Background information for the Migration of the Millennium Reference Database Project

Overview:

The Rodman Public Library reference database used Innovative Interfaces’ Millennium product as the backend. It includes an index to *The Alliance Review*, the local newspaper, and has indexes for news articles, obituaries, and marriages. Also included is an index to the library’s scrapbook collection.

The records were entered into Millennium in a pseudo-MARC format:

**TAGS OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC VARIABLE LENGTH FIELDS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CODE | TAG | FIELD NAME | INDEX |
| a | 100 | Name (Obit only) | a |
| b | 102 | Bride (Marriage only) | a |
| g | 101 | Groom (Marriage only) | a |
| t | 245 | Title (News only) | t |
| t | 240 | Title (Obit/Marriage) | t |
| j | 773 | Scrapbook | s |
| n | 786 | Newspaper Title | s |
| p | 260 |c | Date |  |
| r | 300 | Page |  |
| m | 505 | Transcription (full text) | W |
| s | 520 | Summary (synopsis) | W |
| d | 650 | Subject (News only) | d |
| e | 690 | Event (Obituary/Marriage notice/Newspaper article) | d |

Number of records by type:

* Obituaries: 127,458
* New Articles: 119,611
* Scrapbooks: 4,639
* Marriages: 3,783
* TOTAL: 255,491

The records needed to be extracted from Millennium. At the initial time of the export, no .out table existed on the system. This was probably an oversight at the time and was added at no charge during this project. Create Lists was selected as the way to export the data.

Separate lists were created for the four types of data and they were exported separately as pipe “|” delimited files:

* **News articles:** Record# | Title | Newspaper Title | Date | Page | Transcription | Summary | Subject | Event
* **Obituaries:** Record# | Name | Title | Newspaper Title | Date | Page | Transcription | Summary | Subject | Event
* **Scrapbooks:** Record# | Title | Date | Page | Subject | Event | Scrap Book | Newspaper Title
* **Marriages:** Record# | Groom | Bride | Newspaper Title | Date | Page | Transcription | Summary | Event

Multiple subject or note fields were exported with semi-colon separators. The data was loaded into Excel for cleanup and to make sure all fields lined up properly.

At this time, it was also decided to add a separate MS Access database to the new Alliance Index that contained all the burial records for St. Joseph Catholic Church. These records would enhance searching by genealogists.

A MySQL database was established with the library’s hosting provider, 1and1.com (now Ionos.com). Within the database, five tables were created, one for each of the record types from Millennium and a fifth for the Catholic burial records.

New fields in each table include:

News Articles:

1. originalRecordNUM (Record# from Millennium)
2. title
3. newspaperTitle
4. newsDate (yyyy-mm-dd)
5. page
6. transcription
7. summary
8. subject
9. event (Newspaper article)
10. recordNum (assigned by MySQL and used as primary key)
11. yearColumn (4-digit year used for searches where only the year is known)
12. illustration (Y or N)

Obituaries:

1. originalRecordID (Record# from Millennium)
2. Name
3. Title
4. newspaperTitle
5. Date (yyyy-mm-dd)
6. Page
7. Transcription
8. Summary
9. Event (Obituary)
10. recordNum (assigned by MySQL and used as primary key)
11. illustration (Y or N)
12. yearColumn (4-digit year used for searches where only the year is known)

Scrapbooks:

1. originalRecordNum (Record# from Millennium)
2. title
3. scrapbookpages
4. newspaperTitle
5. date (yyyy-mm-dd)
6. newspaperPage
7. transcription
8. summary
9. subject
10. event (Scrapbook collection)
11. recordNum (assigned by MySQL and used as primary key)
12. illustration (Y or N)

Marriages:

1. originalRecordNum (Record# from Millennium)
2. groom
3. bride
4. marriageDate (yyyy-mm-dd)
5. newspaperTitle
6. page
7. transcription
8. summary
9. event (Marriage)
10. recordNum (assigned by MySQL and used as primary key)
11. illustration (Y or N)

Since the Catholic Burial Records contained more information, they included more fields:

1. deathDate (yyyy-mm-dd)
2. burialDate (yyyy-mm-dd)
3. lastName
4. firstName
5. middleInitial
6. age
7. birthday
8. serviceLocation
9. pastor
10. funeralHome
11. cemetery
12. section
13. lot
14. placement
15. veteran (Y or N)
16. recordNum (assigned by MySQL and used as primary key)

**Issues with data importing:**

The columns of some fields were skewed and had to be adjusted to align the data with the correct fields.

Records noted with “il.” and “por.” at the end of their titles had to have a “Y” value created in the new Illustration field.

Date formatting: Excel does not handle dates prior to 1900. Exported to Google Sheets for the yyyy-mm-dd format for the pre-1900 dates. Exported to Excel again for aligning. Some records had multiple dates listed and had to be simplified (Date of paper: Sat.-Sun., May 1-2 changed to May 1). Some dates had typos in them and had to be corrected (2021 was really 2012).

**Setting Up the User Interface**

The basis for the user interface to the MySQL database is Bootstrap. This allows the site to be responsive for all browsers and sizes. The HTML for the pages is incorporated into the php programming. Details on the programming files created can be found in the README file.

Includes files were created for the header and footer of the search and results screens. This will simplify the updating of the menus and the footer information.

A shopping cart was added to make it easier for the user to collect a number of citations and print them all at one time. The cart can also be emailed to the reference department by users who are out of the area to request PDFs be mailed to them.

After the public interface was tested and approved, forms for staff data entry and maintenance were created.