SUNY Libraries Consortium Metadata Policies
Policy: Parallel cataloging procedures

Policy justification: In 2003, OCLC policy changed to allow for parallel records within WorldCat by language of cataloging. It had long been envisioned that WorldCat would need a parallel record structure to display records by language of cataloging. Prior to 2003, records for the same title cataloged in different languages, by English, Spanish, or French cataloging agencies, for example, were considered duplicate records. OCLC no longer considers these records duplicates, but parallel records.

A parallel record is characterized by the use of a single language of cataloging in these fields:

- Field 040 contains a code for language of cataloging in subfield ‡b
- Field 300
- Non-quoted notes in 5xx field(s)
- The 33x fields (or GMD in the 245 ‡h in AACR2 records)

Note: The language of the subject headings (65x fields) is not a factor when determining the language of cataloging.

How to identify a foreign cataloging agency record:
Language of descriptive cataloging is coded in field 040 (Cataloging Source), subfield ‡b (Language of cataloging) of the record. If there is no subfield ‡b, the language is assumed to be English. In subfield ‡b, language is indicated by a three-letter language code. For a list of these codes, see the MARC Code List for Languages.

Examples
040 DRB ‡b fre ‡c DRB
040 GEBAY ‡b ger ‡c GEBAY

The language of descriptive cataloging (field 040 subfield ‡b) is not to be confused with the language of the item, which is recorded in the fixed-field element Lang (Language Code) of the record.

Example

Lang spa

When searching WorldCat, if the matching record is cataloged in a language other than that used by the inputting library, the library may enter a parallel record in its language of descriptive cataloging.
When using an existing record for copy cataloging, however, do not change the language of cataloging if upgrading the Master Record.

Examples

A Spanish cataloging agency that finds a record with English as the language of cataloging, may create a record with Spanish as the language of cataloging.

An English cataloging agency that finds a record with Italian as the language of cataloging, may create a record with English as the language of cataloging.

Using existing records

Do not change the language of cataloging coded in field 040 ‡b if there is no English language record for the piece you have in hand. Derive a new master record from the foreign cataloging agency record. Do not export the foreign language cataloging agency record.

For more information and examples, see the OCLC Bibliographic Formats and Standards 3.10, Parallel Records for Language of Cataloging.