BIBFRAME Implementation Journey

SALLY MCCALLUM

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

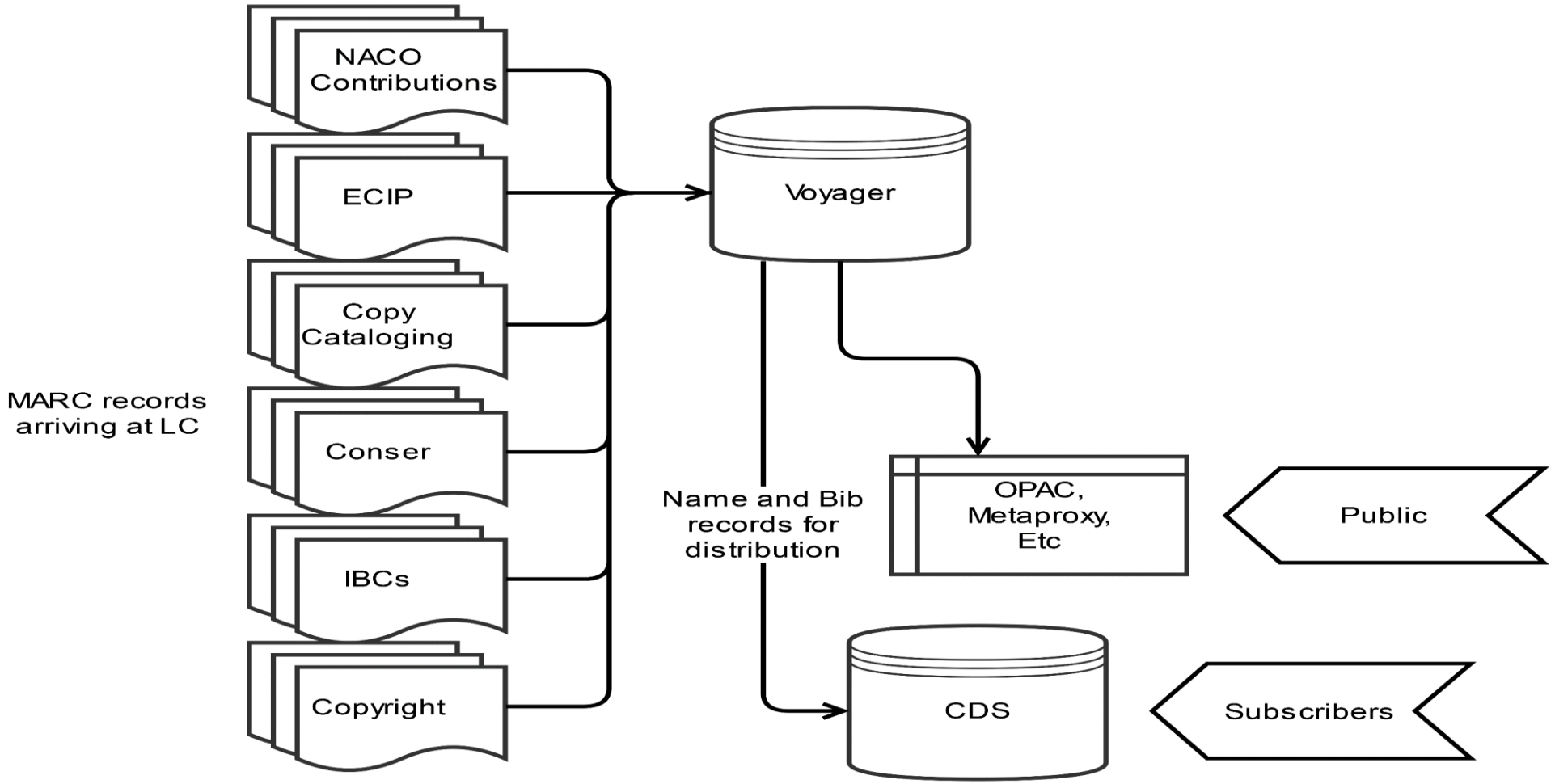
BIBFRAME WORKSHOP IN EUROPE, SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

BFWE Workshop in 2021

Library of Congress indicated goal for 2022 was what we called BIBFRAME 100

- 3 years in current Pilot; 125 catalogers trained; but double keying into BIBFRAME and MARC systems
- Relatively advanced BIBFRAME data creation tools
- Time to “marry” our ILS (Voyager) and BIBFRAME systems
  - All LC catalogers creating descriptions in BIBFRAME system and convert to MARC rather than key again in MARC

Voyager system

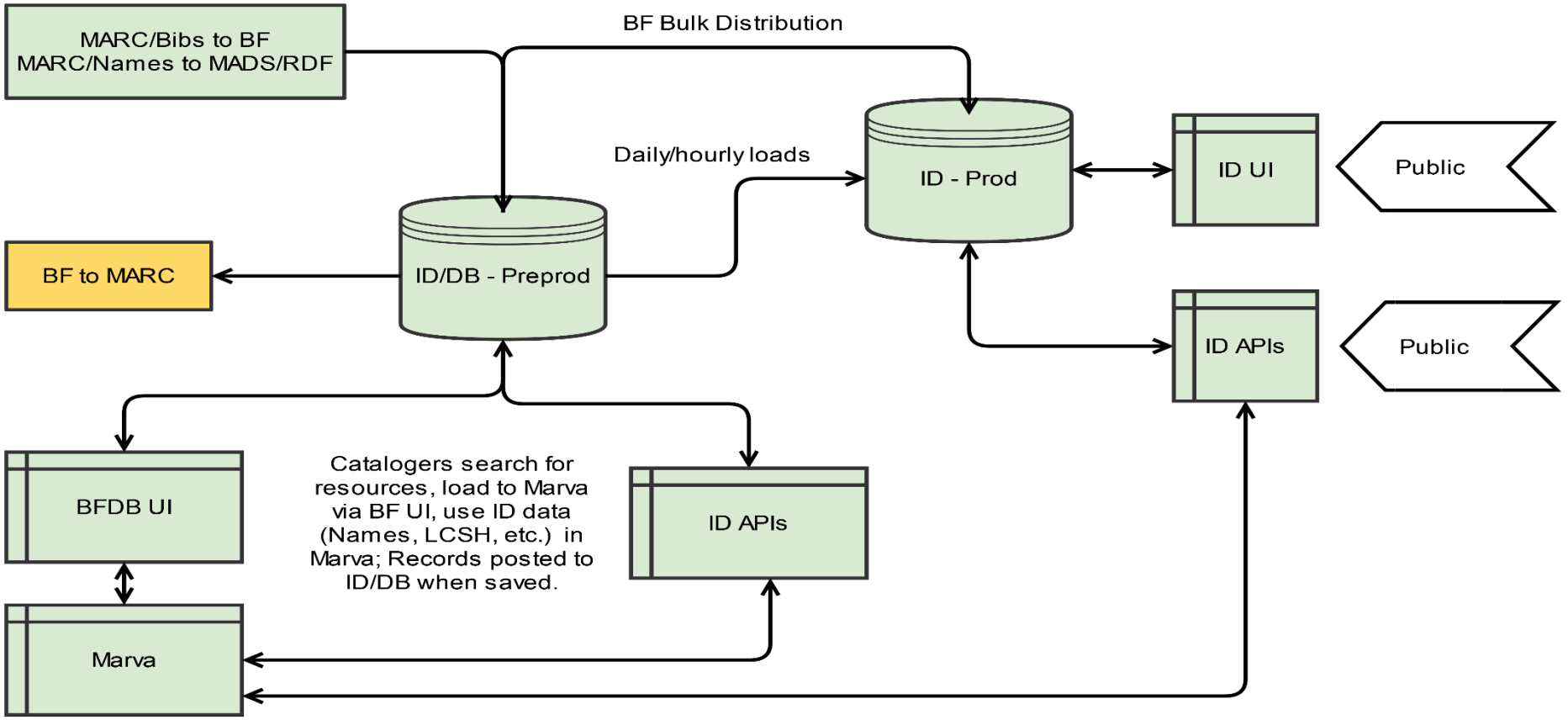


Voyager system

Comments

- Voyager installed over 20 ears ago
- Very MARC based
- Complex with add-ons over time
- Slim to full records obtained from various sources and are loaded into Voyager through a “MARC tube”
- Acquisition and Voyager management elements appended to the “records”
- The bibliographic data sources are many and varied in content

BIBFRAME system

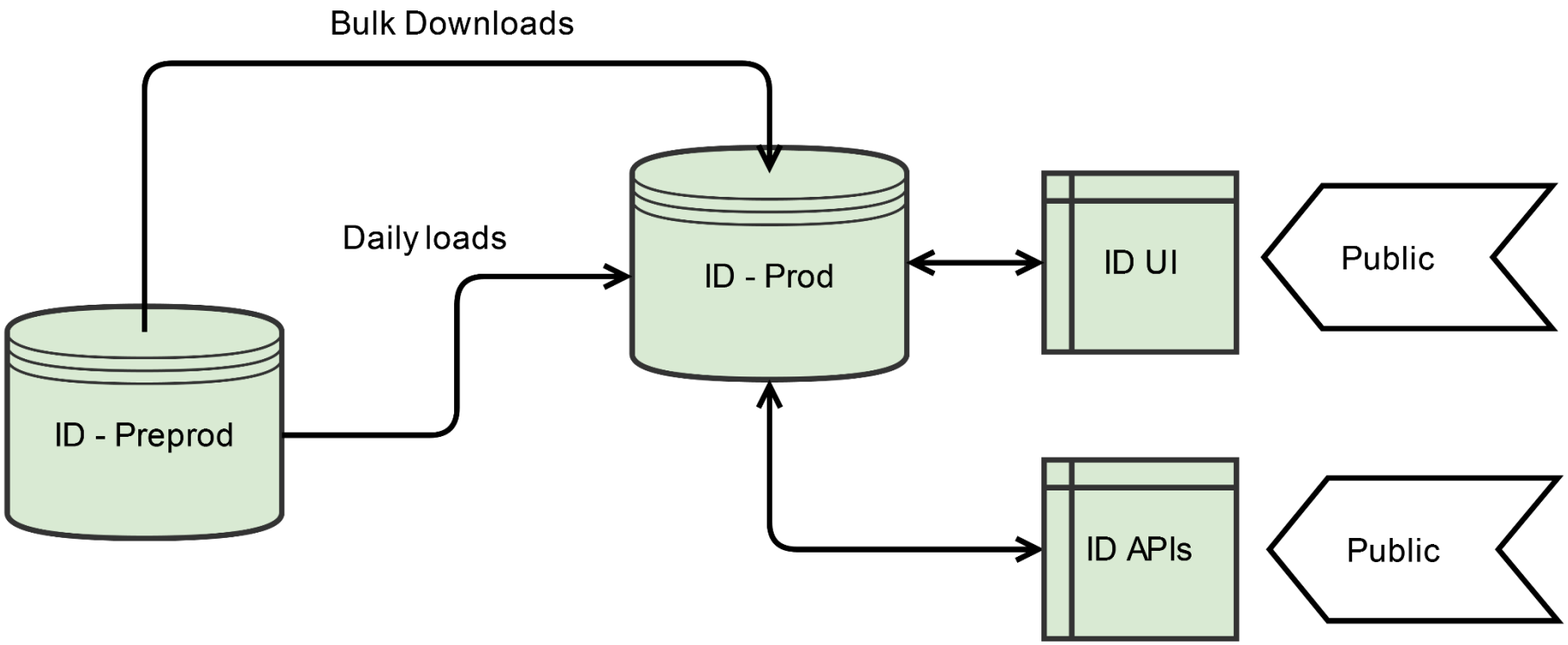


BIBFRAME system

Comments

- Triple store-based database with BIBFRAME RDF records
  - All of the records in Voyager are converted and loaded in time intervals – generally every 5 minutes
- Marva editor enables creation or completion of a bibliographic description
- Collaborative development of interfaces with catalogers and contractor assistance
- Marva accesses our Linked Data Service (commonly called ID) for many data elements from Names to tiny lists like “status” to support drop downs and type a-heads for controlled data
- Controlled data will reside in the descriptions as URIs from ID, and may include text depending on the shape decision for an element

Linked Data Service

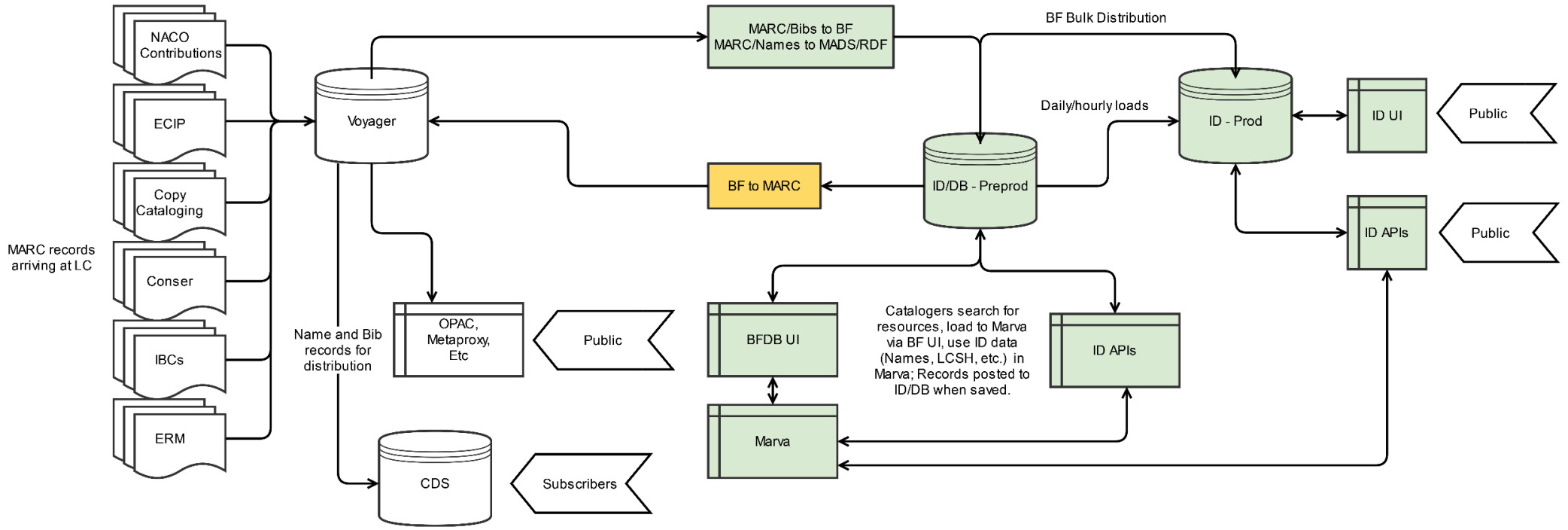


Linked Data Service

Comments

- Since 2009 LC has been building a Linked Data Service that is open to the public
- The data is in RDF and so far relatively simple (authorized forms and some cross-references) but stabile URIs
- At this point it contains large files like the LC name authority file and LC subject headings plus smaller files and lists for elements that have traditionally been controlled in MARC and more for BIBFRAME – over 80 lists/files.
- It is currently accessed from outside LC around 600,000 times a day
- It is an essential element of the BIBFRAME system

Resulting integration



Resulting integration

Comments--Integration of Voyager and BIBFRAME systems

- Continue MARC intake to Voyager from multiple sources
- But feed the bibliographic description part of the Voyager record to the BIBFRAME system (as is already done)
- The record management data needed by Voyager will stay in Voyager.
- The bibliographic description will be completed in BIBFRAME, converted to MARC, and the MARC record sent to Voyager where it will be reunited with the Voyager record management data.
- The cataloger will need to visit the record in Voyager to input holdings data.
- The MARC record will be richer with links than in the past.
- The MARC file for distribution will still be sent to CDS by Voyager; the BIBFRAME file will be available through ID

Challenges

- We need a BIBFRAME to MARC conversion that is not only good MARC – for the community -- but follows all the MARC conventions adopted by Voyager and LC over the years.
- We need to reexamine MARC redundancy, MARC over-specificity, and non-MARC related conventions that make conversions between MARC and BIBFRAME inefficient
- We need to work with the community to adjust MARC to make it simpler – because we know MARC has a long future as we work out and transition to this richer environment

Advantages for implementing now

- BIBFRAME was developed based on RDA and the new RDA training and implementation are coming -- it will be easier with BIBFRAME
- LC plans to implement a new ILS in next 2-3 years with BIBFRAME as its core. BIBFRAME/Voyager will contribute:
  - BIBFRAME verifications: ontology elements, conversion expectations, models and shapes
  - MARC examination: need for transcription vs. access, elimination of redundancy, check complexity
- Enables us to do more exploitation of new discovery opportunities in the linked data environment

Thanks, and wish us luck!