
National Bibliographic Knowledgebase

Data Sharing FAQs (updated 17th June 2019)

The NBK data will be used to create a Jisc shared cataloguing service, allowing download of MARC records. These are answers to some of the questions we've been asked about data reuse and sharing in the NBK.

If you are unsure whether you are able to make any of your MARC data available for sharing, you can ask us to use it for resource discovery and collection management only, and suppress it from the shared cataloguing database. This can be changed later to allow data into the cataloguing interface if licensing issues are resolved.

In order for us to be able to correctly implement these controls, we ask that all libraries retain in their records and supply to us record provenance information (in the 040, and the 994 for records sourced from WorldCat).

If you have any questions which are not covered in this document, please contact nbk.copac@jisc.ac.uk.

Q: Can we contribute BDS records to the NBK?

A: BDS records may be contributed to the NBK for resource discovery and collection management only. BDS records may not be loaded to the shared cataloguing database. We check all incoming data for BDS provenance codes.

Q: Can we contribute Dawsons records to the NBK?

A: Dawsons records may be contributed to the NBK for resource discovery and collection management only. Dawsons records may not be loaded to the shared cataloguing database. We check all incoming data for Dawsons provenance codes.

Q: Can we contribute Askews and Holts records to the NBK?

A: Askews and Holts records may be contributed to the NBK for resource discovery and collection management only. Askews and Holts records may not be loaded to the shared cataloguing database. We check all incoming data for Askews and Holts provenance codes.

Q: Can we contribute ProQuest records to the NBK?

A: ProQuest records may be contributed to the NBK for resource discovery and collection management only. ProQuest records may not be loaded to the shared cataloguing database. We check all incoming data for ProQuest provenance codes.

Q: Can we contribute records downloaded from OCLC WorldCat to the NBK?

A: Records downloaded from OCLC WorldCat records may be contributed to the NBK. OCLC are implementing system-level controls over access to the full MARC records.

Q: Can we contribute records from the Alma community zone to the NBK?

A: Yes, Ex Libris are allowing Alma community zone records to be used in the NBK.

Q: If we provide MARC metadata for the shared cataloguing aspect of the NBK, who will that data be shared with/accessible to?

A: Jisc members and NBK contributors.

Q: Will it be a shared service offered by the NBK, or will the NBK be supplying the data to third parties who will then offer services?

A: The NBK cataloguing database platform is being provided by OCLC, but the services are Jisc services, and will be owned and managed by Jisc.

Q: Is there any commercial aspect to this? Will the NBK be generating any income from the shared services (or will third parties generate income, if the data is shared that way instead?)

A: The NBK cataloguing and collection management services are offered as part of the core Jisc subscription. Jisc may offer some additional paid-for services on a cost recovery basis, but these would be bespoke services which require effort from Jisc staff, and would not be based on selling libraries' data. We are offering libraries optional data sync to third party services, and will endeavour to provide libraries with licensing/reuse information for these services prior to sync.

Q: Is the NBK hoping that we will supply our MARC metadata as rights-free 'open data' for the NBK shared cataloguing service?

A: Yes. Open data has a larger potential for impact and reuse than licensed data.

Q: Or would we share our data with some kind of CC licence applied, or permissions agreed with the NBK in a contract?

A: We don't currently have a contract, and we don't expect to ask contributors to sign one. If data is supplied with a CC licence, we will not redistribute it under more restrictive terms.

Q: Would the NBK claim any rights or apply any licences to this data when it is shared via the NBK shared cataloguing service?

A: We would not claim ownership or assert any restrictive rights.

Q: Is there a contract we would need to sign with the NBK regarding the sharing of MARC data? How formalised is the agreement that would be set up between providing institutions and the NBK?

A: We don't have a contract, and the agreement is currently not formal.

Q: Where does liability lie if there are any concerns about MARC records contributed to the shared cataloguing service? We need to consider whether anything the NBK might do with our data would go beyond the rights under which we had supplied it to the NBK, and where liability would then lie.

A: In the first instance, Jisc will make available to libraries the information about which records the libraries have told Jisc we may share. Libraries should check this for completeness and accuracy, and check their data once live to ensure that these rules have been implemented correctly. If agencies have concerns about their data being shared inappropriately, they should contact Jisc who will investigate and make best efforts to remove data, where appropriate.