

# REPORT ON Advanced ABCD WORKSHOP

(University of Antwerp, 2-6 December 2014)

1- **Presentation of the participants** (names, institution name and the job related to ABCD), some participants were absent because still traveling. Most participants traveled to Antwerp in the framework of either the [Lib@Web](#) International Training Program or the VLIR/UOS workshops on Information Literacy and Discovery Tools.

- 1.1 **Tuesday Bwalya, University of Zambia** : He just came to learn about the migration from Koha to ABCD.
- 1.2 **Mauricio Brito (MB), Ucuena Ecuador**: Has more than one hundred thousand records and is working on the RFID implementation of ABCD.
- 1.3 **Bert Alikromo, AdeKUS Suriname**: Has one hundred thousand records and wants to migrate from ABCD\_V1.2 to ABCD\_V1.4 because they need to work with reservation module, now they can't reserve.
- 1.4 **Daniel Deogratus, Mzumbe Tanzania**: Since January 2014 using Marc21 with ABCD, the most used modules of the ABCD system are cataloguing and OPAC, some problems in the library are not technical but people acting in bad way. The ISBN number is mandatory (for theses there is no ISBN number). In display format they fail to put the availability.
- 1.5 **Stephano John, SUA Tanzania**: Using ABCD since 2011, before was using Weblis. But because of virus problem in Windows now are using Linux Debian, they have problems with ABCD series control module, people using data entry and forget to send to the loan objects. Target is to learn MX-ISIS formatting language and integration with Zotero software.
- 1.6 **Sila Too, Moi University Kenya**: Use ABCD since 2010, does regular training of the librarians and have problems using acquisition module and validation.
- 1.7 **Arnold, USAI Kenya** : He advises the IT department and just came to learn about the migration from Koha to ABCD.

- 1.8 **Orlando Dorwart, AdeKUS, Suriname:** He assists Mr. **Bert Alikromo, AdeKUS Suriname** at the same university.
- 1.9 **Tadele Mulat, Jimma University, Ethiopia:** Before was using Weblis but moved to ABCD and is running very well but the reservation module and acquisition module isn't working , they need to learn ISIS formatting language.
- 1.10 **Anselmo Matavele, UEM Mozambique:** Was using Millennium from USA and changed to ABCD in 2010, has problems with copies and loan databases, the loan system is still not in use, because have problem with the migration from small libraries to one central library and the permissions for the users (we're trying to configure different databases and different roles) are not working very well.
- 1.11 **Marino Borrero Sánchez, Universidad del Oriente, Cuba (MBS) :** Uses ABCD since 2012 with full implementation running well; he developed some utilities for ABCD, has more than five hundred thousand records in the loans system.
- 1.12 **Marcos Mirabál, Universidad de Pinar del Rio, Cuba (MM):** Uses ABCD since 2013 and acts as an ABCD implementation expert on behalf of the Cuban ICT-Network, assisting many Cuban institutes to migrate; also is programming new utilities for ABCD Central.
- 1.13 **Piet De Keyser : head librarian Leuven University College, Belgium (PDK):** ISIS-experts since many years, provides MARC-cataloging training to many VLIR/UOS partner libraries.
- 1.14 **Egbert de Smet : University of Antwerp, Belgium (EdS),** project co-ordinator on behalf of VLIR/UOS for the DOCBIBLAS / ABCD-development project, workshop facilitator

## 2- **Presentation of the program** (by Professor Egbert )

Day 1 : Monday

- a) Welcome and short introduction/presentation by the participants about their background  
ABCD-experiences and ABCD-related problems. (EdS)
- b) Installation issues : installation wizards for both Windows and Linux (MBS)
- c) Remote management of ABCD-systems through ssh and sftp (EdS)
- d) Migration issues for existing catalogs/systems, e.g. CEPAL->MARC21 (MM), KOHA->ABCD (EdS)
- e) Upgrading ABCD from older to newer version, using export/import (EdS)

- f) Basic use of ABCD-interface in creating fields, adapting PFT's, iAH and Site configuration (EdS)
- g) New features of 1.4 : reservations (EdS), consistency checks during copy-creation,
- h) new utilities : creating loanobjects, duplication checks etc. (MM), thesaurus (EdS)

### 3- **ABCD 1.4 installation** (by Marino Sánchez (MBS))

Installation of ABCD using a installation tool (wizard with Apache + PHP), *This version contains an auto-extractor and configuration wizard and comes with Apache/PHP pre-configured. Will now also be available for Linux Debian.*

#### 3.1- Steps to install on windows :

- a) 3.1-Download the tool from the site (<http://abcd.netcat.be/files/>)
- b) 3.2-Click on the installer:

select the driver.

Virtual host name (can be any name).

Port (can be any free port).

Institution name.

Default database to be indicated

#### 3.2- Steps to install on Linux :

- For Linux version the installwe doesn't come with APACHE and PHP, but can be used using SSH on a remote computer, this installer shows the extra software's that are necessary (dependencies).

- a) Download the tool from the site (<http://abcd.netcat.be/files/>)
- b) Click on the installer:

select the Folder.

Virtual host name(can be any name).

port(can be any free port).

Institution name.

Default database.

The installation using the wizard in Linux still has some minor problems, and Marino Sánchez will continue working to finalize this wizard.

#### 4- Manage a server remotely (by EdS)

To manage a computer remotely he uses ssh and ftp, e.g. using PUTTY

Steps:

a) Install putty then put the

IP

Login

PW

b) After login a command line window will be shown and is possible to use any Linux command.

c) For a better use of the commands is recommended the installation of MC (Midnight Commander); just type: apt-get install mc. This is a light-weight semi-graphical interface for easier navigation and file-system management.

d) To transfer files it is advised to use the free software WinSPC, as it is also possible to edit configuration text files and save them back to the server.

#### 5- Conclusion

Version 1.4 was distributed and installed. Everyone installed the ABCD system successfully and we had the opportunity to see what we are doing wrong.

## **Day Two:**

This is day two of the workshop held at Antwerp university,

### **Session one**

We started by introducing the new participant (Asaye a participant from Jimma University, Ethiopia, with 4 years of ABCD usage experience).

Facilitator introduced new developments on ABCD. It was presented that there are various volunteers around the world working closely to improve ABCD. As an example recently a development on MOBILE OPAC was shown, which can be accessed on <http://mobile.biblioteca.net>.

The main topic was the Formatting Language, it was presented that formatting language is used in most of the displays in ABCD, some of the areas where the Formatting Language is used are :

- Display of data (PFT)

- Data indexing (FST)

- Sorting keys

- Validation statements (data entry)

In ABCD the FL is also used e.g. in 'list as' and 'extract as' columns of the data-entry worksheets.

Most of the changes on the appearance can be done by changing the PFT's used, which are always mixes of HTML-coding with ISIS FL. We need both elements of the formatting language in most instances. The Formatting Language gives more power to the users to do a lots of changes without requiring a real programmer.

### **Session two**

This is the session which was dominated by practicals, and participants were taught how to create a display format starting from small and very simple scripts to complex scripts, Embedding Html to the PFTs, using logical expressions e.g. 'if else fi ' statements. These statements were practiced in a Command Line Interface (CLI) with the CISIS-tool 'mx' using the 'PFT=' parameter and calling the actual PFT-text file in which each time new elements were introduced.

The rest of the session as just practicals on PFT.

## **Wednesday**

### **Reservation Function in ABCD**

At this time reservations are done by the librarians and not end users. In principle, the user should be doing reservation on its own. The book itself must be available in the shelf. At some point, the situation should be on a search from catalog where the user should search a record and reserve it.

In the definition menu, there is advanced form for circulation, where search mechanism should be provided. The form was simplified specifically for the loan system. The copies must be in the copies and loan-object databases for you to reserve. The book also must be on loan in order to reserve. Then the user reserves the book. Demonstration was done and the book was reserved. If there is a problem with the user's details (not showing user's pictures?), then you need to go to configuration of the users PFT's. Through demos, it shows that the user can search for the item using titles, or ISBN or author etc.

Noted: The loan module must be configured and working well before you start using it.

## **Creating a new ABCD Site design (MBS)**

An alternative ABCD Site page was shown, designed based on CSS. This is based on responsive design. You can use e.g. Dreamweaver for the design. There were columns on the design, i.e the right column and centre. The design creates PHP files in the ABCD-scripts-folder and calls the file in ABCD/site. He also created the form for search. The site is simple and precise. He used 'Artisteek' software for this.



## **From MARC21 to RDA (PDK)**

Resource Description Access is implemented in LC British library

### **Main influences**

FRBR Functional Requirement for Bibliographic Records (1998) is concerned with work expression/ manifestation / item. Catalog should express all these and they are interlinked.

In our catalogues, it is realized mostly in other versions. Demo's were done using WorldCat, 'search catalogs'.

In the old cataloguing based on pure MARC it is not possible to use FRBR.

AACR2 was revised to AACR3 which became RDA. In this new standard, new fields were created, new codes, new terminology and new way of handling bibliographic data based on the idea **'accept what you see, take what you can get'**. No more abbreviations, no more rule of three (authors). Take the edition as it is.

## **Main changes in MARC<RDA**

Take what you see,

No abbreviations

Special new fields, LC 264 instead of 260 for imprint

27 indifference

RDA: New vocabulary is used.

## **Consequences of RDA for other libraries?**

LC delivers us records in RDA, no longer in MARC21, through Z39.50

Fields we do not recognize

Many data has to be changed

RDA is mandatory, although it is not our standard yet in ABCD (whereas e.g. in KOHA this has been implemented already).

RDA was introduced last year but still they are working on

BIBFRAME that will be an alternative to the MARC format. It is a replacement of MARC.

The new one is <http://bibframe.org/tools/>

Filter has to be created to convert some fields. This is a conversion table as used in Z39.50.

There are new fields in RDA that MARC has to incorporate. Demos was done in some databases i.e from cepal to MARC etc. Also Jimma University catalog was used to demonstrate how they downgraded incoming Z39.50 to MARC. However the general conclusion is that ABCD urgently needs to implement RDA on top of MARC21.

## **Continuation of day 2 topics : the ISIS**

### **Formatting Language (PDK)**

format to export to comma-delimited/CSV (PDK).

This can be done using mx

**mx marc fix=test.csv now -all**

Or a detailed PFT like :

**"" ,v20^a,"";"" ,v245^a.'";"" ,v100^a'"" ,/**

in the graphical display of PFT delimiter

## Report on Workshop ABCD Advance

Basic use of ABCD-interface in creating fields, adapting PFT's, iAH and Site configuration (EdS)

Any pictures and files attached to display or give a link, Apache is to be allowed or knows where to find the file

Apache reaches only to find in its own domain.

Apache conf extra http-vhosts-abcd.conf.

Document root htdocs : “/ABCD/www/htdocs”

Bases Root bases: “/ABCD/www/bases”

For historical reasons the htdocs/bases was used to write files related to database-records (e.g. pictures) but now can be removed.

Migrating Issues for existing catalogs and systems (EdS)

From Cepal to Marc

From Isis to Isis (eg. Cepal- Marc)

From Marc to ABCD (eg. KOHA - ABCD)

From CSV to ISIS (eg. DOAJ)

MM discussed migrating from Cepal to Marc 21 with his manual (Migration from Cepal to Marc.pdf) he produced and made available. With a process file using the following basic model-statement :

'if p(field in CEPAL) then '<field in MARC>',vFIELD IN CEPAL,'</field in MARC >' fi,  
with this process file and the given fields you can migrate step by step from Cepal to MARC.

## Day 4

### **I. Problem with the LILACS database that was not showing information on screen on Tuesday afternoon :**

**Solution :** Prof. Egbert re-started his Windows again and the problem was not there anymore, maybe because he had different ABCD running at a time.

In ABCD you as an administrator can or use different database folder:  
**realdatabase or testdatabase** so to manage and improve your database.

### **How to add another database, which you now is already there:**

You want to know if the database DBLIL is in the select Box of ABCD. If you don't see it but you know there is such a database, then we have to follow these steps:

-Go to your abcd: login and password.

-Select a database(MARC), the updatedatabase definition. Here you see a List of available databases(bases.dat), Click Edit and a window opens in which you can put in a name of a database.

### **We got from Prof Egbert DeSmet a document about the CISIS Formatting Language,**

**About : Unconditional quotes '....'**

**Conditional quotes "..."**

**Repeatable conditional quotes |....|**

**Comma's have meaning:**

**Which field is defined in this example? v1|string|,v2.**

**v1 is defined, not v2 since it is separated by a comma**

### **In the abcd 1.4 on the webpage you will find a LINK [abcdwiki.net](http://abcdwiki.net)**

Here you will find Demo ABCD with no copies and with copies. You can use this site of ABCD as a testing place, where you can modify your ABCD structure or improve on your skills

## **II. MM gave a demo on Migration Cepal to ABCD (Manual migration)**

### **Steps to follow:**

1. Make a deep analysis of your database with the MARC fields.(important and difficult step).  
see table in migration Manual.
2. Next step. Create the migration files following the model:  
if p(field in CEPAL) then '<field in MARC',vFIELD IN CEPAL'</field in MARC >' fi,
3. Create a text file and change it in a .proc file.(see manual)

With this file we will migrate our database. First we copy this text here under in the .proc file and then save it.

```
d*,  
'<3005>n</3005>',  
'<3006>a</3006>',  
'<3007>m</3007>',  
'<3008>0</3008>',  
'<3017>5</3017>',  
'<3018>a</3018>',  
'<3019>0</3019>',
```

```
if p(v2) then '<1>',v2,'</1>' else '<1>',mfn,'</1>' fiif p(v3) then
'<84>^a',v3,'</84>' fi,
if p(v16) then '<100>^a',v16,'</100>' fi,
if p(v17) then '<110>^a',v17,'</110>' fi,
if p(v18) then '<245>^a',v18,'</245>' fi,
if p(v19) then '<242>^a',v19,'</242>' fi,
if p(v20) then '<300>^a',v20,'</300>' fi,
if p(v38) then '<260>^b',v38,'</260>' fi,
if p(v39) then '<260>^a',v39,'</260>' fi,
if p(v40) then '<43>^a',v40,'</43>' fi,
if p(v41) then '<250>^a',v41,'</250>' fi,
if p(v43) then '<260>^c',v43,'</260>' fi,
if p(v47) then '<20>^a',v47,'</20>' fi,
if p(v64) then '<41>^a',v64,'</41>' fi,
if p(v72) then '<500>^a',v72,'</500>' fi,
if p(v76) then '<650>^a',v76,'</650>' fi,
if p(v104) then '<852>^a',v104,'</852>' fi,
```

4. Copy the database to a folder with the Mst and Xrf files
5. Copy the mx.exe utility from your ABCD/www/cgi-bin/ folder to your folder.
6. Copy your proc file to your folder.
7. Run cmd and navigate to the folder.  
The next commands will be executed in the cmd Windows application.
8. Create the database from a ISO file if necessary:  
In Windows: *mx iso=db.iso create=db -all now*
9. To migrate the records from CEPAL to MARC execute:  
In Windows: *mx db -all now proc=@file.prc create=dbf*
10. Create the iso file to import in ABCD  
In Windows: *mx dbf iso=DBF.iso outisotag1=3000 now -all*

Create a new database from MARC database in ABCD. For example he uses his UPR university catalog.

Upload the DBF.iso into your server and import it into the newly created database based on MARC.

Now you have converted a CEPAL database into a MARC database. In principle this same process can be used to migrate any database from any format to another.

### **III. Upgrading ABCD from older to newer version, using export/import (ABCD 1.4 version)**

Steps:

1. Always make a backup of your original ABCD database-folder on your server. This can be done by either copying the MST and XRF or by exporting the database into an ISO-file.
2. Install new ABCD using the installer(.exe) of ABCD
3. Copy your MST. , XRF into the new ABCD 1.4 or import the ISO-files into the existing databases.

4. Testing the database on errors is a crucial part of knowing if its work correctly. So testing all your databases has to be flawless.

**For more instructions read the manual of ABCD**

### **Summarizing (Upgrading ABCD)**

1. Backup to iso.....for each database
2. Stop Apache + rename your ABCD folder.....(Realbackup of the ABCD folder)
3. Install the new upgrade (full installer .exe) ABCD new version 1.4
4. Imports your backups: ISO-files via new ISO-import utility
5. Check for any local files (check dates) for examples:
  - .tab (tables)
  - .val (validation)
  - .wks (worksheetslist)
  - Bases.dat
6. Move or copy the CN\_ Files: Control\_number.cn
7. Test catalogue
8. Test OPAC
9. Test Loans
10. Remove the old folder, save some space

## **Day 5**

### **1. Permission and access privileges**

On Friday (05/12/2014) in the afternoon, the facilitators began by showing the participants how to grant permissions in ABCD-profiles.

Participants learnt how to define access and use privileges to different databases in the new version of ABCD (1.4).

It was further learnt that permissions maybe used to define work flows eg indexers will be assigned roles of just indexing the information resources in the database.

### **2. Enabling the Availability Button in OPAC**

Looked at how ABCD could show to the users in the OPAC the availability button. This was a challenge to many system administrators as their systems did not show the availability status of the searched materials.



In this regard, participants therefore were given the manual on how to configure the availability button.

The facilitator explained that for the availability button to work, there should be a link to the objects/loans file to iAH. This should be done in the iAH configuration.

Further agreed that participants be given a code or script to use to ensure that the availability button works, now also available for Central Loans (as before the button only worked with EmpWeb).

It was advised that in the new version of ABCD to be released, the switching of line will be done automatically by the system (done in v2.0b).

### **3. Generation of Statistics**

The workshop also looked at the statistics module

It was learnt that the user needs to create statistics on his/her own by creating the criteria using the Formatting Language.

ABCD uses the formatting language to define fields to be used to create a query for statistics

Having created the criteria you save and it run a query based on it

Statistics could be derived from any database on any fields

The statistics could be presented in form of bar charts, frequency tables etc

All these techniques were exemplified, e.g. creating a table with countries and languages used in the DOAJ database.

### **4. Input worksheets**

It was learnt that the possibilities to design advanced forms in ABCD 1.4 have improved

Further learnt that one can create a simple worksheet based on the fields right-away with the worksheet-editor

Worksheets are important in cataloging and other administrative works.

Also learnt that in the new ABCD, if changes are made in the FDT, they will reflect in the worksheets, using a new option/column in the FDT

## 5. Locking and Unlocking a database

Some participants complained of having their databases locked

The facilitator explained that locking a database is done when one is inverting a database so that the indexing process could be done without addition of data to the database being indexed by other users.

The system administrator can also lock individual records he or she is working on

Further explained that locking of a database could be caused by power cuts especially many countries from which participants come from experience intermittent supply of electricity.

The participants were shown how to unlock a database using the new utility available in ABCD 1.4

There is a **retag utility** to help unlocking the databases from the CLI.

## 6. Searching Phrases

Some participants disclosed that the search using phrases was a challenge in OPAC

It was however discovered that it was just a problem of Boolean logic searching

## 7. RFID/SIP 2 in ABCD Demo (Mauricio Brito)

The facilitators took time to demonstrate how RFID/SIP 2 will be integrated into ABCD.

This is another new feature to be added to ABCD v2.0b

Radio-frequency identify is used to manage resources

It is based on the protocol SIP 2

Through this technology, self-circulation will be feasible in ABCD through the use of a robot.

Users can check in and check out materials on their own by using a robot

Works have advanced on how to integrate this technology in ABCD and a demo was shown to the participants

## 8. ABCD and LDAP DEMO (MM)

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The participants also were shown how to use LDAP database in ABCD to authenticate the library users

This technology can be used to verify access privileges of users

ABCD administrator can import users databases from LDAP user database and use it for loans

## **Conclusion**

Prof Egbert encouraged participants to subscribe to the mailing list

Also observed that currently there are many readers but few contributors to the forum

The coordinator further encouraged participants to be 'Ambassadors of ABCD' in their countries

A new version 2.0b with full-text capabilities will be available soon

The Downloads-page at the server <http://abcd.netcat.be/files> is completely re-vamped and a new page with lots of documentation files is added.

Some new features like Unicode, RFID and LDAP still need to be added but are on their way.

ANNEX : Contacts of participants

Participants :

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