

856 Discussion items
Gleaned from MCDAC Minutes
1999 – 2003

October 29, 1999

C. Issues surrounding use of 856

Laura Gayle Green offered an explanation of the difficulty of using 856 links in the INN-Reach environment. Because of the master record concept, only one institution bibliographic 856 can show in the central catalog. Other options such as putting them in the serials checkin records create added maintenance of multiple instances of the same information.

The INN-Reach central catalog can be configured to filter out 856 tags coming from the local INNOPACs (Cluster databases). This avoids the confusion of displaying links to licensed resources that may be restricted to one library's patrons only, but it reduces access by not including links to government documents and other no-charge URLs that any patron could use.

December 10, 1999

7. 856 (URL) Holdings Display

When multiple libraries hold electronic titles, how does the union catalog display those holdings? The problem is that when the Master Record goes up to MOBIUS, MERLIN libraries' holdings display from the 856 field, but other libraries' holdings do not display. The listserv has not responded to Robin's query on this problem; however, the Release 2000 documentation states that the web OPAC can display more than one link from 856 fields. This will require some experimentation with the 2000 Innopac software.

March 10, 2000

856 MARC Field:

The 856 "Electronic Location and Access" MARC field in MOBIUS continues as a discussion item.

When the MERLIN record (which is the master record) goes up to MOBIUS, it displays individual institution holdings only for MERLIN libraries where each library's catalogers add public notes fields to indicate their ownership of an electronic title. Other libraries' holdings do not display in the union catalog.

Questions arose about suppressing the 856 field from the MOBIUS database, but most committee members do not want to lose government document URL's from the central catalog. The display of "local" URL's is

another concern where access is limited to those libraries that subscribe to a particular title.

According to the MERLIN Quality Control Committee, two options appear to be available to MOBIUS:

1. Display the 856, which may result in misleading information about electronic access for central catalog users.
2. Suppress the 856 in MOBIUS and educate users that information about electronic access is available only in local/cluster catalogs.

An e-mail from Gary Harris of the Library Systems Office indicates that III is considering a future enhancement that would allow some other MARC tag to contain the clickable URL.

Another point made is the labor-intensive upkeep of the 856 field. Even with URL checking software, will libraries' authority units need to be expanded just to keep up?

The committee will continue this discussion via e-mail.

June 9, 2000

856 Holdings Display:

An INN-Reach Enhancement sheet indicates that III now permits the 856 URL for electronic titles to appear in the institution record or in the item record instead of in the bibliographic record.

The MOBIUS Office has asked III to address the issue of having an indicator in the 856 field which will allow selective display or not (e.g., gov docs and public domain titles would display). Also, what happens to links to future consortially-purchased electronic titles?

Discussion revolved around the following points:

1. If the 856 remains in the institution record, each URL gets repeated again and again in the central catalog.
2. The 856 field is in the bib. record. If it goes to the item record, increased maintenance by cataloging staff is required.
3. Universally accessible items might not be handled correctly.

No decision was made. Committee members will go back to their clusters and determine for a future vote whether or not to suppress the 856 field as it appears in the INN-Reach (MOBIUS) catalog.

September 10, 2000

856 Holdings Display:

The *INN-Reach Enhancements List* of June 6, 2000, reads "3a. Allow URL hotlinks to be handled at the item level ..." and "3b. Make the URL a valid field in item, check-in (and order?) records..." III has responded that they have allowed the item record to display the 856 field and that display of the 856 field from institution records is in development.

Jim Dutton responded that the only thing that works is the 856 displayed from the individual issue check-in record.

The Chair asked if it is possible to display the URL but suppress the display of the subfield z public note in the MOBIUS record. This change would affect only the MOBIUS catalog.

It was moved that the 856 field be displayed with subfield z suppressed in the MOBIUS WebPac display on a trial basis. There were 10 "yes" votes; the SWAN representative abstained.

July 13, 2001

8. 856/z suppression evaluated.(KL)

No problems were reported at this time.

9. 856 new display option from Innovative: Robin Kespohl

(Check email from Robin Kespohl of June 15, 2001: Proposed Display of 856)

Display of 856 subfield z: Display of the subfield z was turned off at the prior meeting, and was to be re-evaluated at this meeting, decision was to leave it turned off.

New options for 856 display:

1. Display bib 856 only
2. 2. Display bib 856 and holdings 856
3. 3. Display holdings 856 only.

If 2 or 3 above is chosen then the subfield z could be turned back on to display cluster specific information.

MCDAC reps will discuss these options with their clusters and report back at the October meeting.

October 12, 2001

Display of 856 in Mobius

Three bugs have been found in the display of the 856 field in the cluster item holdings area of the MOBIUS union catalog record.

Only one URL from a bib record will display. Whatever URL's are in a record, all should display.

1. URL's are either not updated or are updated incorrectly when changes are made at the cluster level.
2. If there is no URL in the cluster bib record, the URL from the master bib record will display.

Several scenarios were discussed for displaying 856 fields.

1. Do not display the URL in the cluster item holdings. Continue to display the URL(s) from the master bib record only.
2. Display the URL(s) in both the bib record and the cluster item holdings (URL(s) from the cluster bib will display in the cluster item holdings; URLs in the bib master record will display in the bib record.)
3. Display the URL in the cluster item holdings only.

Displaying subfield z from the 856 was discussed. This subfield is for public notes. Merlin had the idea that Marcive could insert a note in the \$z in GPO documents indicating that a title is for Public Use.

Time was spent on discussing the display of \$z and the suppression of \$u which is the URL. Jim changed the wwwoptions file to demonstrate how this change would look in the Mobius catalog. The committee liked the look of this feature.

The committee came to consensus on continuing to display the URL's in both the bib record and the cluster item holdings. The display of \$z will be left turned on until the next meeting. This will give Public Service librarians time to look at this feature and evaluate it for the next meeting. Robin will talk to Marcive about whether Marcive could insert a \$z saying "Freely available" in the 856 fields of government documents records which they supply to MOBIUS members. If Marcive could provide this service, Robin would commit MCO to a one-time project to add the same subfield z to the gov doc records in MOBIUS not supplied by Marcive. After the fix, cluster catalogers will need to update the government documents on an ongoing basis.

In Mobius Merlin would like to see the statement Link to web version: which is within the box that displays the URL links changed to May be available locally: check your local catalog.

Bridges would like to see statement Display Holdings of MOBIUS Libraries changed to Display Holdings and Web Links of MOBIUS Libraries.

The above two suggestions may affect language that is hard-coded into the Innopac software.

January 25, 2002

856 Display

Status of the current issues related to 856: III has undergone administrative changes. The newest manager in this area told Robin in September that changes would take 2-3 weeks. Problems were originally fixed, then the changes were rescinded. Now a new "bundle" is to arrive in February. This may fix the issue where updating doesn't change in the display. "Stay tuned" for more on this issue.

The issue of displaying the subfield Z or the subfield U was discussed. Right now subfield Z is displaying and subfield U is suppressed. [Subfield Z is a note field. Subfield U is the URL.] Feedback was garnered from the representatives around the table. Carol Bennett brought a few examples from the Orbis database which seems to have addressed a couple of the issues we have been discussing. Robin made a note of these examples and will call Orbis to talk with them about how they have addressed this issue. It was noted that this is the #1 enhancement on Robin's list—at this point.

Since there is a fix bundle coming, should we make changes now or wait to see what the fix is? A "vote" was taken around the table (|z—Bridges, Archway, Merlin; |u—Lance, Arthur; no opinion—NW, Wash U, Wilo, Galahad,

Swan, Quest.) It was a general consensus to continue as is (displaying subfield Z and suppressing subfield U) and get more feedback. We will also watch to see what happens with the fix bundle and revisit the issue at the next meeting.

The language change, as requested by Merlin and Bridges last time, will also wait until after the fix is implemented.

Marcive Project

Marcive can add a subfield Z to all future loads of government documents that says “freely available”. For those gov docs already in the catalogs, MCO will use global update to do a retrospective addition of this subfield. A discussion about wording ensued. Should we say “freely available”, “freely available online”, “available online” or “free online access”? Discussion first turned to the issue of whether or not we should pursue having this subfield added. The consensus was to go ahead and have these subfields added, but decide the |Z and |U issue first. Other “freebie” sites being cataloged will be a library and/or cluster decision (Marcive will only do new gov doc sites.)

Finally, we discussed what to have displayed. It was decided by consensus, that once the |U and |Z issue is decided, we will have “free online access” added to the new gov docs by Marcive.

April 19, 2002

856 \$z and \$u Display

At present, 856 \$z only displays in MOBIUS as per an earlier MCDAC meeting. The decision was revisited with 5 clusters voting for 856 \$u and \$z to display, 3 clusters for 856 \$z only, and one abstention. MCDAC will go with displaying \$z and \$u from the 856 keeping the option to revisit the issue open.

In order to take advantage of a patch correcting display problems with the 856 field, MCO will begin re-loading records with 856 fields shortly.

Robin also has an enhancement proposal in the works to remove the need for a decision of where the 856 will display from (bibliographic record, bibliographic record and checkin record, checkin record only).

Marcive Proposal

Note, the suggested Marcive proposal is only useful if 856 \$z displays.

Marcive will add a subfield z 'Freely available online' for federal documents into existing 856 tags for all Marcive loads after June 1, 2002.

Following the first Marcive load MCO will, on a one-time basis, insert the same subfield z into 856 tags not already containing this text for all federal documents. This will be done at the cluster level.

Following the first Marcive load catalogers in MOBIUS libraries will add the same subfield z to the bibliographic records for any new federal documents they catalog.

The Marcive proposal was voted on with 8 clusters voting to affirm the proposal. On a related note, MCO on a one-time basis, could add subfield z 'Freely available online' to Missouri documents and UN documents to clusters wishing to have this done. The Missouri State Library will be adding their

documents to the MOBIUS catalog shortly.

July 12, 2002

MARCIVE Proposal

“Freely Available Online” is currently being added to all government documents records loaded by MARCIVE across the state. The retroactive phase of this project has not been completed yet (it is to be done by MCO.) Notification will go out to all libraries about this conversion before it begins. MCO is looking into a URL checker which will determine when URL’s change (as they do frequently.) Can we request that the Missouri State Library (cataloging agency of Missouri documents) add 856’s to their records? We will make this request when they are done with full implementation. Note: henceforth when any cataloger in MOBIUS catalogs a document with an 856, they should add a |z “Freely Available Online.”

Should we do a retroactive |z addition for documents from states outside Missouri? A motion was made to add a |z to the 856 for all state documents, regardless of the issuing state. It was seconded and passed.

November 8, 2002

Marcive Project Problem with 856 subfield z Display/Linkage:

The Project is that Marcive and MCO will insert the subfield (\$) z saying Freely Available Online into new and existing 856 Marc tags. The Problem is that in a field with only one \$u and multiple \$z’s, the \$z’s do not hotlink correctly.

Several options were presented for discussion as to how to continue with the project.

- a. Discontinue the project. Pursue an enhancement request.
- b. Continue the project. Pursue an enhancement request.
- c. Continue the project. Use only one \$z inserting Freely Available Online before any other text in a current \$z. Pursue an enhancement request.

A discussion began on the worth of this project. Geoffrey Swindell from the University of Missouri indicated that Mobius is becoming the “government documents catalog” of the state. The statement Freely Available Online is a good thing unless the workload becomes unbearable. A vote was taken indicating that this project has merit.

MCDAC voted in favor of the continued suspension of the project until the \$z problem is corrected. With information provided by Robin, Stephen Wynn will try to determine how many records have multiple \$z’s and how many of those records are government documents.

Two enhancement requests came out of the discussion. Robin will submit these to the INN-Reach group.

1. Currently when multiple \$z's are present in an 856 Marc field with only one \$u, the first \$z links to the resource but subsequent \$z's while appearing to hotlink actually lead to a blank screen. This enhancement request is to have subsequent \$z's correctly link to the resource or not be hotlinked at all. Note: Since MARC21 format supports repeatable \$z's; the software should work properly.
2. 2 . Enable the 956 field in local PACs to display and be hotlinked. The 956 to be used for restricted access url's and transferred to INN-Reach in the institution record. The bibliographic 856 to be used for public domain url's and to be transferred to INN-Reach in the bibliographic record.

March 14, 2003

856 field

For specific information on the number of potential problem records with multiple subfield z's, see Robin's November email. Clicking on the second \$z in an 856 takes the user to a blank screen.

Jim noticed that a possible solution to the 856 multiple subfield z display problem was to turn off the frames. Frames were creating URL display problems and causing folks reading full-text documents online (such as government documents or the American Wright Fiction Collection) to time out. One problem with going with no frames is that one loses the "return to MOBIUS" button. The question was then raised who is using frames and who is not. While looking at some online examples during the meeting, however, it appears that turning off the frames does not solve the 856 problem, though it is useful for resolving the timeout problem.

Mark mentioned an interest in pursuing an INN-Reach enhancement for the 956 field for proprietary items. Another idea mentioned was seeing if the second \$z in the 856 could be addressed with the addition of the 856 to the serials checkin record. Mary Ann mentioned that she would talk with Susan Lewis at MLCN about the 856 field in OCLC records.

Discussion diverted to whether or not MCDAC wanted to have the 856 \$z public note "Freely available online" put back into records. At present, there are 665 records with multiple \$z. Do the benefits outweigh the problem? At present, the MOBIUS catalog is currently displaying both \$u and \$z in the 856 field. The consensus was reached that the greater good of the note outweighs the problem records. Marcive will be notified to begin adding the 856 \$z public note. MCO will then make global changes to all federal and state documents with an existing 856 field adding \$z Freely available online. Catalogers should begin to add \$z Freely available online to the 856 field for newly-cataloged government document records. The Enhancement request will be made.