



# Technical Bulletin 250 Parallel Records

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## About Technical Bulletin 250

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### Note on field 936 and the vendor exception

Two items described in this TB have been discontinued:

1. The use of field 936 to indicate a parallel record was discontinued in mid-2012
2. The vendor exception was discontinued previously

For current information on parallel records, see *Bibliographic Formats and Standards*, Parallel Records for Language of Cataloging in Chapter 3, “Special Cataloging Guidelines.”

### Why read this?

To learn about changes to OCLC policy which allow for parallel records within WorldCat by language of cataloging.

### Route to

Cataloging and local system or automation staff.

### Implementation of changes

October 2003

### Support

Contact your regional service provider.

Contact OCLC by

- Sending the online support form: <https://www3.oclc.org/app/contact/>
- E-mailing: [support@oclc.org](mailto:support@oclc.org)
- Telephoning: 1-800-848-5800 (USA) or +1-614-793-8682  
—Hours of OCLC telephone support are 7:00 am to 9:00 pm, US Eastern Time, Monday–Friday.

### Documentation affected

*Enhance Training Outline*

<http://www.oclc.org/support/training/worldcat/enhanceoutline/default.htm>

*OCLC Bibliographic Formats and Standards*

*OCLC Cataloging Service User Guide*

# 1 Parallel Records

## Interim policy change for parallel records

Effective immediately, OCLC policy has changed to allow for parallel records within WorldCat by language of cataloging. This policy applies only to online cataloging and **not** to records contributed via batchload. OCLC will address batchload in the future with the Oracle implementation.

As part of OCLC becoming the leading global library cooperative, it has long been envisioned that WorldCat would need a parallel record structure to display records by language of cataloging. This change in policy allowing parallel records anticipates the implementation of the relational database capabilities that will be possible once Oracle has been fully implemented. However, that implementation is still a few years away. Therefore, the policy change announced in this technical bulletin is being introduced as an interim policy.

OCLC Members Council's Cataloging and Metadata Interest Group approved this interim policy at their May 2003 meeting.

## Definition for language of descriptive cataloging

Language of descriptive cataloging is coded in field 040 (Cataloging Source), subfield ‡b (Language of cataloging) of the OCLC-MARC bibliographic record. If subfield ‡b is **not** present in a bibliographic record within WorldCat, the language of descriptive cataloging is assumed to be English.

Subfield ‡b is in records created by libraries for which English is **not** the language of the cataloging agency. The language is indicated by a three-letter language code. See the *MARC Code List for Languages* [<http://www.loc.gov/marc/languages/langhome.html>] for a list of these codes.

### Examples

040   LGP ‡b cze ‡c LGP

040   FLD ‡b fre ‡c FLD

The language of descriptive cataloging (field 040 subfield ‡b) is **not** to be confused with the language of the item, which is recorded in the fixed-field element *Lang* (Language Code) of the OCLC-MARC bibliographic record.

### Example

Lang:   spa

## Description of policy change

Previously, records for the same title, but cataloged in different languages, such as English, Spanish and French, were considered duplicate records.

OCLC will **no** longer consider these records duplicates, but will consider them parallel records.

**Note:** Only one record per language of descriptive cataloging will be allowed for each title.

## Basis for creating parallel records

When searching within WorldCat, if the matching record is cataloged in a language other than that used by the inputting library, the library may enter a parallel record in its language of descriptive cataloging. When using an existing record for copy cataloging, however, do **not** change the language of cataloging if upgrading the

## Parallel Records (continued)

Master Record unless the code in field 040 subfield  $\ddot{b}$  (language of cataloging) does not reflect the language of the record.. Vendor records are an exception to this. *See* the section “Exception for vendor records” for more information.

### Examples

A library with Spanish as the language of cataloging, that finds only an English record in WorldCat, may enter a Spanish language record.

A library with English as the language of cataloging, that finds only an Italian record in WorldCat, may enter an English language record.

### Use of field 936

In order for records to be clearly marked as parallel records, libraries inputting records online who have identified their record as parallel to an existing record cataloged in another language are asked to add field 936 to link the records. Addition of a 936 field, a locally defined OCLC field that has previously been used for last issue consulted information, will allow OCLC to group parallel records entered into WorldCat together more easily once the Oracle display solution is implemented.

When entering a 936 field to indicate existence of a parallel record, use blank indicator values. Enter the OCLC control number of the parallel record in subfield  $\ddot{a}$  preceded by the uppercase letters *PR* and a space.

If you identify more than one parallel record (such as records in both Spanish and French, with your new record in English), you may enter the OCLC numbers for all the parallel records that you identify, with spaces between them. However, OCLC does **not** require entry of more than one parallel record number in the 936 field.

### Examples

One parallel record identified:

936 PR 51191950

Two parallel records identified:

936 PR 45570484 45825482

Updating of the existing WorldCat record with a similar linking field is **not** necessary.

**Note:** For an example of a WorldCat record with a 936 field indicating a parallel record, *see* OCLC #45825482.

### Exception for vendor records

Libraries are encouraged to upgrade vendor records contributed in non-English languages instead of considering them parallel records. Vendor records may be identified by the presence of field 938 (Vendor-Specific Ordering Data) and the

## Parallel Records (continued)

presence of a vendor symbol in subfield ꞗc (Transcribing agency) of field 040. *See the Vendor Record Contribution Program Participants List* [<http://www.oclc.org/vendors/material/participants/default.htm>] for a current list of vendors and their symbols.

Libraries may change the language of vendor records to the language of the upgrading library when upgrading vendor records to full level. Libraries do receive a credit for upgrading minimal level records. Once a vendor record has been upgraded, the upgrading library symbol appears in subfield ꞗd (Modifying agency) of field 040.

**Note:** For an example of a vendor record that has been upgraded with language of descriptive cataloging changed to English, *see* OCLC #41873570.

## Technical Bulletins Online

### Introduction

This section covers retrieving technical bulletins in electronic form.

### OCLC Web site

To access technical bulletins on the OCLC Web site:

	Action
1	Type <a href="http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation/technicalbulletins/">http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation/technicalbulletins/</a> in the address bar of your Web browser.
2	Click the name of the technical bulletin you want to view.

### Internet list

To subscribe to TECHBUL-L—a public list that e-mails an announcement of availability of new technical bulletins on the OCLC Web site:

Action
Type <a href="https://www3.oclc.org/app/listserv/">https://www3.oclc.org/app/listserv/</a> in the address bar of your Web browser. Click <b>Submit</b> after you complete the form. Or Type <b>subscribe techbul-l</b> in the body of an e-mail message and send it to <a href="mailto:listserv@oclc.org">listserv@oclc.org</a> . To unsubscribe, type <b>unsubscribe techbul-l</b> in the body of an e-mail message, and send it to <a href="mailto:listserv@oclc.org">listserv@oclc.org</a> .

### Comments

The OCLC Documentation Department welcomes comments about this document. Please send them via e-mail to [doc@oclc.org](mailto:doc@oclc.org).

## Current OCLC Technical Bulletins

The list below is current as of May 2012. Technical Bulletins not listed are obsolete. Please discard them or mark them as obsolete.

No.	Date	Title	OCLC Documentation Affected
261	1205	<i>OCLC-MARC Format Update 2012</i>	<i>Bibliographic Formats and Standards, OCLC-MARC Records, Connexion browser Help, Connexion client Help, OCLC Local Holdings Format and Standards, Authorities: Format and Indexes</i>
260	1108	<i>OCLC-MARC Format Update 2011</i>	<i>OCLC-MARC Records, Connexion browser Help, Connexion client Help, OCLC Local Holdings Format and Standards, Authorities: Format and Indexes</i>
259	1104	<i>Authorities System Changes</i>	<i>Connexion browser Help, Connexion client Help, Connexion Client Authorities Quick Reference, Authorities: Format and Indexes</i>
258	1005	<i>OCLC-MARC Format Update 2010</i>	<i>Bibliographic Formats and Standards, OCLC-MARC Records, Connexion browser Help, Connexion client Help, Searching WorldCat Indexes, OCLC Local Holdings Format and Standards, Authorities: Format and Indexes</i>
257	0709	<i>OCLC-MARC Format Update 2009</i>	<i>Bibliographic Formats and Standards, OCLC-MARC Records, Connexion browser Help, Connexion client Help, Searching WorldCat Indexes, OCLC Local Holdings Format and Standards, Authorities: Format and Indexes</i>
256	0708	<i>Abbreviated-level Record Guidelines</i>	<i>Bibliographic Formats and Standards, Connexion browser Help, Connexion client Help</i>
255	0508	<i>OCLC-MARC Format Update 2008</i>	<i>Bibliographic Formats and Standards, OCLC-MARC Records, Connexion browser Help, Connexion client Help</i>
254	0507	<i>OCLC-MARC Formate Update 2007 and Instiution Recod Changes</i>	<i>Bibliographic Formats and Standards, OCLC-MARC Records, Connexion browser Help, Connexion client Help</i>
253	0906	<i>ISBN and OCLC Number Changes</i>	<i>Authorities: Format and Indexes</i>
252	0506	<a href="#">OCLC-MARC Format Update 2006</a>	<i>Authorities: Format and Indexes</i>
250	0310	<i>Parallel Records</i>	<i>Enhance Training Outline</i>
249	0304	<i>OCLC-MARC Format Update 2003</i>	<i>Authorities: Format and Indexes, OCLC-MARC Records</i>
247	0211	<i>OCLC-MARC Format Update 2002</i>	<i>Cataloging Electronic Resources: OCLC-MARC Coding Guidelines, OCLC-MARC Records</i>

