- Enlist all CONSER libraries to contribute patterns whenever working on a bibliographic record, especially libraries with sizable print subscriptions.

- Allow Pattern participants to contribute 891 patterns to the print record based on issues available in the online version.

- Involve OCLC member libraries who are inputting patterns and holdings in the local holdings records to contribute to the Project? Or, develop viable means to

capture or harvest pattern and holdings data, and add these patterns to the OCLC 891 fields following review and validation?

- Enlist PAM or publishers to send ONIX messages with publication patterns to be included in the pattern database.