

UBC, Background and Future Perspectives

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Joint Satellite meeting: *Universal Bibliographic Control at the crossroads*

Brussels, 18-19 August 2023

Universal Bibliographic Control

- 1950: UNESCO conference on the improvement of bibliographical services (recommendations on national bibliographic services)
- 1977: UNESCO/IFLA international congress on national bibliographies
- 1979: *Guidelines for the National Bibliographic Agency and the National Bibliography* (IFLA International Office for UBC & UNESCO)
- 1998: International Conference on National Bibliographic Services (IFLA)
- UBCIM (Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC), an IFLA Core Activity until 2003
- IFLA-CDNL Alliance (ICABS then ICADS) until 2011
- No specific IFLA office since

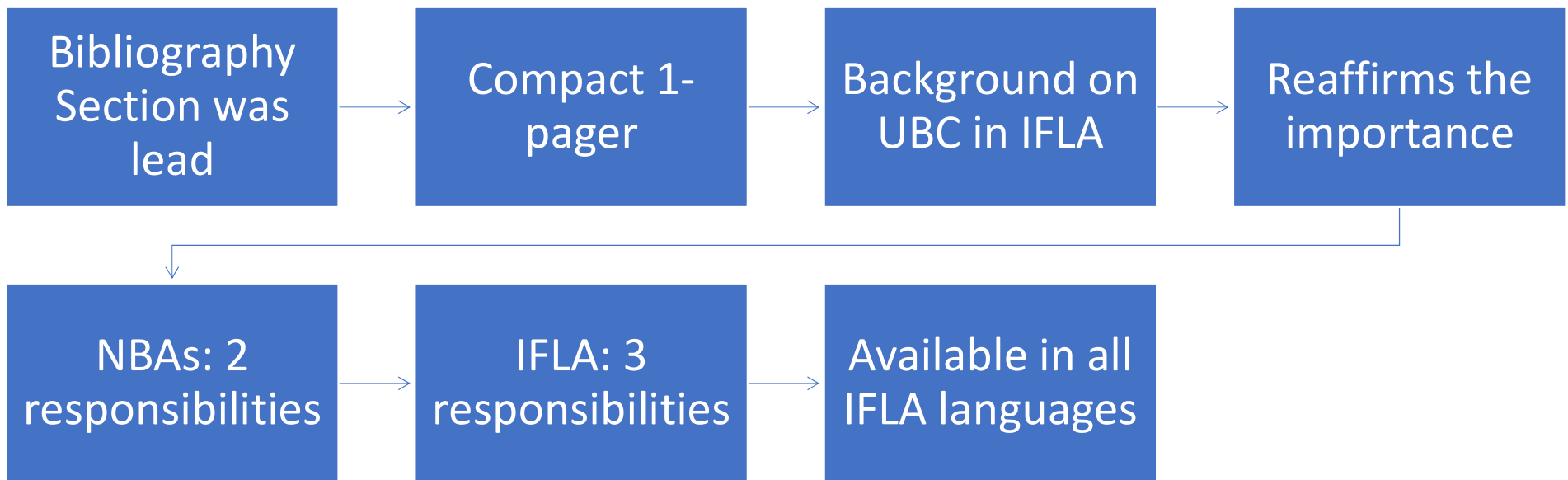
Goals of UBC

- Share the work, internationally
- Reduce costs through metadata reuse
- How:
 - Each NBA responsible for its own territory
 - Publish authoritative bibliographic and authority data
- WHY? To preserve documentary heritage comprehensively

Assumptions

- It is worthwhile to retain all published heritage worldwide
- Preserving access requires full description
- The national division of labour is natural, easy to manage
- Each country should have an NBA
- UBC is linked to legal deposit and national bibliography

2012 IFLA Professional Statement on UBC



National Bibliographic Agency (NBA) role

An NBA has the responsibility for **providing the authoritative bibliographic data for publications of its own country** and for making that data available to other NBAs, libraries, and other communities (for instance archives and museums) through appropriate and timely services with the goal of increasing open access to the bibliographic data

NBAs, as a part of the creation of authoritative bibliographic data, also have the responsibility for **documenting authorized access points** for persons, families, corporate bodies, names of places, and authoritative citations for works **related to its own country** and for making that authority data available to other NBAs, libraries, and other communities (for instance archives and museums)

IFLA's international standards role

IFLA has the responsibility for maintaining and promoting the Statement of International Cataloguing Principles (ICP), published in 2009, as the foundation for the sharing of bibliographic data

IFLA has, through the work of its relevant professional units and advisory committees, the responsibility for creating, maintaining and promoting **bibliographic standards and guidelines** to facilitate this sharing of bibliographic and authority data (e.g., ISBD, the FRBR family of conceptual models, etc.)

IFLA works collaboratively with other international organizations (e.g., ISO, ICA, ICOM, etc.) in the creation and maintenance of other standards in order to ensure that **library standards developments, including compatible data models, are coordinated with those of the wider community**

Evolution of technological context

- Change in distribution methods of metadata
- From batch to online
- From printed national bibliographies and card sets
- To MARC record distribution
- To shared databases
- To linked data

- New views of national bibliographies

Rethinking "Authoritative" Data

Abandoning single preferred forms of names

Respectful terminologies

Ethical issues

Identifiers and identity management

Multilingual data

Interoperability instead of exact reuse

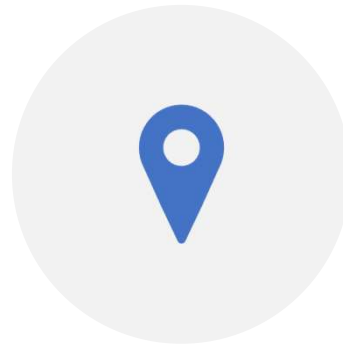
Standards beyond description and encoding

Broadening of agencies involved

A New UBC Statement?



IS THE GOAL STILL
VALID?



DO WE NEED AN IFLA
STATEMENT?



HOW WOULD WE STATE
IT NOW?

Enduring Meaning of UBC

- Breaking the silos of metadata
- Crafting interoperable metadata at the global level
- Ecosystem for sharing metadata
- Involving more partners

- What is needed to make this happen?