

Automated Systems

In day-to-day library work, we encounter MARC records in our automated systems, the various pieces of software that allow us to manipulate and display these records. You are likely to encounter MARC records in union catalogs or databases (like OCLC's Connexion and WorldCat), your local automated system (whether it is in the behind-the-scenes cataloging module or the public Web catalog), and in MARC editors (like MARCEdit).

This is one of the rare instances in the course where I would suggest that you view the video of this content section, rather than just reading this text. In the video, I show you an example of a raw MARC record, how that record looks in OCLC's Connexion and Worldcat, in a MARC editor, and in a variety of local library systems. This will really help you understand the purpose of MARC, to allow for the exchange of bibliographic information.