

# UKSG Webinar Q&A

## ‘Plan M: The road ahead’

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*Questions that came during the presentation:*

**“Q: Many University libraries are reliant on 'shelf-ready' metadata from book and e-book suppliers. These records are often transmitted via automated processes and cannot be included in community cataloguing services such as Library Hub Cataloguing because they are purchased under a licence that prevents sharing for reuse. Do Jisc plan to help transform this part of the library acquisitions and metadata supply-chain to ensure that shelf-ready metadata is more open?”**

- Jisc have plans to speak with publishers and other third parties about this and try to work with them to make the metadata that comes from these suppliers more ‘open’. This will also involve some research into the acquisitions workflows in our member libraries to get a clearer picture of current practices and ascertain what our community’s needs are and how Jisc can facilitate changes to the ‘status quo’ with regards to shelf-ready metadata.

**“Q: Are OCLC and BDS ready to review their restrictive metadata licencing?”**

- Unfortunately, we can’t answer on behalf of OCLC and BDS about what their plans are, but we can certainly feedback the opinions of our member libraries to them. As part of the transitional National Metadata Agreement, we are having regular discussions with OCLC about the next phases of the agreement and what will happen after the end of July 2022.

We are also still speaking with BDS and they have expressed interest in working with Jisc in the future as part of their new Academic Library Licence, although these discussions are still in the early stages and we don’t have a lot of detail on what their plans are at the moment.

**“Q: As librarians we're excited to be able to enrich a UK dataset - how does Jisc see us contributing? As it happens at each organisation or more strategically via agreed desirable fields e.g. 341, 532 and 041 for accessibility, or say NACO/SACO (where libraries are able to contribute headings), or via projects, commissioned or community-sourced?”**

- The expressed enthusiasm to enrich a UK dataset is most welcome! Jisc recommends that all compatible methods of enrichment should be pursued. Changes and enhancements to data on local catalogues will be represented in the NBK dataset and will be available via Library Hub Cataloguing. If a Jisc /OCLC National Agreement can be sustained, that would include changes made to data that originates from WorldCat.

The point made about strategic enrichment to specific fields is an interesting suggestion. We would be happy to take suggestions of this sort and see where we can add value by taking on a strategic coordination role.

A stable tri-partite working relationship between the UK Library community, Jisc and OCLC (based on the foundation of a sustainable multi-year national-level agreement) will help to facilitate and broaden NACO/SACO work. It will also support a 'Data Futures' working group that will explore how best the data can be enhanced and the value of it fully realised.

**“Q: How many libraries have signed up for the National Metadata Agreement?”**

- At the time of writing, around 45 libraries are signed up and a number of additional libraries are in the pipeline with written or verbal commitments

**“Q: Are there any plans to work with LMS suppliers such as Ex Libris? Their Community Zone is a primary source of bibliographic records and is built into the Alma system. Some record sets are fit for purpose, but others are far too brief and aren't”**

- We are open to exploring potential collaboration with Ex Libris and are aware that their services are an important source of data for many libraries. But we are also open to collaboration with other vendors and initiatives, such as FOLIO. Our overall direction of travel is to make the best possible bibliographic dataset as open as possible, based on the most effective and sustainable financial model that is acceptable to the Jisc membership. We are happy to work in partnership with any organisation that is aligned with those aims.

**“Q: Does the management of DOAB data include the provision on a batch load level including of regular deletes and additions? When I was involved with the early stages of plans for NBK management of package data was one of the things we were positing as a possible service, so it's good to see that looking to be happening for OA platforms.”**

- Harvesting of the DOAB data provides regular updates including deletions. Similarly, for DOAJ and records for OA materials from the Hathi Trust. We are interested in suggestions of other OA sources that would be useful for resource discovery and shared cataloguing.

**“Q: In terms of data quality, you mentioned the aim 'to push better records in to Library Hub' Who would decide on what is a better record or would it be an automated process.”**

- The way that Library Hub Cataloguing is set up means that libraries can select which source record they prefer according to which one is most ‘fit-for-purpose’. With the National Metadata Agreement in place, this will include OCLC-sourced records that libraries may or may not have subsequently customised or enhanced. Library Hub Cataloguing supports record selection by allowing searching for specific fields required in a record eg. as an indicator of specialist cataloguing for music materials; as well as the inclusion of transparent record quality measures and a note of record errors, to support selection and editing of records.

**“Q: Will Irish Libraries be considered to take part in the scheme?”**

- Currently, the only Irish library that is eligible to participate in the Agreement is Trinity College Dublin. This is based on a historical decision to invite all the formally designated Legal Deposit Libraries to contribute data. There are no current plans to extend eligibility to other Irish libraries.