

UNIMARC for national services: issues and perspectives

Giovanni Bergamin
(Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Firenze)

This brief note will give you some information on real use of UNIMARC at the National Library of Florence (BNCF). Two topics are considered: UNIMARCXML and uses of certain local UNIMARC tags.

[UNIMARCXML](#) is XML Schema (<info:srw/schema/8/unimarcxml-v0.1>) prepared in 2004 by BNCF on and based on [MARCXML proposal](#) released on 2003. This schema allows XML markup of standard UNIMARC records as specified in the MARC documentation including the encoding of embedded fields (the so called 4XX fields).

Today you can see UNIMARCXML at work in the following BNCF services:

- as result of an SRU request. For instance the URL of [this SRU request](#) is mainly composed by the following components:
 - *Base URL* of the service: <http://opac.bncf.firenze.sbn.it/SRW/search/Opac?>
 - the query parameter: `dc.creator=manzoni`
 - the requested operation parameter: `searchRetrieve`
 - the desired record schema=`info:srw:schema/8/unimarcxml-v0.1`
- [On the fly production of Dublin Core metadata for OAI-PMH interface](#) (used in [The European Library](#) and [Internet culturale](#))
- Two European projects ([DIGMAP](#) and [ENRICH](#)) are using (or will use) BNCF records in UNIMARCXML format

The second topic is about the use of two UNIMARC local tags. According [UNIMARC manual](#) "these fields may contain any information which is of local, as opposed to international, importance". However in this case the local use could be seen as an indicator of a general need.

The first tag is the 956 tag used to link the bibliographic record to the digitized copy of the analog resource (book, serial, map etc.). We don't use [856 tag which in UNIMARC is only for "born digital" publications](#) .

The syntax of this tag is quite simple

```
<df t="956" i1="" i2="1">  
  <sf c="a">  
    BNCF0003496817  
  </sf>  
</df>
```

The content of the *subfield a* of 956 is the identifier of the digital resource (ex. g. BNCF0003496817). To generate an URL that links to the digital resource you have to use this identifier as parameter in the following *Base URL*:

<http://opac.bncf.firenze.sbn.it/mdigit/jsp/mdigit.jsp?idr=> *identifier subfield a as parameter*

In this case <http://opac.bncf.firenze.sbn.it/mdigit/jsp/mdigit.jsp?idr=BNCF0003496817>

Taking in account that there is no standard resolution mechanism for a URN (i.e you can not ... click on a URN) and that URL could change over time we think that "real life" links between bibliographic record and digitized copy could be made via:

- a *Base URL* (that could change over time);
- an identifier (that does not change over time) used as "parameter" in the actual URL the user can select;

When the *Base URL* changes you do not have to modify the bibliographic record. *Base URL* could be easily exchanged when you set up a service and could be also maintained with a great efficiency (in case of change of a *Base URL* one single point modification affects all the records)

This way of coping with resolution has been successfully used not only at local level but also at international level namely in European [DIGMAP](#) project.

The second tag is the 696 tag. We are planning to implement this tag to accommodate within the bibliographic record the UF (USED FOR) relationship of the [Nuovo soggettario](#): the new controlled vocabulary produced by BNCF.

This is an example:

```
<df t="696" i1="" i2="">  
  <sf c="a">  
    Alimenti  
  </sf>  
  <sf c="z">  
    Cibo  
  </sf>  
</df>
```

Subfield *a* contains the *preferred term* and subfield *z* contains the *non-preferred term* (In Italian *Alimenti* is a more formal way to indicate *food*). This tag will not be entered directly by a cataloguer but it will be inserted by an application program that parses the 6XX fields ([Subject analysis block](#)) and, for every term, inspects the "Nuovo soggettario" using [Zthes protocol](#) looking for UF relationships.

In the BNCf OPAC this tag will be used to allow user to search both using "alimenti" or "cibo". It will be used also to inform user searching for "cibo" why the results contain records with the term "alimenti" (or vice versa).