

Contributing to the NBK

Background information for potential contributors

Updated 23 August 2019

Contributing to the NBK

The National Bibliographic Knowledgebase (NBK) is a physical union catalogue, containing a copy of the catalogues of many UK libraries, including the UK National Libraries, increasing numbers of academic libraries and specialist research libraries. This catalogue is used to build three services:

- Library Hub Discover <https://discover.libraryhub.jisc.ac.uk>, a freely available resource discovery service widely used by researchers, students, library staff and others both within the UK and across the world.
- Library Hub Compare <https://compare.libraryhub.jisc.ac.uk/>, a collection-management service available to Jisc members and NBK contributors
- Library Hub Cataloguing <https://cataloguing.libraryhub.jisc.ac.uk/>, a MARC record download service available to Jisc members and NBK contributors

Joining the NBK brings your data into these major collaborative services, potentially raising the profile of your collections with a national and international audience, with the added facility of having Discover as a back-up to your local catalogue for planned (or unplanned) downtime. Having your catalogue on the NBK also allows you to make best use of the collection management facilities provided through the Compare service.

All UK HE libraries are invited to supply their data to the NBK, and should contact nbk@jisc.ac.uk to begin the process of contributing. Other libraries such as specialist libraries and those with rare/special collections should contact nbk@jisc.ac.uk to discuss eligibility.

Data supply & processing

To include your catalogue on the NBK we need you to send us an export of your data. Data supply is usually via SFTP using public/private key authentication, however other options can be discussed.

Most libraries supply data in MARC21 or some form of XML, though we also take other formats. For an academic library we would expect to take a copy of your full catalogue, whilst a specialist library might wish to supply a sub-set of data, for example just your special collections.

Where we take a full catalogue load, our aim is for the NBK to reflect your local catalogue as closely as possible. This avoids user queries about why records in a local catalogue are not appearing on the NBK.

As a contributor we expect:

- An initial supply of a full copy of your catalogue (or an agreed sub-set), with a unique stable ID in each record. You need to ensure you exclude records you wouldn't display in your catalogue locally.
- Regular updates including new records, amended records, and deletions. The update frequency can vary depending on the size and nature of your collection, but for an academic library we would normally expect weekly updates.

- Where you move to a new library system, and your record numbers change, we need a full reload of your catalogue.

We know that some libraries may have problems with data export eg. re. supplying updates. If you anticipate difficulties with aspects of data supply please let us know.

We standardise all incoming data to MARC21 to facilitate deduplication. The MARC21 data is retained for update processing, but to create Discover we convert the data into MODS XML. Incoming data is deduplicated and consolidated records created, however the original content of each record is retained and visible within Discover, to ensure a searcher can view each contributor's data in its original context.

We need a technical contact to ensure effective data flow, as well as contacts to help us promote your Special Collections etc.

More information about contributing can be found on our Contributor website:

<https://contribute.copac.jisc.ac.uk> (access using Shibboleth/Open Athens, or contact nbk@jisc.ac.uk for access).

Your data on the NBK

Once loaded we will make your data available through the three Library Hub interfaces.

- Discover is freely available to a UK and international audience through the Discover web interface as well as a range of machine-to-machine interfaces (<https://discover.libraryhub.jisc.ac.uk/support/api/>).
- We allow data from Discover to be harvested by search engines
- If you supply local holdings data you will be able to use Discover as a back-up for your local catalogue during periods of planned (or unplanned) downtime.
- Where possible we use Z39.50 to retrieve live circulation data from your catalogue. This is only made available in our holdings display, avoiding unnecessary search requests to your local catalogue.
- We promote library collections via twitter and we encourage contributors to write Collection features on our blog, e.g. focussing on a forthcoming exhibition or a specific collection. Our Library Information pages give users information and links to your local services. (<https://discover.libraryhub.jisc.ac.uk/about/libraries/>)
- The NBK data underpins the Compare service which offers a range of facilities to support collection management activity, eg: identifying last copies, visualising collection strengths, developing new collections, assessing materials for digitisation or conservation

- Data which comes to us in MARC format and is licensed for reuse is used to build the Cataloguing service, from which Jisc member and NBK contributor libraries may download MARC records for use in their local catalogues
- From the Cataloguing service, Jisc members may request that their data be synced with OCLC WorldCat

Note: We encourage contributors to include a link to Discover within their own local catalogue search results.

Setting up your data contribution

If we agree to load your catalogue onto the NBK there are a number of things we need to know. We will give you access to our Contributor Dashboard where we ask you to fill in four questionnaires to provide basic information about your data and collections.

- Data supply questionnaire: details relating to data transfer; the nature of the records being supplied; timetable and contact details; updates.
- Data management questionnaire: focuses on data flow within and out of NBK services
- Library information questionnaire: basic details about your library and collections.
- Circulation data questionnaire: where possible we retrieve live circulation data from your LMS via Z39.50.

The questionnaires help us establish access and data processing procedures, as well as providing the information we need to set up your Library Information page.

Your application

To enquire about adding your catalogue to the NBK please get in touch, providing a brief introduction to your library, including your data format and the approximate size of your catalogue: nbk@jisc.ac.uk

There is normally a waiting list of new contributors, so if we agree to load your catalogue this won't take place immediately. We will confirm with you a suitable time for the data load to accommodate your local activity.

We look forward to hearing from you.