

RETROSPECTIVE CONVERSION

STANDARDS-BASED

FLEXIBLE OPEN EASY

The **LearningAccess ReCon** tool set is an easy to use yet powerful Web-based retrospective conversion system especially designed to create online library catalogs quickly and reliably.

One of the most daunting challenges to automation and state-of-the-art digital access in small libraries has been the difficult and expensive process of building the initial library catalog. The **LearningAccess ReCon** tool set changes all of this and makes it possible to use library staff and community volunteers to build a high quality, standards-based catalog rapidly and painlessly.

How it works

The **LearningAccess ReCon** toolset employs a unique process in which library material is handled only once. During this single handling, it is given a barcode, spine labeled (if needed) and fully cataloged using MARC21.

When cataloging material, bibliographic records can be obtained and created using one three of methods:

- **Search** for the material in the Learning Access Institute provided **copy catalog** database, containing well over a million high quality bibliographic records.
- **USE** the builtin Z39.50 copy cataloging tool - ZSearch – to search for records in a number of well known library catalogs, such as the Library of Congress and Melville.
- **Create** quickly and painlessly a basic **MARC21 Bibliographic** record based on title, author, imprint, ISBN.

Once the bibliographic record is either selected or created, holding statements for each copy in the library are attached, using a simple form driven, one-step interface.

During this step, a barcode is applied to the item and scanned in to the system, and call number, shelving and other location and item specific data are assigned. Optionally a new spine label may be produced and attached to the item.

Why we are Different

The Learning Access Institute, a non-profit 501(C)3 organization, is different from the typical library vendor. Our abiding interest is 1) in your library and your community, 2) in why you may have never been able to automate or to keep your systems up-to-date, and 3) in how to design and implement systems that best serve you and your users.

We understand that staff in many smaller libraries are over-committed, often relying on volunteers and struggling to make budgets work each year. This is why our tools are opti-

mized to maximize the benefits in your settings, including strategies for using volunteers to get your conversion task accomplished.

This is why we use a **unique** and **open** approach to sharing cataloging records and to minimizing the conversion costs.

Open Data

When you sign up to use the **LearningAccess ReCon** tool set, you will get access to the collaboratively built master cataloging record database for no additional fee. In return, we ask that any new MARC21 Bibliographic record you add to the master database during your conversion process becomes part of this ever growing database, so as to benefit other libraries.

Data files produced

The LearningAccess ReCon toolset produces two standard datafiles -- a MARC21 Bibliographic file and an interlinked MARC21 Holdings file -- both of which can be imported into the ILS.



Technical Specifications

The **LearningAccess ReCon** toolset is fully web-based and is supported on either RedHat ES 4.0 on an Intel X86 platform, or MAC OS X 10.3 or later.

Supported server hardware ranges from single processor to multi processor and RAID Array capable Intel X86 systems, and from the Apple MAC Mini to the XServer/Xsan system on the Apple Macintosh platform. The hardware needed depends on the number of simultaneous users and the size of the collection to be converted.

For a typically-sized library with under 50,000 unique holdings we provide a specialized turnkey system, the **aVISTA** system.

Workstation Requirements

The conversion process is performed using a standard web browser. The preferred browsers are: FireFox 1.0 or later, Mozilla 1.0 or later, Internet Explorer 6.0 or later, and Safari 1.0 or later

In addition each conversion workstation will need a basic bar-code reader.

Printing Spine Labels

In order to print spine labels, one conversion workstation needs to be a PC with Office 2000 or better installed, connected to a laser printer (or optional DeskJet).

Spine labels themselves can be any for which a Microsoft Word merge document can be defined.

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Hosting Service

Learning Access Institute's hosting services give libraries the added option of a controlled server environment, where all daily technical support, upgrades and database maintenance tasks are managed by our professional staff.

Hosting services may be ideal for your library to get started without taking on the initial extra burden of managing additional server hardware and software.

Data Standards

The **LearningAccess ReCon** tools produce two MARC21 standards-compliant datafiles for uploading into the **LearningAccess ILS**:

- MARC21 bibliographic records file
- MARC21 holdings records file

Optionally we may produce a MARC21 Authority file.

While the files are optimized and processed to be uploaded into the **LearningAccess ILS** system, our commitment to Open Data standards enables uploading into other MARC21-compliant library automation systems.

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