V-Cat Bibliographic and Interface Committee Report - November 2023

Last meeting Tuesday, October 3, 2023

SkyRiver

The committee is continuing to investigate SkyRiver as alternative to OCLC. In our recent trial it was noted that SkyRiver had a higher percentage of records that were not usable according to our standards, mainly because of missing information in the 300 (Physical Description) field. The committee discussed the possibility of having V-Cat catalogers add the information to the 300 field themselves when needed. We believe that the percentage of SkyRiver records deemed "not usable" would be much lower in those circumstances. Rachel will re-evaluate the data (the trial participants made excellent notes) and we will revisit this question at the December Bib Committee meeting.

- It was a struggle (on the vendor's end) to get our trial set up.
- Trial ran from 8/21-9/11. 500+ records compared.
- SkyRiver 38% not usable.
- OCLC 13% not usable.
- Many of the SkyRiver records deemed "not usable" had no physical description. (Incomplete 300 field).
- SkyRiver had fewer records available. SkyRiver had higher percentage of records opened before a usable record was found.
- Appears SkyRiver depends more heavily on LC CIP records, which often don't have a physical description in their first iteration.
- Committee discussed which fields we would be willing to edit to bring SkyRiver records up to our standards:
    - 300   Physical Description – Yes
    - 260/264   Publication – Yes
    - 6XX   Subject headings – No
- Rachel will check comparison sheet again to gauge how many SkyRiver records were rejected ONLY because of missing description information. If we V-Cat catalogers were to edit the 300 field ourselves, how many SkyRiver records would move from the "not usable" to the "usable" column?
- Other considerations:
    - Is it possible to get OCLC for less? Adjust subscription?
    - BackStage: Will our profile need adjustment and what will that cost?
    - Question from Rachel: What support would you need to be comfortable editing a bib record?
    - OCLC subscription runs through June. Ideal timeline: December Bib Committee recommendation forwarded to February V-Cat Council.

Future meeting dates (tentative): December 5, March 5, May 7, August 6, October 8.

Report prepared by Christine Luebbe 10/20/2023.