



Have you searched the Library Catalogue? Migrating catalogue records from pre-internet software to a modern library management system supporting MARC21

Peter Lund and Martin Lucas-Smith

Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge

(E-mail: opl21@cam.ac.uk)

Aim

To migrate the Polar Library's catalogue from Muscat (1980s software only searchable within the library) into ExLibris' Alma, the web-based library management system used by the University of Cambridge - searchable from (almost) anywhere using iDiscover (Primo).

Muscat record



Transliteration

- 140,000 new Cyrillic strings
- Muscat: Roman charset
- BGN/PCGN 1947
- Non-reversible scheme!
- 30+ stages to 880s
- Language identification







204,000 records

- c. 100 person years work
- Not MARC
- Pre-unicode

Muscat record

Conversion process

Reports and testing

- Little validation
- No authority control

6-12 hours overnight

- Data import
- XML structure
- Text normalisation
- Russian handling
- MARC conversion
- Bibcheck
- Exports creation

• Extensive reports

- Data cleanup work
- 1,071 tests
- Test for every conversion feature
- Open source code github.com/ camunigeog/muscatconversion/

Impact

- Increase in library visits
- Increase in inter-library loan requests
- Robust process for lending books



References

Gilbert, M; Lane, H. (2008) Forty-five numbers for snow: a brief introduction to the UDC for Polar libraries. Extensions and Corrections to the UDC, 30 (2008), pp. 23-26. http://hdl.handle.net/10150/110845 Porter, M. and Galpin, V. (1988), "Relevance feedback in a public access catalogue for a research library: Muscat at the Scott Polar Research Institute", Program: electronic library and information systems, Vol. 22 No. 1, pp. 1-20. https://doi.org/10.1108/eb046983