Intermarc-NG Format

14 SEPTEMBER 2021

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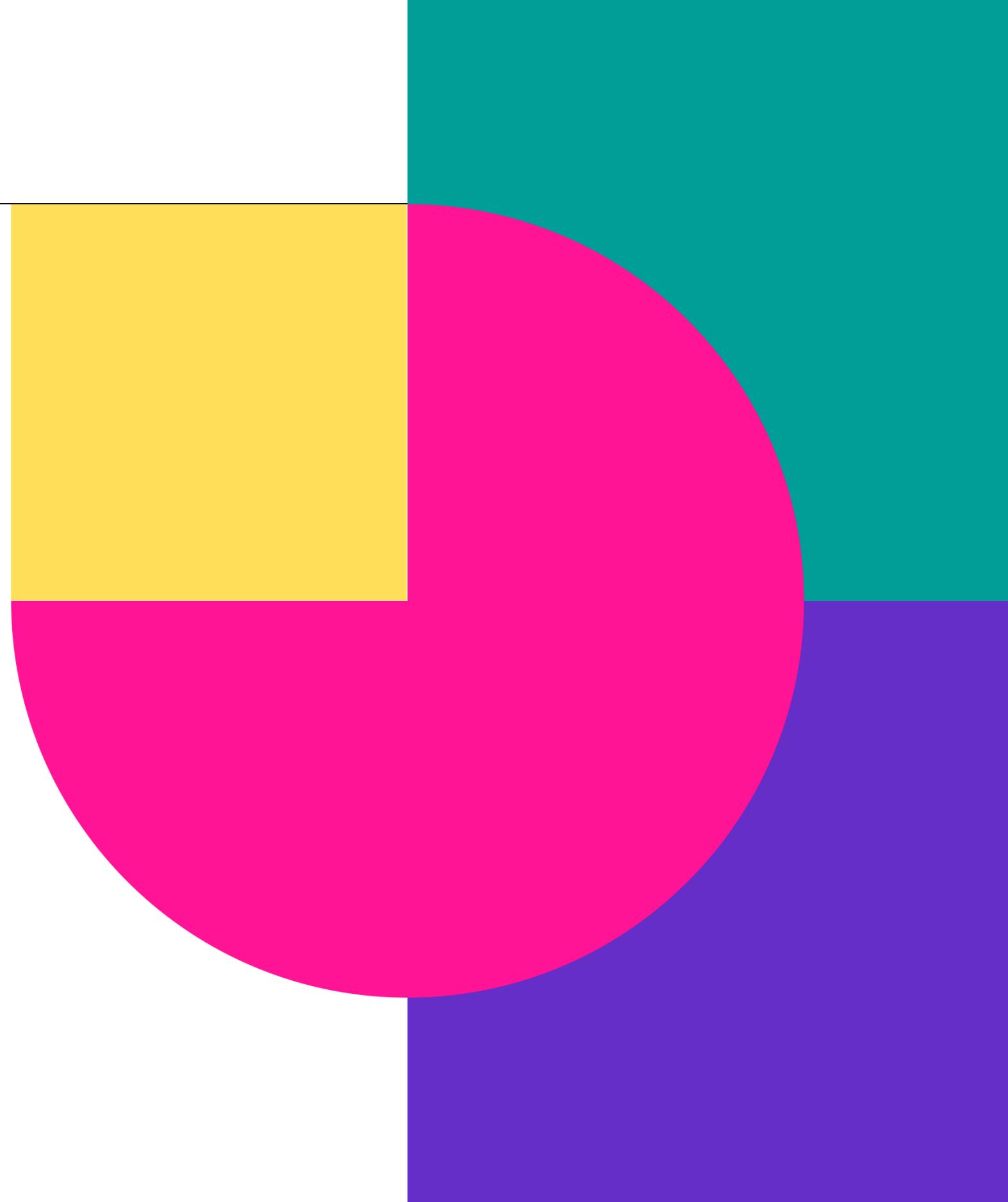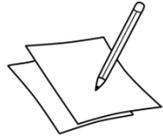
7 minutes to present Intermarc-NG∗ to you

∗Intermarc-NG for Intermarc New Generation

Why Intermarc-NG ?
Three goals :

To have a format compatible with IFLA LRM and which implements RDA-FR

This is the goal of the Intermarc-NG format, which should enable BnF to produce data natively in compliance with the IFLA LRM model according to the rules of the RDA-FR cataloguing code.

To have a format that allows an accurate cataloguing of the BnF's resources

Intermarc currently allows the description of 10 document types (from prints to coins and medals) and 9 types of authority records. Eventually, Intermarc-NG should describe 15 entities in detail.

To have a format that can evolve according to the requirements of the BnF

As the depositary of the legal deposit, BnF needs a format that can evolve rapidly to keep up with changes in the characteristics of documents entering the collections.
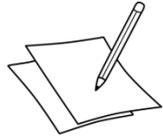
How is Intermarc-NG written ?

In a collegial manner :
- **In consultation with the users of the format**
- **In consultation with the expert in data modeling**
- **In consultation with the Information Systems department (ISD)**

By comparing the format with the reality of the collections

The format is written as part of the NOEMI project (change of cataloguing tool at the BnF) by the "Format and Migration" group. The people who will eventually maintain and develop Intermarc-NG are coordinating its writing with the representatives of the users of the format, the experts in data modeling and the ISD. Particular attention is given to ensure that all requirements are taken into account. At each stage of writing, tests are carried out to check that it allows the correct description of collections.
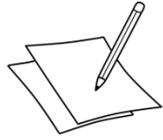
Intermarc-NG's principles

- **IFLA LRM compliance**
- **Implementing RDA-FR**
- **Keeping marc format's principles ...**
  - **...but suppressing indicators and coded information fields**
- **Maintaining compliance with ISO-2709**
- **A single format for all entities : suppression of the A/B format distinction**
- **A format with coherent blocks and sub-blocks**
- **Increasing the mnemonic logic of the format**
- **An evolving format (3-position subfields and alphanumeric field labels)**
- **Contextualizing the data more accurately (possibility of declaring meta-metadata at the field level)**
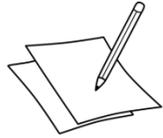
What was already done ?

Format's architecture and general mechanisms are operational

The blocks and the sub-blocks ' thematics fields are fixed and the tests carried out validate the choices made. Intermarc-NG is a highly structured format with clear thematics fields that make it easier for users to find their way around. The principles of the format's functionalities are clearly established (links, matching logic between datas, etc.).

Format harmonisation

The format's general logic governs the allocation of labels to fields and subfields. Therefore, the subfields $w always corresponds to the comments, and fields with a label containing X5X are mainly related to works.

Main user requirements covered

Format users and experts in data modeling have been consulted and intermarc-NG already incorporates most of their requirements.

The initial tests were successful.

The first notices in Intermarc-NG were written, which enabled us to validate some achievements and to identify weaknesses.

What is left to do ?
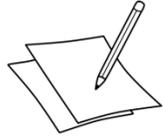
Refine users' requirements

Some sections of RDA-FR have not yet been published. The format will therefore have to be updated after the publication of these sections. Furthermore, some user requirements have not yet been implemented in the format.

Conducting large-scale tests of the format

We need to continue the format's tests before it goes into production to ensure that the format's users will be able to perform their daily tasks.

Working on the format controlled vocabulary.

We need to build the Intermarc-NG controlled vocabulary from the international controlled vocabulary, from the current format's controlled vocabulary and from the RDA-FR's controlled vocabulary. We will then have to draft, to harmonise, to map and to document the controlled vocabulary.

Writing format controls

Once the format and controlled vocabulary are stabilised, the controls guaranteeing the consistency and the quality of the produced datasets will have to be written.
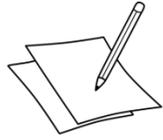
Some questions ?

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