

6th UNIMARC Users Meeting

Use of UNIMARC in the Greek Libraries Sector

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What this presentation is about

This brief presentation provides an overview of the use of UNIMARC in the Greek Libraries Sector, highlighting the current and future prospects of UNIMARC use within all types of libraries in Greece. It includes statistical data of the total number of Libraries as a whole and per type that use UNIMARC as their main bibliographic exchange format at this period. Finally, based on the statistical data, it attempts a reflection as to what the future of UNIMARC appears to be in the Greek Libraries Sector in the years to follow.

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An abstract graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a dark blue background with a series of glowing, concentric, semi-circular lines and dots in shades of blue and orange, suggesting a globe or a network of data points.

GREEK LIBRARIES

STATS: 2022, published 2023

- HOW MANY LIBRARIES
- WHAT TYPES



01

Libraries of all types

347 total

(school libraries
excluded)

02

National Library

- 40 Public Libraries
- 139 municipal libraries
- 167 libraries of legal entities, public and private

03

Type

- 211 general libraries
- 136 special, most of which are university (academic) libraries
 - 148 branches
 - 38 mobile units

UNIMARC in the Greek Libraries sector in the passage of time



1993-2018

- UNIMARC was implemented broadly in Greece, both in public, municipal and academic Libraries.



1993-2008

- The majority both of academic and public libraries used UNIMARC
- Only a small number used MARC 21



2008-2018

- 2010-2015 major shift to MARC 21 for academic libraries

2011 – ILSAS (Integrated Library System as Service – 40 universities - 226 autonomous academic libraries) (Brattis 2011)

MARC 21

- 1.079.524
- 40% of the records (bib and auth)

UNIMARC

- 1.606.825
- 60% of the records (bib and auth)

2018 – NLG (National Library of Greece – Reasons to Shift to MARC 21)

UNIMARC phased out
MARC 21 was adopted

- By now most Greek libraries used MARC21

“UNIMARC could not further serve the descriptive needs of new publication formats” (Zapounidou et al. 2024)

- “UNIMARC is not accompanied by user-friendly tools
- UNIMARC is not accompanied by user-friendly tools, compared to MARC 21” (Zapounidou et al. 2024).

2024 – ILSAS (Integrated Library System as Service – 20 from 25 Universities)

MARC 21

- 1.079.524
- 40% of the records (bib and auth)

UNIMARC

- 1.606.825
- 60% of the records (bib and auth)

**2024 - Greek Libraries Network –
274 libraries**

Exclusive use of MARC21




347 libraries

NONE uses UNIMARC in 2024

UNIMARC in Greece

- Flourished from ca. 1992 - 2010

- The shrinking of the profession and all types of libraries
- the cutbacks from 2009 onwards due to memorandums
- the need to save all sorts of resources (staff included)
 - contributed to the gradual exit from many different description standards and information systems to a single central system for each type of library.
 - The transition from UNIMARC to MARC21 was decided within the above frame.



**However “dystopic” the above
may seem for the future of
UNIMARC
UNIMARC is not dying...**

Just the opposite
Is evolving ...

Just not in Greece...at the moment

THANK YOU!

Do you have any questions?

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Sources

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