BDS WORKS WITH BOOKS ASIA

BDS now provides quality MARC records for foreign language material supplied by Books Asia.

BDS has been working closely with Books Asia to develop this service which covers books in Indic languages, such as Bengali, Gujarati and Hindi and Non-Indic languages such as Chinese, Arabic, Russian, Farsi and Vietnamese. For a complete list of languages and books available visit www.bookasia.co.uk.

The Books Asia data has been developed through an extensive consultation process between Shomi Haq, IT Project Manager at Books Asia and Lesley Creamer, Data Manager at BDS and offers the opportunity for BDS Direct Data Feed customers to load records via single feed rather than loading files separately.

Selection of books from Books Asia can be undertaken by the customer or by the supplier, and popularity ratings are available, including a Top 10 Authors list and a Top 5 Genres ranking. The books are supplied by Bertram Library Services.

"Libraries are at the heart of multi-cultural Britain," comments Sarah Armitage, "and BDS is proud to help facilitate the broadening of the cultural services within libraries. Quality MARC records for books across multiple languages and genres belonging to diverse cultures are vital to maintain the smooth running of libraries addressing such a broad range of linguistic and thematic needs."

Records are available to Public Library Licence holders via the BDS Direct Data Feed in UKMARC and MARC21 at no extra charge. Alternatively, files can be obtained directly from Books Asia.

For more information contact Sarah Armitage, sarah.armitage@bibdsl.co.uk, 07860 324570.

Books Asia
Foreign-languages for Public Libraries

New Orleans
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION
JUNE 23-28, 2011

More than 20,000 delegates travelled to New Orleans for the 2011 American Library Association Annual Conference and Exhibition held from the 23rd to the 28th of June. Sarah Armitage and Eric Green took refuge from the heat and attended a wide-ranging series of seminars, update sessions and discussion groups of interest to BDS and its customers...

BIG ISSUES IN 'BIG EASY'

CONFERENCE REPORT: SARAH ARMITAGE AND ERIC GREEN

The air conditioning of the Ernest M. Morial Convention Centre was a welcome break from the sweltering June weather, which peaked at a hot and humid 35˚ on the final day of the conference. The Exhibits Hall, with over 1500 booths, proved as interesting as ever and provided an opportunity for BDS to meet with third party suppliers and partners.

Unsurprisingly, particular emphasis was given to RDA and the recent announcement of the decision by the national libraries of the US to adopt it subject to recommended changes by January 2013 at the earliest. In an extended three-hour session, speakers from the Library of Congress and from PCC (Program for Co-operative Cataloging) gave an in-depth overview of the testing of RDA, the analysis of the results of the test and the next steps following the decision to adopt RDA. Questions from the floor highlighted the financial, operational and technical concerns of librarians.

Focusing on the technical considerations of RDA, an enlightening session given by five library management systems suppliers gave details of how they are proposing to change their systems to handle RDA. One particular US supplier, VTLS, actually demonstrated working cataloguing modules designed to accommodate the changes to MARC fields and terminology and showed the assembled delegates their OPAC displays designed to exploit the perceived FBRB-ised benefits.

The Library of Congress provided hands-on sessions using the RDA toolkit at their exhibition booth as well as hosting discussion groups relating to the changes between DDC22 and DDC23.

One interesting presentation given by Markham Public Library, based in Ontario, disscussed the financial and user benefits of some of their innovations in shelving and from their implementation of RFID.

There were a number of presentations relating to Opensource systems which are already widely-used in the US, the highlight of which was an eye-opening session entitled "True Grit: Evergreen migration tales", where US libraries who have already made the move to Opensource systems shared their experiences.

Also of interest were a number of special sessions focusing on how booksellers, librarians and publishers could and should work together. In "Libraries and bookstores: strange bedfellows", representatives from all three sectors led a lively discussion highlighting how collaboration could increase library users and improve national literacy.

ALA 2011 was, as ever, a busy and interesting conference, and the trip to New Orleans was most definitely worth the jet lag and the humidity. Next year's ALA 2012 will be held in Anaheim, California from the 21st to the 26th of June.