

# MULS notes

A Program of the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

## ***MULS Notes #33, May 18, 2005***

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### **Get Your SULOP Products – Order before June 1!**

There's one more chance to get an OCLC printout or other offline version of your library's MULS holdings before OCLC union list maintenance migrates to the Connexion browser this fall or early winter, and the order deadline is coming up soon!

Libraries use these printouts and offline products for a variety of purposes, from aiding in holdings maintenance to providing local list of serial holdings for their patrons. You can receive a list with holdings of a single institution or a group of libraries, and it can be customized to the needs of your library with cross-reference notes, subject headings or other descriptive data. The products are also available in multiple forms, including print, microfiche, and electronic files.

The deadline for orders to be received at OCLC is Wednesday, June 1, 2005. You may use a print form, or order online from the OCLC website.

<https://www3.oclc.org/app/sulop/>

Libraries that have ordered a product within the last three years will likely receive an order form for a repeat of that order. If you want a new product, you may sign and return the order; if you do not, simply do nothing.

If you would like more information about the options available and the costs of a holdings list, be sure to contact the MINITEX MULS office before May 27, so we can work up an estimate.



## A Reminder: Questions about MULS in MnLINK

As we explained in messages to the MINITEX NEWS electronic discussion list earlier this year:

We have received questions concerning access to *MULS; the MINITEX Union List of Serials* via the new interface for the MnLINK Gateway. For the time being, we suggest that you use alternative methods of access to MULS while MnLINK staff work with system transition issues.

1) Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota libraries all have access to the WebPALS MULS display — either through the:

- WebPALS website ([www.pals.msus.edu](http://www.pals.msus.edu)),
- South Dakota State Library (<http://www.sdstatelibrary.com/databases/locators.htm>)
- staff page at the ODIN website ([www.odin.nodak.edu/staff](http://www.odin.nodak.edu/staff)).

MINITEX supports searching costs for MULS via WebPALS, so your library will not incur additional fees.

2) OCLC Resource Sharing (i.e., OCLC ILL) or the OCLC Union List subsystem — MULS union list holdings continue to be available as always. The usual OCLC searching and “display holdings” charges apply.

3) OCLC WorldCat in FirstSearch — The same union list holdings available in OCLC Resource Sharing and Union Listing are available in OCLC WorldCat in FirstSearch. And, of course, the statewide WorldCat subscriptions in Minnesota and the Dakotas support access through this route, so there will be no extra fees. WorldCat displays will show union list holdings, when available, for serials as well as identify libraries that have added their cataloging symbol to the record, but have not created a union list holding. WorldCat information is best viewed through the native interface — not through the MnLINK Gateway’s Z39.50-based display. (Clicking on “Libraries Worldwide” in WorldCat’s abbreviated bibliographic record will retrieve a list of all holding libraries, with those for your home state grouped at the top of the list.)

We suggest that you use these alternatives until MULS access and display via the MnLINK Gateway is easy and efficient. Contact Cecelia Boone or Dave Linton with your MULS questions. (See the Contact Information box at the end of this MULS Notes issue for phone numbers and e-mail addresses for Cecelia and Dave.)

We’ll announce when MULS is ready for access in the MnLINK Gateway.

## Major Changes Coming for OCLC Union Listing

Two major changes are coming for the staff members of MINITEX/MULS libraries who are responsible for keeping their libraries' MULS holdings up-to-date in OCLC.

- The first, the migration of online union list maintenance from PASSPORT to the Connexion browser, will impact only those MULS contacts who maintain their holdings directly online in OCLC.
- The second, the implementation of MARC 21 Format for Holdings Data, could mean changes for all MULS contacts – both those who update their holdings online in OCLC and those who send their serial holdings information to the MINITEX/MULS office so we can update your holdings.

### *OCLC Union Listing – PASSPORT to Connexion*

Those of you who work at full OCLC libraries have, undoubtedly, heard about the transition that has been underway to move OCLC Cataloging and OCLC ILL from PASSPORT to new interfaces. To date, OCLC ILL has migrated from PASSPORT to the new WorldCat Resource Sharing interface, and the migration of Cataloging to Connexion will be complete in early June. Union Listing is expected to migrate from PASSPORT to the Connexion browser sometime this fall or early winter. **So, don't delete your PASSPORT union list sessions yet!**

We will provide updates about the timing of the union list migration from PASSPORT to Connexion as OCLC announces them. Dave Linton, of the MULS staff, has had the opportunity to review and evaluate a prototype of the new OCLC union list, and we're looking forward to hearing more as OCLC's planning process continues.

### *Implementation of MFHD*

OCLC's implementation of MFHD (or MARC 21 Format for Holdings Data) will have impacts for many who use OCLC – not just those of us who maintain union list holdings. Implementation will mean that library staffs may choose to input more detailed information about their serials holdings – and, non-serial holdings as well. To date, union list holdings have entered at the summary level in most cases (i.e., we have recorded the holdings at the highest level of enumeration and chronology, v.1- 1964-). The new MFHD implementation will mean that library staff can choose to provide more specific holdings information (i.e., volumes & numbers, years & months, etc.)

Staff at many MINITEX/MULS libraries are already familiar with MFHD because it's used in many integrated library systems (ILSs) that support OPACs – like Aleph, MnSCU/PALS, Innovative Interfaces, and others. Those familiar with OPACs will have noticed, though, that MFHD implementations vary from system-to-system, and OCLC's implementation may vary from those of ILSs. Again, we will provide more information about the possibilities for holdings information in MULS as OCLC distributes it.

One of the major advantages of OCLC's MFHD implementation is that it should make batch updating of union list holdings easier to accomplish – since OCLC will be taking MFHD information from local systems and using it to update MFHD holdings. Since MFHD also allows for reporting of additional information (such as circulation policies), OCLC plans to be able to use this information for interlibrary loan and other applications.

## Please Don't Wait to Update

2005 is certainly going to be remembered among MINITEX/OCLC libraries as a year of big changes at OCLC. With Cataloging and Resource Sharing migrating to the new web-based systems this spring and Union Listing moving some time closer to the end of the year, its easy to imagine that some will remember this as “the year that Passport died.”

And while it's easy to understand the focus on the changes that are coming, we want MULS libraries to remember that we shouldn't wait to update holdings in MULS. Even as these changes are being planned and implemented, there is still a daily need for accurate holdings data that MINITEX libraries can use for ongoing resource sharing. No matter how the system changes, it still relies on our input to keep holdings data in MULS up-to-date.

It's also important to remember that MULS holdings data is not just available through OCLC, but through other systems as well. In fact, the MULS file in PALS and MnLINK will get its annual update in August, based on the MULS holdings that are in OCLC at that time. To make sure that MULS is accurate in PALS and MnLINK in 2005/2006, *each library needs to update its holdings before Aug. 1, 2005.*

If you need to update MULS but are uncertain where to begin, we recommend the following priorities:

- 1) **Delete** holdings for items that have been withdrawn, and **close** holdings for titles that you no longer receive.
- 2) **Add** new holdings for items you have added to your collection or for items that have changed title.
- 3) **Update** any other holdings that have changed so the MULS holdings data accurately reflects current holdings.

For libraries that have been keeping their holdings up-to-date, this will not require any special effort unless there has been a project that impacts your serials holdings. For libraries that haven't updated in a while, it may be necessary to get a handle on what's in OCLC right now. You can either retrieve a list of holdings in the MULS file on PALS (accurate to last August's update), or use WorldCat to retrieve a set of records identified by your OCLC library code (accurate to the day you search). Either way, it gives you a starting point to begin updating.

There's one other incentive to update now, before migration to the OCLC Connexion interface. As part of the migration, OCLC plans to implement the MARC 21 Format for Holdings Data (MFHD) with existing holdings being translated into MFHD automatically. By having accurate holdings in the current holdings format, we give ourselves a bit of breathing room so we can become familiar with both the new interface and the new format before taking on any major MULS updating projects.

If you have questions about how to retrieve your current holdings information, or would like help getting your holdings up-to-date, please feel free to contact Dave Linton.

## MULS Training (& Other Help) Is Still Available

We've now concluded our spring set of MULS training, and we hope that everyone who attended is able to put that knowledge to use keeping MULS up-to-date. But, if the webinar sessions or hands-on training we offered didn't fit into your schedule, don't worry. You can still get help with your updating work.

- The MINITEX Training page includes archived versions of the webinars, *Searching Strategies for MULS* and *Holdings Format in MULS*, that you can access at any time. From the MINITEX home page, click on the Training and Conferences tab, then select Webinars and Archived (pre-recorded) Webinar sessions. Print the handouts, follow the instructions, and you are good to go!
- If you want more direct help with your updating work, or if the webinars just didn't give you all the answers you need, you may call the MINITEX office and arrange for individualized training. Dave Linton can work with your staff to help get you up-to-speed in the OCLC Union List system.
- For folks that just need occasional help with an unusual holding or a problematic record, we would be happy to help with your questions either over the phone or via e-mail. Contact Dave Linton or Cecelia Boone, and we'll be glad to help you get your holdings information updated.
- Of course for libraries with larger projects, it's always an option to consider using the MULS Updating Service, and let our staff update the Union List data in OCLC. There are charges for this service, so contact Dave Linton if you are interested, and we can work up an estimate for your project.

However you do it, we want you to know that your efforts to keep the MULS union list information accurate and up-to-date are appreciated, and make it easier than ever to share resources throughout the region

## **Contact the MINITEX/MULS staff. . . . .**

Cecelia Boone (612-624-6353, 800-462-5348, [c-boon@umn.edu](mailto:c-boon@umn.edu)) for information about MULS participation, general union list questions, news items for or in ***MULS Notes***, information about the availability of MULS via PALS, ODIN, SDLN, or MnLINK,

Dave Linton (612-6224-3360, 800-462-5348, [linto001@umn.edu](mailto:linto001@umn.edu)) for information about the ANSI holding statement format as used for OCLC union listing, OCLC union list system and commands, scheduling MULS training, updating MULS records.

Contact either Cecelia or Dave for information about the migration of OCLC Union Listing to the Connexion browser later this year or for information about OCLC Serials Union List Offline Products (SULOPs) – printouts, electronic data files, etc.

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# **FIRST CLASS**