

Problems with *Literature Online* MARC records

Note: most of the issues raised below have been submitted to the vendor for clarification. I initially sent a request for information on May 22, 2006 to the Bibliographic Standards Manager at ProQuest, who indicated they were preparing a document that would respond to the issues regarding the bibliographic unit used and how material is cataloged. I sent follow-up messages on June 13, June 22, June 26, and July 12, and have yet to receive the document.

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I. INCONSISTENT USE OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC UNIT

The online *Information Centre* for the *Literature Online* (*LION*) collection indicates that the MARC records represent the volume level, not the work level. An examination of the MARC records reflects that this is often not the case. For example, these twelve works by Barry Cornwall each have their own record:

The broken heart; The falcon; The Florentine party; Juan; Ludovico Sforza; Lysander and Ione; Michael Angelo; Pandemonium; Raffaele and Fornarina; The temptation; The victim; The way to conquer.

These are all from the same volume as indicated by the identical 534 (original version note) in each record:

534 |p Transcribed from: |a Cornwall, Barry, 1787-1874. |t Dramatic scenes ; with other poems, now first printed : illustrated |c London : Chapman and Hall, 1857. |e xii, 404 p.

The vendor appears to have parsed pieces of volumes into separate works so that they can be included in different *LION* sub-collections. For example, compare the following two samples:

245	a David Simple
534	p Transcribed from: a Fielding, Sarah, 1710-1768. t The adventures of David Simple. Containing an account of his travels through the cities of London and Westminster, in the search of a real friend. In two volumes
773	t Eighteenth-Century Fiction Full-Text Database
vs.	
245	a The preface. [in, The adventures of David Simple : containing an account of his travels]
534	p Transcribed from: a Fielding, Henry, 1707-1754. t The preface. [in, The adventures of David Simple : containing an account of his travels through the cities of London and Westminster, in search of a real friend. By a Lady. In two volumes. Vol. I. The second edition, revised and corrected]
7730	t Literary Theory Full-Text Database

Also, it is not helpful to have multi-volume works cataloged as separate records, e.g.:

245 |a The collected poetry, volume one
 245 |a The collected poetry, volume 2
 245 |a The collected poetry, volume 3

It is preferable to have a single bibliographic record with a single URL, or multiple URLs if necessary.

II. INCOMPLETE/INCORRECT CATALOGING

The records contain neither subject headings nor uniform titles. This is particularly relevant for classic works:

1001 |a Shakespeare, William, |d 1564-1616.
 24514 |a The tragedie of King Richard the Second |h [electronic resource].

Subject headings and uniform titles are mandatory if applicable for fully-cataloged materials. These records were assigned an encoding level of 1 (full level, material not examined) by the vendor. Some of these works are also in the *EEBO* collection from the same vendor, and those records do have uniform titles and subject headings, where applicable. The vendor has not replied regarding the relationship of *EEBO* and *LION* and how records from the former can be identified in the latter.

In the 245 field, subfield delimiter b is lacking for records with subtitles, e.g.:

[a A litany of friends : new and selected poems |h [electronic resource].
 [a The marvelous arithmetics of distance : poems 1987-1992 |h [electronic resource].
 [a Heavy daughter blues : poems & stories 1968-1986 |h [electronic resource].

The 008 fixed fields contain 'm' in position 26. This does not make sense. Positions 24-27 should be left-justified, and 24 and 25 are blank. The 'm' in position 26 indicates these records are theses, which is incorrect.

When the original issue date is unknown, 0000 is present in positions 11-14 of the 008 [original date]. This should be *uuuu*.

Titles are not fully transcribed from the source and in many cases are shortened to "An ode," "The works," or "The poems," e.g.:

<i>Title in 245</i>	<i>Title in 534 (original version note)</i>
An ode	An ode read August 15, 1907, at the dedication of the monument erected at Gloucester, Massachusetts, in commemoration of the founding of the Massachusetts Bay colony in the year sixteen hundred and twenty-three
The poems	The poems of Maria Lowell
The works	The works of Thomas Campion
Humble thanks	Dr Wild's humble thanks for His Majesties gracious declaration for liberty of conscience, March 15. 1672

There are personal author fields (100 tag) that contain information other than personal authors. For example, some records contain "Landmark Anthologies" in the 100 field. "Landmark Anthologies" is also listed in subfield a of the 534 (original version note), yet this appears as though it may be some series assigned by the vendor.

Almost 800 records contains the word "Anonymous" or "Anon" in the personal author field.

III. USE OF BRACKETS IN TITLES

The use of brackets in titles in both the 245 and 534 fields is not straightforward or consistent, e.g.:

<i>Title in 245</i>	<i>Title in 534 (original version note)</i>
[Poems, in] The loyalist poetry of the Revolution	[Poems, in] The loyalist poetry of the Revolution
The word of Congress ; the factious demagogue. a portrait [In, The loyalist poetry of the Revolution]	The word of Congress ; the factious demagogue. a portrait [In, The loyalist poetry of the Revolution]
Phaeton	[Phaeton, in] Stories of classic myths retold from St. Nicholas
[Farewell to America, in] The silver bell	[Farewell to America, in] The silver bell, a new singing book for schools

Faithfulness	Faithfulness [in, Rose-Belford's Canadian monthly and national review. Volume 5, November 1880]
War	[War, in] Spanish-American war songs : a complete collection of newspaper verse during the recent war with Spain, compiled and edited by Sidney A. Witherbee

IV. PUNCTUATION

Most 534 fields end in double-periods, e.g.

534 |p Transcribed from: |a Adams, Sarah Flower, 1805-1848. |t Vivia perpetua : a dramatic poem in five acts |c London : Charles Fox, 1841. |e 200 p..

as do some 500 fields.

V. MISCELLANEOUS ERRORS

In 534 fields that contain an ISBN in subfield z, there are some ISBNs that are incorrect . ISBNs should be no less than ten-digits long. Subfield z should not contain hyphens or values other than the ISBN such as "[Not available]."

There are some factual errors in the original source data. For example, the record for Ezra Pound's *Personae : collected shorter poems* (Z000226987) contains a 534 that cites the original publication date as 1949, but cites the ISBN as 0811211207 which is for the 1990 edition of this work.

At least one record (Z000202337) links to a Table of Contents in *LION* which links to pages that read, "Full Text Removed. For copyright reasons, the full text for this item has been removed." We expect to be notified of any texts that are removed from the collection so that we may remove the records from our database.

There are inconsistencies in the *LION* collection names as identified in the 773 field of the original vendor record, e.g.

	American Drama Database	[3 records]
vs.	American Drama Full-Text Database	[1558 records]
	Database of Twentieth Century American Poetry	[1 record]
	Database of Twentieth-Century American Poetry	[674 records]

Also: Literary Theory Full-Text Databse

There are some records that do not appear to have updated collection names:

Literature Online Drama	[62 records]
Literature Online Poetry	[1 record]