

PROSPECTS FOR SHARED CATALOGUING AND JOINT  
REPRESENTATION OF LIBRARY RESOURCES IN UKRAINE

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**Abstract:** *The paper presents the state and prospects for shared cataloguing and joint representation of library resources in Ukraine. It describes the several projects in Ukraine that combine efforts in cataloguing and creating union catalogues, which are coordinated by libraries of different levels. Also, it demonstrates some Ukrainian library projects on authority control. We pay special attention to the Virtual Knowledge project. The main goal of this project is creating a union catalogue as a single access point to all leading universities' library materials and information resources in order to improve the quality of Ukrainian education and science according to European and international standards. We are also focusing on prospects and ways for the development of shared cataloguing and joint representation of library resources in Ukraine.*

**Key words:** *shared cataloguing, union catalogues, library catalogues, discovery system, Ukrainian libraries, library cooperation*

The purpose and objectives of shared cataloguing projects and joint representation of library resources implementation around the world are efforts combining and rational use of libraries' resources, and providing of quick and easy users' access to library collections.

Access to library physical collections over time transformed into the need to provide a single access point to all resources that libraries accumulate, and not only to their own but also to the resources acquired for temporary use.

Cataloger's role has been reviewed since, with the existence of a full-text search in databases. Descriptive or subject cataloguing is no longer the only effective way to provide a productive search for users. A metadata specialist or a new type of hybrid librarian [1] – which skills would demand the time for acquiring – everything will depend on our ability to change and to feel and anticipate these needs.

Ukrainian librarians do not participate actively in discussions on the future of the cataloger's profession yet. Different levels of libraries' technical development in the country and other problems hinder the implementation of modern electronic catalogues. And, what is more, full implementation of discovery systems that provide access to all library resources also remains our future.

To give an overview of the shared cataloguing in Ukraine, and explain its basic differences, we should return to libraries' experience around the world. Taking into account a large number of studies on this topic, we can outline the main distinctive features of shared cataloguing and its advantages.

Collaborative cataloguing projects prevent duplication of work and make all bibliographic records available to their participants. Shared work encourages and necessitates unification of the rules and standards for records creating.

Accordingly, the participating institutions have common cataloguing standards (cataloguing model) and create and use a common thesaurus - subject headings. The

reduced costs and efforts of individual libraries are obvious. [1] [2] Authority files and rules for authority records creating are also common. An additional advantage of such collaboration is that more experienced cataloguers share their professionalism with other libraries. Shared cataloguing is often based on a consortium supported by the state (e.g. Latvia, Iceland etc.).

The key role in the process of shared cataloguing organizing play libraries of a national level (because it requires human and material resources, a certain position in the libraries' world, and access to resources published in a particular country, etc.). Electronic catalogues are a tool for shared cataloguing and exchange of bibliographic data, as well as a tool for accessing these records for users.

Examples of library cooperative organizations include Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN), Western Library Network (WLN), MINITEX<sup>1</sup>, ILLINET<sup>2</sup>, etc. The well-known program of shared cataloguing at the national level is the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC, USA).<sup>3</sup> The Program is coordinated by the Library of Congress and consists of four separate programs: BIBCO (Bibliographic Record Cooperative Program), CONSER (Cooperative Online Serials Program), NACO (Name Authority Cooperative Program), and SACO (Subject Authority Cooperative Program). The most famous international shared cataloguing projects are the World's Largest Library Catalog (WorldCat) and the Virtual International Authority File (VIAF) supported by Online Computer Library Center, Inc. (OCLC).

Shared cataloguing in Ukraine has one important common feature with global experience – librarians of the country understand the importance of the interaction between libraries and the pooling of resources. This is a very positive feature, but there are several negative features in its counterbalance. The first one is the lack of a systematic holistic approach to shared cataloguing at the national level.

Discussions on the need to create a national centre for shared cataloguing to coordinate all processes have been going on for many years. [3] [4] Although there are 9 national libraries in Ukraine and the Book Chamber - none of these institutions took responsibility for coordinating the project of shared cataloguing at the national level.

In terms of national cataloguing standards, our libraries do not have the national coordinated standard for machine-readable cataloguing used by all libraries of the country. Several years ago, created by the group of experts<sup>4</sup> UKRMARC, [5] based on UNIMARC, still remained as a static project - although such standards require constant work on them. [6] Cataloguing rules are based on the Russian standards (GOSTs – state standards). Regarding the subject headings, we have an example of the creation of the "Information retrieval Thesaurus" by the Yaroslav Mudryi National Library of Ukraine. The Thesaurus has universal content and was recommended for general use by the authors. The Thesaurus was published in 2004 and was distributed among public libraries of Ukraine. [7]

Libraries of the country also use different software, and this fact interferes with the compatibility of records.

National authority files are also missing. Although, several libraries create own authority files. For example:

- Name authority file of the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine;<sup>5</sup>

Name authority file of the Vasyl Stefanyk Lviv National Scientific Library of Ukraine; [8] [9]

Authority file SUBJECT HEADINGS of Sukhomlynskiy State Scientific Pedagogical Library; [10]

Authority file “Corporate Names” of the Korolenko Kharkiv State Scientific Library; [8] [11]

Authority file of faculty members personal names (G. Denysenko Scientific and Technical Library of National Technical University of Ukraine “Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute”)<sup>6</sup> etc.

But, in fact, each library should work independently. These problems and a clear understanding of the benefits of collaborative work have led to the emergence of collaborative cataloguing projects at a narrower level. In general, collaborative cataloguing projects were the first among the collaborative projects of Ukrainian libraries (appeared at the end of 20th). Initially, such projects focused on creating union catalogues of articles from periodicals to which libraries subscribe. The project were initiated by the regional scientific libraries (central libraries of the region – oblast) as the most technically developed libraries. [12]

Such projects remain very successful today, and the most famous of them are:

Central Ukrainian Cooperative Catalog - the project is administrated by D.I. Chyzhevsky Kirovograd regional universal scientific library, and has 13 participants; [4]<sup>7</sup>

Pridneprovsk region Cooperative Catalogue<sup>8</sup> by Dnipropetrovsk regional universal scientific library. [13]

Today, in addition to the union catalogues of articles, there are also union catalogues that reflect collections of various libraries but have individual search in a catalogue of each library (i.e. catalogues without common search in all resources) – for example, “Libraries’ Resources of Mykolaiv city: union electronic catalogue”.<sup>9</sup>

Besides, there are union catalogues with the possibility to search in all libraries’ collections together. For example, Lesia Ukrainka Public Library (Kyiv) creates the Union catalogue of Kyiv public libraries.<sup>10</sup>

Among the varieties of union catalogues are catalogues of library's periodicals subscriptions. For example, the “Union catalogue of periodicals” by Ivano-Frankivsk city leading libraries;<sup>11</sup> “Catalogue of periodicals” subscribed in large libraries of Khmelnytsky region by the Khmelnytsky regional universal scientific library;<sup>12</sup> the Union database of periodicals of Mariupol city libraries (5 libraries of the city, coordinated by the Scientific Library of the Mariupol State University).<sup>13</sup>

Databases with content on local history, cultures etc. are very popular also; they exist in almost every region of Ukraine. For example, “Electronic library of regional publications of the Ternopil region” by Ternopil regional universal scientific library, and the local base of regional publications by the Scientific Library of the Chernivtsi National University.<sup>14</sup>

Among the cooperative projects of specialized libraries are:

- Union Electronic Catalogue of Corporative Library System of Kherson Agricultural state university<sup>15</sup> (10 members – agricultural libraries, the project coordinator is the National library of Kherson Agricultural state university);

- Cooperative cataloguing project for medical libraries coordinated by the National scientific medical library of Ukraine.<sup>16</sup> Libraries create the Union electronic catalogue of medical periodicals and analytic bibliographic records on articles from those periodicals. For this propose libraries use the integrated library system IRBIS 64.

But the Union catalogue does not contain information on libraries’ holdings. And

the transfer of bibliographic records between libraries and then loading them into the base usually last for several months.

General common characteristics of Ukrainian collaborative cataloguing projects are:

- Projects are organized mostly at the regional or interregional level and between libraries of the same specialization or different specialization.
- Projects participants usually sign agreements for cooperation and develop their own cataloguing rules and policies.
- Libraries train staff together.
- Participants should maintain the appropriate technical level and perform all planned works in time.
- The participation in the projects does not involve the financial costs of individual libraries.
- Often, a requirement for participation in the project – the usage of the same library software.

In general, for creating their products libraries use different ILS, most often it is IRBIS<sup>17</sup> (used by the regional universal scientific libraries).

As mentioned above to overcome the current situation with shared cataloguing Ukrainian library professionals many years debate on cooperation in cataloguing and state the necessity of implementation national wide programs concerning such objects as a cataloguing centre, national union catalogue, national authority file etc. Points of view on these topics are published in professional journals and proceedings and widely discussed at many scientific and practical events. [14] [15] [16] Except that there were some other measures to change that state of affairs.

In 2009 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the Concept, [17] and in 2011 the State Target National-Cultural Program for the creation of a single information library system “Library-XXI» was adopted. The purpose of the program was "creating a single information library system "Library-XXI" to increase the efficiency of using documents stored in library, archival and museum collections, and provide access to these documents. [18]

Among other activities of the program, it was planned the implementation of national projects for cataloguing centre, authority files, union catalogue, and electronic library on the base of national libraries and the Book Chamber of Ukraine within the framework of a single information library system. But the launch of the program has not even started.

In 2016, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the Strategy for the Development of Librarianship until 2025 titled “Qualitative changes of libraries in the context of maintaining sustainable development of Ukraine”, created by the working group of the Ukrainian Library Association. Among proposed short-term actions is “creating a coordination centre of cooperative cataloguing system for libraries on the basis of State Scientific Institution “Ivan Fedorov Book Chamber of Ukraine” [19]. And the medium-term Objectives of the Strategy is “creating of a union electronic catalogue of libraries collections and database of authority national files” [19]. For the Strategy implementation at the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine, should be set up special working groups for each of the strategic direction. These working groups would coordinate the work on the implementation of specific activities. At this point in June 2018, any working groups have not been established yet, and we cannot observe any coordinated actions to implement the

## Strategy.

In our opinion, the main reasons for the lack of implemented shared cataloging projects and a national level union catalog in Ukraine absence are: restriction of software (ILS) currently used by national/state libraries and the Book Chamber of Ukraine; limited state funding that is not able to provide national level projects; lack of political will. Negative consequences of such a situation are: Ukrainian libraries are not participating in WorldCat and VIAF; the full integration of Ukrainian libraries into the world information space is impossible. We see as a way out of the situation: writing a national project for shared cataloging, and union catalogue, and its implementation in terms of co-financing from the European Union and Ukraine.

In 2017 the libraries of several national universities of Ukraine began work on the «Virtual Knowledge – Service for Quality Improvement of Study, Teaching and Research» project for submission it to «Erasmus+ Capacity building in the field of higher education».

Below is the summary of our project.

The Project Objectives are:

- Create a virtual knowledge base – a union catalogue as a single access point to all leading universities' library materials and information resources in order to improve the quality of Ukrainian education and science according to European and international standards.
- Improve information literacy and research data management skills of students, teachers, and researchers in accordance with European and international standards. That will improve the quality of education and research in universities and provide their integration into the global education and scholarly community.
- Improve the quality of services needed for learning, teaching, and research at Ukrainian universities.

Tasks of the Project are:

1. Create an information infrastructure of leading Ukrainian universities' libraries from different regions for sharing and distributing educational along with academic information resources, and for improving the quality of education and science at these Universities.
2. Implement a new integrated library system compliant with international acquisition, circulation and cataloguing standards that will allow providing quality services for users in the member libraries.
3. Create a Virtual knowledge base – a shared catalogue of all information resources of member libraries on the base of implemented ILS that will provide the library resources saving for acquisition, cataloguing, and circulation.
4. Create a Virtual knowledge base grounding on the up-to-date search system (discovery system) that meets current international standards. The Virtual Knowledge Base will provide a single access point to all information resources of the member libraries: to traditional, electronic catalogues, to university institutional repositories, to digital libraries, to external full-text databases, etc.
5. Implement special library services for university communities in Ukraine and in other European countries that based on the shared use and dissemination educational and research resources - interlibrary loan (ILL), electronic documents delivery (EDD), Course reserves - based on the Virtual knowledge base.

6. Design and develop guidelines and training courses for librarians on creating and maintaining a shared electronic catalogue, a digital library, an institutional repository, etc. according to international standards.
7. Conduct training for trainers on creating and maintaining a shared electronic catalogue, a digital library, an institutional repository, etc. in accordance with international standards.
8. Design and develop guidelines and training courses on information literacy for students, teachers, and researchers (university community members) on searching and using information resources and on dissemination of research works through institutional repositories in the open access.
9. Conduct training for trainers who will be responsible for classes/lessons on information literacy for students, teachers and researchers (university community members).

The benefits of the Project:

- Creation of the Virtual knowledge base will contribute to the spread of knowledge and will make traditional resources of individual libraries more “visible” to a much wider range of users.
- The ILS purchasing will be possible at a lower price because of the G. I. Denysenko Scientific and Technical Library of National Technical University of Ukraine “Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute” already uses it. Thus other libraries would need to acquire only additional licenses.
- One shared server would make unnecessary the purchasing of individual servers for other libraries and therefore reduce costs of maintenance of technical equipment.
- Informational resources of member libraries would be available to researchers from around the world.

Planned software for member libraries (preliminary list): ALEPH 500 (Ex Libris®), Primo (Ex Libris®), SFX (Ex Libris®).

Our Project is innovative because:

- It would be the first Ukrainian project that implements a discovery system with integration of all libraries’ resources at a single access point
- There are no library projects in Ukraine, within which several libraries share a single server and use up-to-date cataloguing standards (all Ukrainian libraries use only post-Soviet standards).

University libraries–participants (Ukraine):

- G.I. Denysenko Scientific and Technical Library of National Technical University of Ukraine “Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute”
- Central Scientific Library of V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University
- Maksymovych Scientific Library of the Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University
- Scientific and Technical Library of National University “Lviv Polytechnic”

Future plans for the Project:

- Joining of new partners is possible
- We are heading towards further implementation of modern library services
- When we speak about the Integrated Library System (ILS) – it is possible in a few years we would have a new Project that would help replace the traditional ILS with the next-generation library management system (Alma, Ex Libris®).

We have a partnership agreement for our project with libraries of several European universities: from Poland, Latvia, and Lithuania. In order to increase chances to obtain the grant and for more successful implementation of the project, it is necessary to have as a coordinator an institution from the European Union.

Another challenge for us is that in 2018 the direction "University Services" was excluded from the national priorities for Ukraine in the "Erasmus + Capacity building in the field of higher education". At the moment, negotiations were held and agreement had been reached with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine that Ministry will apply to Erasmus + in order to include this priority in the 2019 grant program.

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### Notes: (Endnotes)

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- 14 The local base of regional publications by the Scientific Library of the Chernivtsi National University can be found at [http://irbis.library.te.ua/cgi-bin/irbis64r\\_15/cgiirbis\\_64.exe?LNG=uk&Z21ID=&I21DBN=ELKKN&P21DBN=ELKKN&S21STN=1&S21REF=5&S21FMT=fullwebr&C21COM=S&S21CNR=10&S21P01=0&S21P02=0&S21P03=S=&S21STR=%D0%9A%D1%80%D0%B0%D1%94%D0%B7%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B2%D0%BE](http://irbis.library.te.ua/cgi-bin/irbis64r_15/cgiirbis_64.exe?LNG=uk&Z21ID=&I21DBN=ELKKN&P21DBN=ELKKN&S21STN=1&S21REF=5&S21FMT=fullwebr&C21COM=S&S21CNR=10&S21P01=0&S21P02=0&S21P03=S=&S21STR=%D0%9A%D1%80%D0%B0%D1%94%D0%B7%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B2%D0%BE) (accessed 12 July, 2018).
- 15 Union Electronic Catalogue of Corporative Library System of Kherson Agricultural state university can be found at <http://ksau.ks.ua:8087> (accessed 12 July, 2018).
- 16 General information on the project of the National scientific medical library of Ukraine can be found at <https://library.gov.ua/proekty> (accessed 12 July, 2018).
- 17 EBNET Association, website accessible at <http://www.elnit.org/sistema-irbis/sos-tav-produktov-semeystvairbis.html> (accessed 12 July, 2018).