

BIBFRAME WORKSHOP EUROPE

Bridging the Gap: Implementing BIBFRAME in Small-Staff Environments

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Introduction

Moving from MARC21 cataloging to BIBFRAME presents unique challenges for smaller institutions

- Brandeis Library at Brandeis University has 4 full time staff dedicated to Metadata
- 2 Metadata Coordinators and 2 Metadata Librarians
- We are an Alma/Primo institution, and our catalog is still all MARC21
- Shifting to BIBFRAME with a smaller team presents several challenges and opportunities

Understanding BIBFRAME and a Dual-Track Workflow Challenge

- ✓ **Production Continuity:** Small teams must sustain high-volume legacy MARC21 cataloging for daily acquisitions.
- ✓ **Competency Development:** Staff must simultaneously acquire graph-based linked data concepts and BIBFRAME modeling skills.
- ✓ **Resource Division:** Balancing operational output without inducing burnout or metadata backlogs.
- ✓ **Incremental Integration:** Transitioning gradually rather than attempting an immediate full system cutover.



Cultivating Staff Interest & Competencies



Low-Stakes Pilot Projects

Introduce controlled sandbox environments for hands-on experimentation without affecting the live discovery catalog.



Cross-Department Engagement

Incorporate other departments in a pilot such as Archives/Special Collections digital initiatives , in metadata discussions.



Incremental Learning

Shift mindset from string-based cataloging to entity description through smaller, manageable projects with deliverables .

Community-Driven Support Ecosystem

PCC Sinopia Affinity Group

Provides collaborative peer feedback, practical template testing, and standard application profile updates designed specifically for cataloging practitioners.

LD4 Community & Working Groups

Fosters cross-institutional knowledge sharing, technical best practices, and collective advocacy for small-to-medium academic library infrastructure needs.

BIBFRAME Interoperability Group (BIG)

The international [BIBFRAME Interoperability Group \(BIG\)](#) supports efficient and interoperable use of the [BIBFRAME](#) standard by establishing and sharing best practices between participants.

Program for Cooperative Cataloging PCC Groups

The [Program for Cooperative Cataloging \(PCC\)](#) seeks to be a democratic and diverse organization whose mission and goals are determined by its membership.

[Program for Cooperative Cataloging \(PCC\) Wiki](#)

Testing of Linked Data Editors

Linked Data Editor	Key Strengths	Workflow Fit for Small Teams	Key Consideration
Sinopia	Customizable profile creation & open community hub	Ideal for pilot projects & learning graph structures	Requires separate metadata export pipelines
Marva (Library of Congress)	Native BIBFRAME 2.0 modeling & authority integration	Strong reference tool for standardizing practices	Geared toward LC-specific workflows
Ex Libris Alma LOD Editor	Direct integration with daily ILS cataloging routines	High potential for production dual-track reduction	Evolving feature set & ecosystem dependencies

Balancing Capacity & Pilot Goals

15–20%

Dedicated Innovation Time

Strategic Resource Management

Allocating structured time blocks for testing editors and cataloging with a focus on linked data work without pressure of day-to-day operations

Setting realistic quarterly targets or goals ensures steady skill growth and development while safeguarding primary technical services deliverables.

Potential Management Strategies for Small Teams



Targeted Pilot Scoping: Focus BIBFRAME pilots on distinct, high-value special collections or faculty publications rather than general monograph streams.



Hybrid Metadata Pipelines: Leverage automated MARC-to-BIBFRAME transformation tools to reduce repetitive manual data entry.

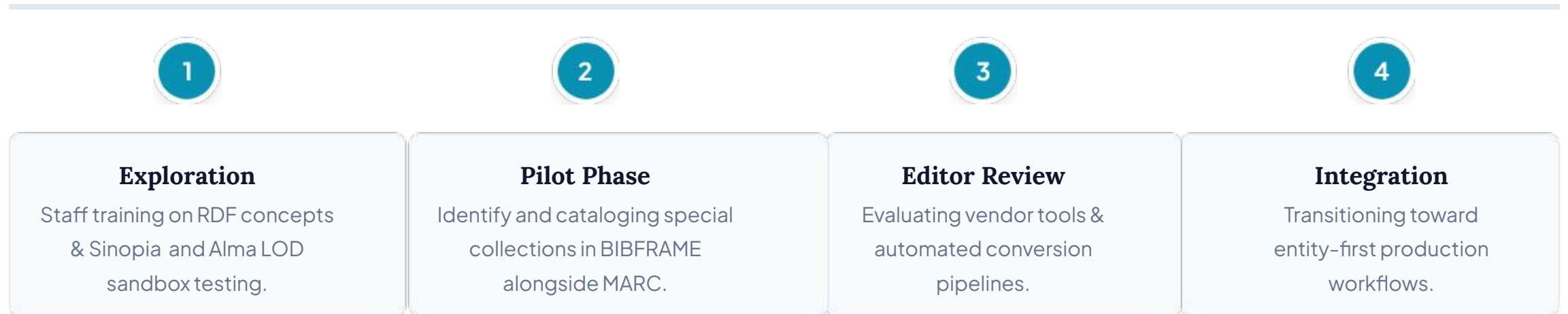


Transparent Workflow Audits: Regularly evaluate production metrics to rebalance staff time between MARC maintenance and BIBFRAME skill building.



Psychological Safety: Encourage experimentation and normalize the learning curve associated with complex RDF vocabularies.

Potential Brandeis Implementation Roadmap



Questions & Discussion

Thank you for participating in BIBFRAME Workshop Europe!



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