

# Holdings – why Items are not enough

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- What are Holdings – a brief introduction
- How they are used – or not
- When Items are not enough – The National Library case
- Holdings in Koha – improvements needed

# History

- In 2019 University and Special Libraries Koha Consortium (coded by Ere Maijala)
- We had holdings in previous system (Voyager)
- Since then many of those libraries has given up
- Use and functionality was limited, even before Koha

# Holding records

- **One** of the five LC maintained MARC 21 **standards**, based on Format for Information Exchange (ISO 2709)
- **Default element** in most commercial Library systems (Voyager)
- Can be shared, but almost never do – **Local information**
  
- Carrier for **collection** and **item** specific information
  - **Copy-specific** information for an item
  - Information that is peculiar to the **holding library**
  - Information that is needed for **local** processing, **maintenance** or preservation of the item

# Can be used to store

- Version information
- **Provenience**
- Identifiers
- **Licencies**
- **Notes** about conditions for use
- Inventory data for **electronic materials** and **data packages**
- Portfolio about **collections**

for **all kind of materials**

- single-part, multipart and **serial items**

# Holdings Data Fields in MARC 21

- **Four** sets of data fields are defined for recording information about the items **held by an organization**:
  - Captions and Pattern (fields 853-855)
  - **Enumeration and Chronology** (863-865)
  - Textual Holdings (866-868)
  - Item Information (876-878)
- Within each set, separate fields are defined for **three categories** of material:
  - Basic Bibliographic Unit (fields 853, 863, 866, 876)
  - Supplementary Material (854, 864, 867, 877)
  - Indexes (855, 865, 868, 878)

# Items

- Enough for **separate titles** and monographs
- In Koha the information in Item records is **mainly** about **circulation**
- **Limited** fields for all necessary information
- Not enough for **series** and **periodicals**
- **Not** in **standardized** format but Kohas own

# Why not bibliographic record then?

- **In shared** cataloging **enviroments** (e.g. Melinda) is usefull to have **place** for **institutional information**, in local DB
- Holdings record **does not** include **bibliographical data** and is **dependent** on its associated bibliografic record
- Bibs can describe all versions of an item but to bring out specifics about **a particular version**, more **detailed physical description** can be in the holdings record



# Do we really need them, or not?

- **What** kind of information about collections **we need** or could have?
  - What **information** about Items and collections is **essential** to **store** and **where**?
  - In Library system or **somewhere** else?
  - Reports and **statistics**
- 
- RDA : Work – Ekspression - Manifestation – Item
  - In RDA Toolkit, 122 different possible elements for Items

# The National Library case

- Long **history**, since 1640
- 6 – 7 main collections, divided **several subcollections**
- **All kind of materials**, monographs, music, periodicals etc.
- Legal depositis, open and **closed** science collections
  - Multiple copies in various locations, different circulation patterns

# Periodicals and serial items

- Same titles in different collections, legal deposits and purchased
- No outloans by issues, **no items**
- **Long series** of newspapers and other periodicals
- Need to keep track about **the enumeration**, cronology, **publication patterns**, supplements, special and missing issues ..

# Special collections, rare books, monographs

In Holdings is, or could be, information about

- **Proviniece** of the Item
- Bookprints and **bindings**
- Condition remarks and analysis
- Conservation actions
- **Exhibition** loans
- **Data packages** and research data
- **Links** to digital or digitized **copies**

# Koha - improvements are needed

- Better **connection to the bibliographic record**, to make easier determine what information needs to be in the holding - heritage
- Better **search features** to the holdings data – indexing all fields
- Better **use** to the **available data** about librarys collections
- Better **reports** and statistics
  
- Bugzilla – Bug List, c. 100 cases  
<https://bugs.koha-community.org/bugzilla3/buglist.cgi?quicksearch=Holdings>
  
- Future unclear, but certain - Bibframe, LOD ...

# More detailed readings

- <https://www.loc.gov/marc/umh/UMHpt1-6.htm> - in english
- <https://marc21.kansalliskirjasto.fi/hold/johdanto.htm> - sama suomeksi



# Thank you!

[www.nationallibrary.fi](http://www.nationallibrary.fi)

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