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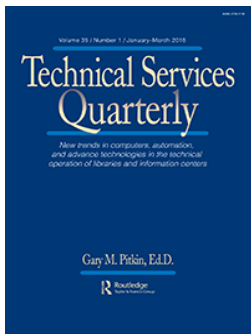
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Bibliographic framework initiative.pdf

Lisa Romano

Bibliographic framework initiative

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Rating: 5 out of 5

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Check for updates

Bibliographic framework initiative

https://www.loc.gov/bibframe/

The Library of Congress has implemented a new website for Bibliographic Framework (BIBFRAME) to correspond with BIBFRAME 2.0. This site replaces http://bibframe.org/ which contained the BIBFRAME 1.0 vocabulary. BIBFRAME is intended as the replacement for MAchine-Readable Cataloging (MARC) and is based on linked data principles.

The BIBFRAME Initiative Home page provides links to the BIBFRAME model and vocabulary (2.0); MARC 21 to BIBFRAME 2.0 conversion tools; implementation, tools, and downloads; and what's new. There are also links to subscribe to the RSS feed, share the site on social media, and give feedback. Near the top of the Home page, there is a brief description of BIBFRAME, but a more detailed description or links to more specific BIBFRAME documents would be helpful to users who are not familiar with BIBFRAME.

Additionally, on the left side of the Home page, the site provides a column with links to Frequently Asked Questions, Webcasts and Presentations, and Contact Us. The Frequently Asked Questions provide an overview of BIBFRAME and some direction on the transition to BIBFRAME. For someone unfamiliar with BIBFRAME, this page is a good beginning point as it offers an introduction to BIBFRAME and should be more prominently featured. The Webcasts and Presentations area includes some video presentations on BIBFRAME. Unfortunately, at the time of this writing, this area could probably use some updating as there is only one presentation from the past year. The Contact Us link provides an e-mail contact and a link to the BIBFRAME listserv. This left column stays on the left side as users move through the site.

The Models and Vocabulary of BIBFRAME are available from links on the left column and the center of the Home page. The links on the left offer no explanation of what they are, and could be listed under the Models and Vocabulary in the center of the page with a brief description. After clicking the Model and Vocabulary link in the center of the page, the same links as those on the left appear with some additional links, BIBFRAME 2.0 Examples and Notes, and Model Analyses and Discussions Papers. The site does have a large number of links to other pages, and the duplication of these links may cause some confusion and leave users wondering where to start. Most of these links do not have a text description of what they are and lack a date. Users have to click on them for more explanation. Currently, the few discussion papers listed are more than 1-year-old. Some more recent documents would be beneficial to users.

In the MARC 21 to BIBFRAME 2.0 Conversion Tools area of the Home page, there are links to help users transform MARC code into BIBFRAME. These tools include

conversion specifications, conversion programs, and MARC to BIBFRAME comparison viewer. The conversion program and the comparison viewer link out to the associated sites where they are located . Clicking the Implementation, Tools, and Downloads link on the Home page displays links on how to register BIBFRAME projects and downloads links. The download links once again provides access to the BIBFRAME vocabulary, BIBFRAME editor, and MARCXML to BIBFRAME Transformation software. The MARC to BIBFRAME comparison viewer link is also repeated on this page. The link from the Implementation area offers descriptions and links to some projects that have used BIBFRAME. Regrettably, this important information is buried in the site with no direct link from the Home page.

The What's New area on the Home page consists of links to the newly added material on the site with their date. This information includes the BIBFRAME Update Forum at ALA, reports, and specifications. The presentations from ALA provide an update of BIBFRAME's progress, but recordings of these forums would be helpful to go along with them.

This BIBFRAME Initiative Home website is best suited to active BIBFRAME users. For those trying to learn BIBFRAME, the site may be overwhelming as some areas have minimal text explanations, lack recent material, and consist of a large number of links. Casual users may not be aware they are seeing duplicate material or may need to search around the site to locate the information they want. Also, all of the pages and documents on the site could use a date stamp so users would know how recent the information is. As BIBFRAME is not yet fully developed, this site like BIBFRAME is still a work in progress.

Rating: 3.5 out of 5

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