



Library of Congress

## *CDS Announcement*

### **Recent Problems with CDS MARC Distribution**

Since early 2002, CDS has been working on migrating our production processes from a mainframe to a server environment and to make the transition transparent to our customers. We held discussions with several customers to learn their concerns. We ran both our old and our new production systems in parallel for over a year. However, in spite of our best efforts, there were unforeseen customer problems.

**CDS apologizes for the lack of a formal announcement of a transition date. Transition for bibliographic record distribution is now set for February 28 (daily) and March 6 (weekly).**

► December 19, 2006, CDS began distribution from the server environment of MDS Names Daily, MDS Names Weekly, and MDS Subjects Weekly. A few customers reported problems with the use of capital letters in spaces where they expected lower case letters. This was easily corrected.

► December 20, 2006, CDS lost access to our database server. No daily files were produced and no updates performed. This problem was corrected late on the afternoon of December 21.

► December 22, 2006, CDS learned that a test file for MDS Daily Names was inadvertently posted to the CDS FTP server. CDS will redistribute as necessary to assure all subscribers have the correct versions of records. The test file was removed from the FTP server and CDS began regenerating daily names files. Also, CDS discovered that several scripts used in our production processes had been changed and were no longer working as expected. The majority of these changes related to processing bibliographic records on the server. After the scripts were corrected, distribution files were brought up to date.

► December 26, 2006, there was a server disk problem with the database from which CDS derives its records. CDS daily files were not produced until late afternoon.

► December 27, 2006, a few customers reported that the authority files that were posted contained diagnostic text-formatted MARC rather than standard MARC communications formatted data as expected. Also, both the label and the report file formats were not as expected. The change to produce standard MARC communications formatted files was easily accomplished and the files were reposted. The change to the format of the label file was made to make the files conform more fully to the current MARC 21 standard. CDS will change the report file so that the data appears in a single column format. If this does not meet customer needs, further changes will be made.

► January 3, 2007, a customer reported local data fields (9XX) were appearing in weekly files for both subjects and names. Changes were made to the scripts and corrected files were posted.

► January 4, 2007, a customer reported another problem processing the weekly subject authority label file because hyphens were found where terminators were expected. The file was corrected and reposted on January 9.

► January 8, 2007, CDS began receiving questions about the lack of daily books files on the FTP server. Because of the problems with distribution of authority records and some known changes needed for processing bibliographic records on the server, CDS made the decision to delay switching distribution of bibliographic records from the server. **Authority records will continue to be processed on the server.**

**PROCESSING BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORDS USING THE SERVER ENVIRONMENT WILL BEGIN WITH DAILY DISTRIBUTION ON FEBRUARY 28, 2007. THE FIRST WEEKLY DISTRIBUTION WILL BE ON MARCH 6, 2007.**

For subscribers, this means the changes scheduled for distribution of bibliographic records with the new 2007 subscription year did not take place with the first issue for 2007: those MDS services scheduled to be merged with Books All (Arabic, CJK, Hebrew, LC Manuscripts) will continue to be produced as separate files; and the MDS-NUCMC, scheduled to be terminated on January 1, will also continue until March 6, 2007.

Again, CDS apologizes for those problems caused by the lack of a formal notice of the transition dates.

Questions about this change can be directed to:

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