

# Sharing British Library Open Metadata with Non-Library Communities

## Context

The British Library has supported bibliographic metadata services to national and international library communities since its foundation in line with the requirements of The British Library Act, (1972, Ch. 54). From 2010, the Library began to offer a range of new open metadata services aimed at expanding usage of its metadata beyond the library world.

Activities were initially aimed at developers and other technical or expert users in line with the UK Government's [guidance](#) for '5 star' public sector linked open data. Although this work was very well received, considerable practical experience of metadata sharing suggests that it could be extended to support a wider range of user communities. While resource constraints inevitably impose some limitations on what might be achieved, it is believed that a carefully selected but restricted range of distribution options will support the majority of potential users of the Library's metadata.

## Non-Library Target Audiences

In addition to the library community it is proposed to create and support open metadata offerings targeted at the following groups:

- General Public
- Academic Researcher
- Archive Community
- UK Book Trade
- Developer Community
- Schools

## Service Options

When designing new open metadata services the aim will be to offer standard, sustainable options using the formats, licensing and access options appropriate to the target groups. The [default licence](#) offered will be [Creative Commons Zero](#) (CC0) in line with existing open metadata services.

Although pre-defined, standard options will be the default for each user group, bespoke offerings may be considered on a case by case basis (*e.g. charities, strategic collaborator, etc.*). All metadata requests or communications will be handled by the [metadata@bl.uk](mailto:metadata@bl.uk) email account with background information presented via the relevant Collection Metadata [web pages](#) and [download](#) pages.

### Supported Metadata Formats

The primary metadata formats supported for metadata sharing will be:

- ‘Researcher Format ‘/’[.CSV](#) (Comma-Separated Values) used by Google Open Refine, Excel and many common database and spreadsheet applications. This format also meets UK Government requirements for ‘3 star’ public sector open data.
- [EAD](#) (Encoded Archival Description) used for interchange by the archives community
- Standard Citation Formats ([Endnote](#), [RefWorks](#), [RIS](#) & [BibTex](#))
- Standard Linked Data Formats ([RDF/XML](#), [Turtle](#), [JSON](#)). These formats meet UK Government requirements for ‘5 star’ public sector open data.
- [MARC21/MARCXML](#) for Schools/Book Trade users requiring LMS compatible metadata

### Supported Delivery Methods

The delivery methods supported will be:

- User specified record download (Via OPAC Email/Download & [Z39.50](#))
- Batch file download (Via [FTP](#))
- Linked Data (Via [SPARQL/Linked Data API](#) and [content negotiation](#) with selected areas of the BL web site relating to collection metadata, e.g. *Discovering Literature*)

### Infrastructure/Delivery Platforms

Platforms to be used will be:

- Bulk File Transfer – [data.bl.uk](#) & [Collection Metadata Web Pages](#) (open), [ftp.bl.uk](#) (secure)
- Selective Record Download – [Explore.bl.uk](#) & [Explore Archives and Manuscripts](#) (open), [z39.50.bl.uk](#) (secure)
- Linked Data – [bnb.data.bl.uk](#)

Details of the supported options for the defined user groups are presented in *Appendix 1*.

### **Future Development**

Service options will be subject to review and development in line with UK Government guidance and changing technical or operational environments.

*Collection Metadata*

13/1/17

Target Audience	Material Type(s)	Metadata Carrier Format(s)	Delivery Method(s)	Platform / Access Method	Licence Options	Notes
<b>General Public</b>	All	OPAC citation formats ( <i>Endnote, RefWorks, RIS</i> ) Researcher Format (.CSV)	OPAC Email, OPAC Download, FTP	<a href="http://explore.bl.uk">explore.bl.uk</a> , <a href="http://searcharchives.bl.uk">searcharchives.bl.uk</a> , <a href="http://data.bl.uk">data.bl.uk</a> , <a href="http://downloads.bl.uk">downloads</a> , <a href="http://www.bl.uk">www.bl.uk</a>	CC0	Standard download & Email options
<b>Academic Researcher</b>	All	OPAC citation formats (Endnote, RefWorks, RIS). Batch citation Formats ( <i>RIS, BibTex</i> ), Researcher Format (.CSV)	OPAC Email, OPAC Download, FTP	<a href="http://explore.bl.uk">explore.bl.uk</a> , <a href="http://searcharchives.bl.uk">searcharchives.bl.uk</a> , <a href="http://data.bl.uk">data.bl.uk</a> , <a href="http://downloads.bl.uk">downloads</a> , <a href="http://www.bl.uk">www.bl.uk</a> , <a href="ftp://ftp.bl.uk">ftp.bl.uk</a>	CC0	Option to request bespoke academic research sets via <a href="mailto:metadata@bl.uk">metadata@bl.uk</a>
<b>Archive Community</b>	Archives	EAD	FTP	<a href="http://data.bl.uk">data.bl.uk</a> , <a href="http://downloads.bl.uk">downloads</a>	CC0	
<b>UK Publishing Industry/Book Trade</b>	Books	MARC21, .CSV	FTP	<a href="ftp://ftp.bl.uk">ftp.bl.uk</a>	Custom - linked to <a href="http://uknpld.org">UK NPLD</a>	Possible future extension to include ONIX format?
<b>Developer Community</b>	Books, Serials (BNB)	RDFXML, JSON, Turtle	FTP, Linked Data API, Website Content Negotiation	<a href="http://bnb.data.bl.uk">bnb.data.bl.uk</a> , <a href="http://data.bl.uk">data.bl.uk</a> , <a href="http://downloads.bl.uk">downloads</a> , <a href="http://www.bl.uk">www.bl.uk</a> , <a href="ftp://ftp.bl.uk">ftp.bl.uk</a>	CC0	Possible future extension to include Schema.org format?
<b>Schools</b>	Books	MARC21, Researcher Format (.CSV)	FTP, Z39.50	<a href="http://explore.bl.uk">explore.bl.uk</a> , <a href="http://z39.50.bl.uk">Z39.50.bl.uk</a> , <a href="http://data.bl.uk">data.bl.uk</a> , <a href="http://downloads.bl.uk">downloads</a>	CC0	