

MarcEdit

What's New?

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ABSTRACT Terry Reese continues to develop his MarcEdit software, resulting in MarcEdit 7 being released in November 2017. This new version looks and feels different. This conversation group session explored the new interface, preference options, integration with integrated library systems, and other new or newly discovered functionality.

MARCEDIT 7

MarcEdit 7 was officially released November 2017 but has been available for beta testing since August 2017. This new version includes an updated interface with enhanced help, preferences for ease of use, and ILS and WorldCat integration, among other new features.

The user has a choice between two levels of installation: one for administrators and one for users without administrative logins. This enables users who don't have administrative privileges on their computer to update the software without the assistance of the IT department.

Once installed, the user will immediately note a different interface. At the top are quick links to help for common tasks such as "Edit a MARC file," "Translate Excel to MARC," "Harvest OAI Data," and "Work with Linked Data." This is in addition to the Help search box, which searches MarcEdit and YouTube for help and provides a link so the user can post a question to the listserv. The keyboard shortcut Ctrl+K will place the cursor in the search box. Finally, a Troubleshooting Wizard can be found under Help > Troubleshooting Options in the menu bar. An error number or message can be searched in the Wizard to help determine what the problem is.

Tasks have been grouped together in the menu to streamline options. For instance, all the record process options have been grouped under Tools > MARC Processing Tools. Additionally, more keyboard shortcuts are provided.

A new “Ease of Use” section under the Preferences gear icon enables the user to create and select themes, provide feedback with sound, and show shortcut keys and function descriptions in the screen tips. The default theme is the white background, which can be stressful on the eyes. I have implemented the Dark Gray Theme, which is easier on the eyes but sometimes makes it difficult to see the cursor as it blends in with the color in the search box. This is a computer-specific setting for the cursor and is nothing that can be tweaked in MarcEdit to fix.

Also under Preferences is the ability to enable integration of MarcEdit with Alma, Koha, and OCLC. Before setting up the integration with OCLC, the user will need to get two API keys from OCLC. These keys can be requested from this link: <https://platform.wordcat.org/wskey>. However, it’s challenging to get the keys, as OCLC created these keys for developers and doesn’t really understand why a person who is not a developer needs API keys. Allow plenty of time for communicating with OCLC to get the keys in order to set this up. Integration with Alma or Koha seems a little less challenging but is not something I have enabled yet.

TOOLS

I briefly demonstrated the following tools, some of which are new to MarcEdit 7 and some of which are new to me. These are all available under the Tools option in the Menu bar.

- Select MARC Records—Both processes leave the original file intact and create a new file.
 - Delete Selected Records—Creates a new file of all the records not deleted.
 - Extract Selected Records—Creates a new file of all the selected records and will give the option to delete them from the original file. If deleted, two files will be created: one with the extracted records and one with the remaining records.
- Regular Expression Store—This feature is also available in the MarcEditor.
 - Regular expressions can be stored here and accessed when needed.
 - The tool is intended to be used to share regular expressions,

but that functionality is not yet activated. When activated, Terry Reese will share his regular expressions.

- Verify URLs
 - This can only be run on a .mrc file.
 - Checks URLs in all fields or just the fields specified.
 - The finished report opens as a web page with the URL as a link and the status code and message indicating what the possible problem is.
- Batch Process Files (Ctrl+Shift+B)
 - Use to convert files from one file type to another (e.g, Mnemonic to MARC, Dublin Core to MARC, MARC to MODS, etc.).
 - All the files in a folder and subfolders can be processed at the same time.
- Data Clustering Tools—This feature is also available in the MarcEditor (Ctrl+Shift+T)
 - I think of this tool as OpenRefine Lite.
 - The tool breaks down strings, normalizes away data and common diacritics, and sorts the data.
 - Example: Terry Reese and Reese, Terry = reese terry
 - The data use cluster can be customized instead of using the default options.
 - Find inconsistent use of relator terms or forms of access points and fix.
- Generate ...—This feature is also available in MarcEdit
 - Generate call numbers (Ctrl+Shift+N)
 - Generate FAST headings (Ctrl+Shift+F)

Several of these processes take a long time to run so be prepared to let them run while you work on something else.

FIELD GUIDE

Terry Reese has created a field guide for help with using MarcEdit at http://marcedit.reeset.net/learning_marcedit/table-of-contents/. This is a work in progress and is not complete, but it is better documentation than has been available in the past.