

#NISOPlus21

**NISO PLUS 2021**

**BETTER METADATA MAKES  
A DIFFERENCE**

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**“Metadata has always been at the heart of library services because they need it to describe their resources for end-user discovery and collection management.**

**Without metadata, a room full of books is just a room full of books.”<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Bascones, M., & Staniforth, A. (2018) What is all this fuss about? Is wrong metadata really bad for libraries and their end-users? *UKSG Insights*, 31, 41.  
<http://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.441>

**“Data quality is an especially important issue where metadata records for resource discovery are concerned. Resources can be rendered essentially invisible due to poor data.”<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>2</sup> Pomerantz, J. (2015) *Metadata*, The MIT Press, pp. 139-140.

## Quality Metadata is important to libraries because it:

- Drives **discovery** and powers **research**
- Supports library-users to **find, identify, select, obtain/access** and **explore** resources and collections<sup>3</sup>
- Ensures libraries get **value-for-money** by driving **usage** of content
- Enables accurate reporting across **analytics** to inform **collection management** and **collection development** strategies
- Supports **collaboration** between academic institutions and beyond – e.g. resource-sharing, National Bibliographic Knowledgebase

<sup>3</sup> Riva, P., Le Bœuf, P., & Žumer, M. (2017) *IFLA Library Reference Model: A Conceptual Model for Bibliographic Information*. IFLA, p.15. <https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/11412>

# QUALITY OF SHELF-READY METADATA

ANALYSIS OF SURVEY RESPONSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUPPLIERS



## WHO WE ARE

NAG is a professional organisation for people responsible for or interested in the acquisition, management and development of library resources in libraries of all types.

**The National Acquisitions Group Quality of Shelf-Ready Metadata Survey<sup>4</sup>** collected data from 50 Higher Education libraries in the UK and Ireland to inform recommendations for shelf-ready metadata supplied via the **Joint Consortia Framework Agreement for the supply of Books, E-books, Standing Orders and Related Materials.**

<sup>4</sup> NAG Survey Report and Recommendations available at:  
<https://nag.org.uk/publications/>

# METADATA FOR BOOKS & E-BOOKS – QUALITY CONTROL & CORRECTION

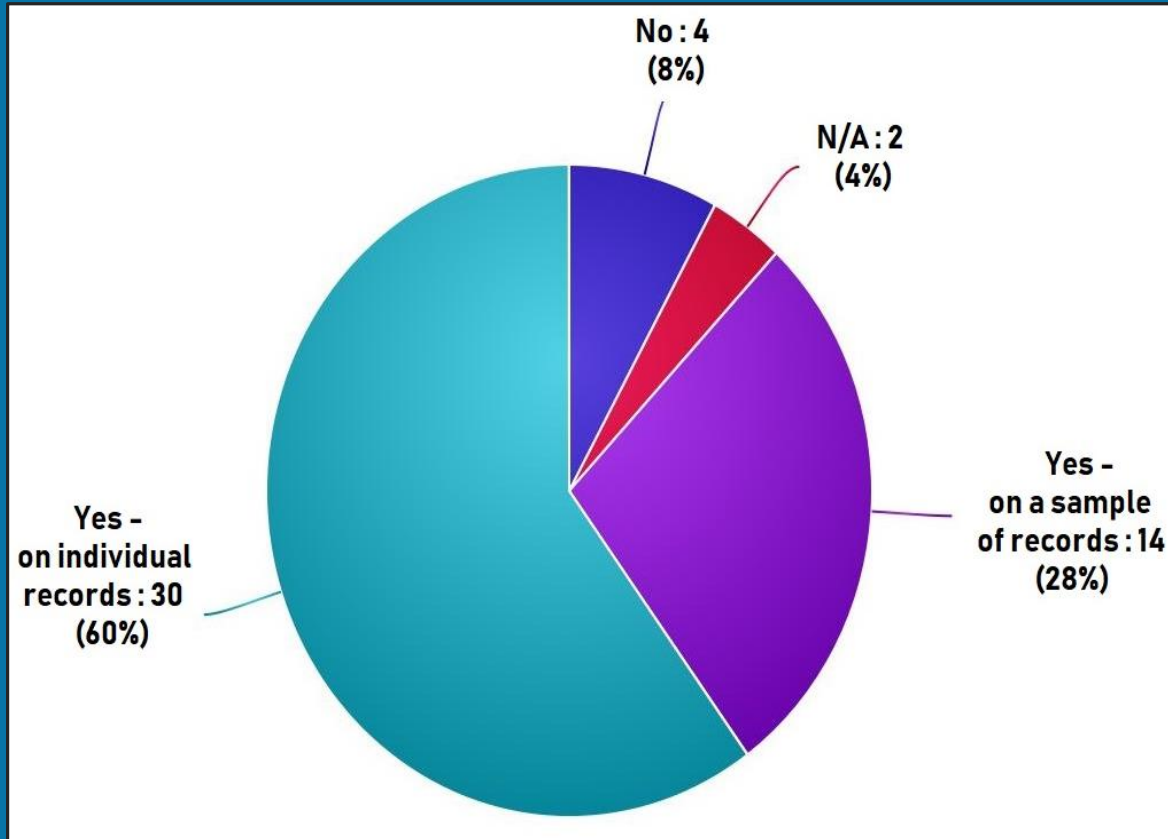


Fig. 11. Respondents performing quality-control on shelf-ready records from suppliers (p.14)

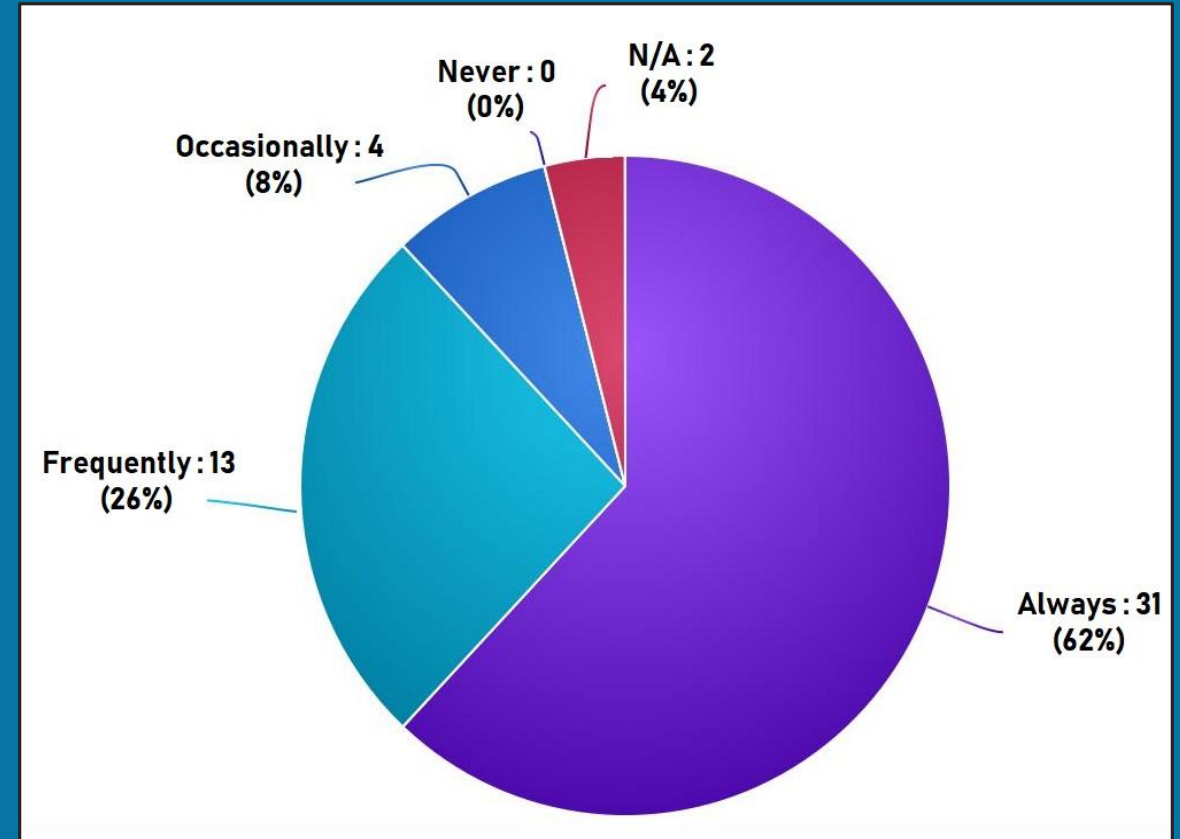


Fig. 12. Frequency of respondents correcting shelf-ready records from suppliers (p.15)

# METADATA FOR BOOKS & E-BOOKS – COMMONLY ENCOUNTERED ERRORS

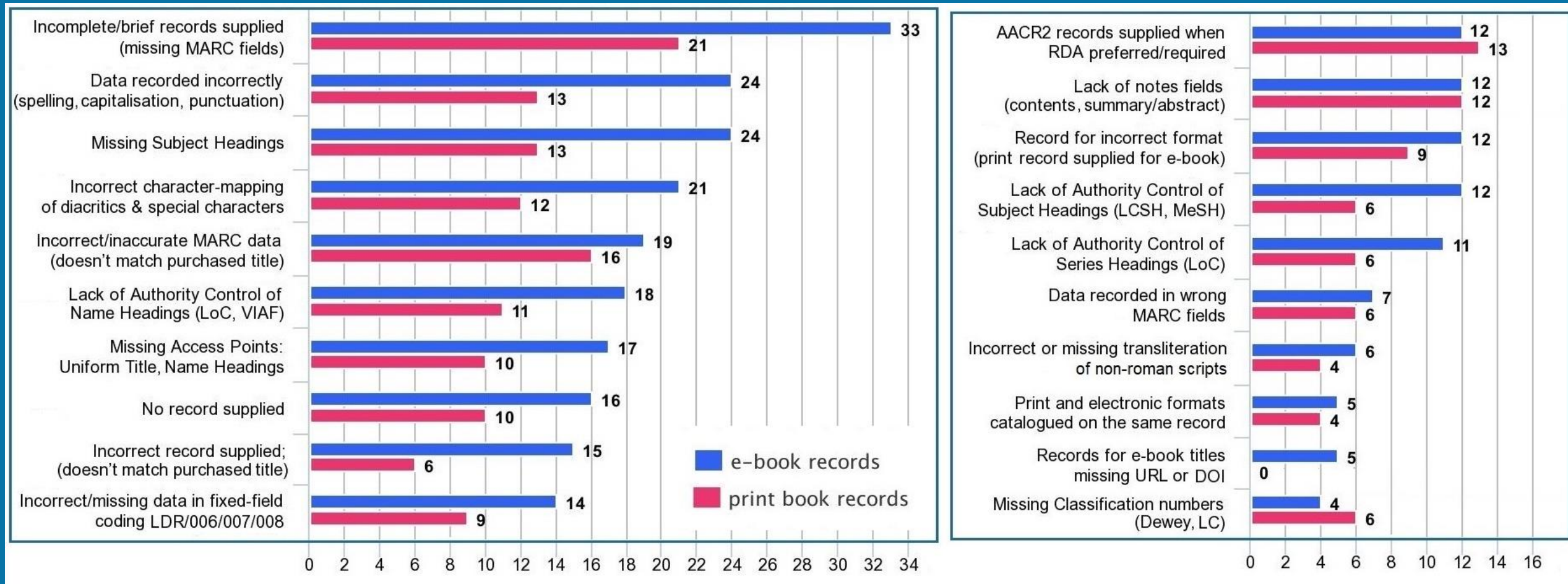


Fig. 14. Respondents' commonly encountered issues with shelf-ready records (p.17)



# METADATA FOR BOOKS & E-BOOKS – ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

## ESSENTIAL METADATA ELEMENT

## MARC FIELD

- 1. **Title(s)** – including authorised Title Heading(s) (if applicable)
- 2. **Creator(s)** – including authorised Name Heading(s)
- 3. **Subjects** – including authorised Subject Headings
- 4. **Resource-type & format data** – (Control Fields)
- 5. **ISBNs** – including format information
- 6. **Edition statement** – (if applicable)
- 7. **Publication/Imprint data**
- 8. **Physical description** – (pagination etc.)
- 9. **Series** – including Series Heading(s) (if applicable)
- 10. **Electronic access URL** – for e-books/e-textbooks
- 11. **Classmark** – (LC/DDC/UDC as specified by Library)
- 12. **EOD** – (order information as specified by Library)

24X  
1XX/7XX  
65X  
LDR/006/007/008  
020  
250  
264  
3XX  
490/830  
856  
050/082/080  
9XX

# ESSENTIAL METADATA ELEMENTS FOR E-BOOKS – NISO STANDARDS<sup>5</sup>

## **Five Essential Metadata Elements**

We attempt first to articulate the requirements of different stakeholders and different use cases involving the same metadata elements, and then to reconcile or adjudicate among them. The goal is to develop a shared understanding of specific metadata elements among the different types of stakeholders and across the different use cases. We have narrowed the scope of our effort to five metadata elements that occur in all the major standards and that are indispensable to the most important workflows across the different types of stakeholders and the different phases of the e-book lifecycle:

- Titles
- Names
- Dates
- Book identifiers
- Subjects

## **Three Additional Attributes**

In addition, the treatment of identifiers necessitates recommendations for three metadata elements that are inextricably involved in best practices for applying identifiers to e-books:

- Format
- Constraints on use
- Uniform resource identifier (URI)



***<sup>5</sup> NISO (2020) *E-book Bibliographic Metadata Requirements in the Sale, Publication, Discovery, Delivery, and Preservation Supply Chain: A Recommended Practice of the National Information Standards Organization****

<https://www.niso.org/standards-committees/ebmd>



# METADATA FOR BOOKS & E-BOOKS – DESIRABLE ELEMENTS

## DESIRABLE METADATA ELEMENT

## MARC FIELD

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. Contents Note – (i.e. book-chapter titles) | 505 |
| 2. Abstract/Summary Note                      | 520 |
| 3. Bibliography Note                          | 504 |
| 4. Restrictions on Access / Open Access Note  | 506 |
| 5. Reproduction Note – for e-books            | 533 |

**“Richer metadata fuels discovery and innovation.**

**Connected metadata bridges the gaps between systems and communities.**

**Reusable, open metadata eliminates duplication of effort.**

**When we settle for inadequate metadata, none of this is possible and everyone suffers as a consequence.”<sup>6</sup>**

<sup>6</sup> Mitchell, D., & Counsell, F. (2018) Metadata 2020: A collaborative effort to improve metadata quality in scholarly communications. *Septentrio Conference Series*, 1. <http://doi.org/10.7557/5.4471>

See also: Metadata 2020 website <http://www.metadata2020.org/>

# REFERENCES

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