

Determining holdings - analysis of MELVYL PE file holdings statements

Two one-week accumulations of article requests submitted through the telnet MELVYL request function were used as samples, and the holdings attached to the requested titles analyzed. The first one-week sample was evaluated with a goal of establishing a rule for automatically parsing holdings statements. The second one-week sample was analyzed to determine how accurately the proposed parsing rule would determine the holdings of the UC Libraries.

Seven of the nine UC campus libraries have supplied subscription status information for more than 90% of their serial titles. The use of this information makes identification of ongoing subscriptions very easy for the holdings of these seven campuses. Of the two remaining campuses, one binds very quickly and adds the latest bound volume to their holdings, and the other ends their open holdings statements with a dash. The following proposed parsing rule is based on these factors:

- Check the CDL directory for an electronic version that the patron is qualified to use and that includes the year cited; if there, reject the request
- Get the first year in the MELVYL 950\$a holdings statement (the first 4-digit number beginning with 18, 19, or 20); if the holdings statement begins with "Cancelled", begin looking for the first year in position 20 of the statement
- If the campus holding is for an electronic version, report to the patron, but give them the option of continuing with the request
- If the subscription status code shows currently received, or there is no subscription status code but the last character of the holdings is a dash or a plus, AND if the article year is greater than (or equal to) the first year in the holdings, put the location into the lender string
- Else, find the last complete year in the holdings statement (4-digit number beginning with 18, 19, or 20):
 - if the holdings are UCB, scan for "INDEX" in the text before the position of the last year; if found in other than position 1, scan back from that for a 4-digit year
 - if the three characters following the four digit year are a dash and two digits, use the two digits as the last part of the year
 - if the article year is greater than or equal to the first year in the holdings AND is less than or equal to the last year in the holdings put the location into the lender string

In the second sample, 230 titles with 2009 holdings attached were analyzed. Of the holdings analyzed:

- 1907 (or 95%) would be correctly interpreted by the parsing rule
- 27 (or 1%) would be incorrectly interpreted to appear to not include volumes that the campus actually holds; none would have resulted in the opposite effect
- 33 (or 1.7%) holdings stated "Current x years only"

42 (or 2%) holdings were listed as “Not reported”
We should probably consider developing a mechanism for sending some of the last two types of requests to the patron’s home campus’ review queue.

Other issues of note:

A very few citations (fewer than 10) in the sample contained no year
Some locations in the MELVYL PE holdings (e.g., UCD Law, UCSF Mt. Zion) may need to be eliminated from consideration. We will need to build a list of these locations.

When the Fulfillment Service of Phase II is implemented, we will have the ability to develop profiles for multiple units on each campus. We need to consider if we want to have requests route to the specific branch owning locations rather than to central ILL units.

If we do specify locations to the branch level, do we need to include multiple locations for a single campus in the lender string if there are multiple copy holdings?

Titles with no UC holdings at all (approximately 24 in the sample); should these be sent as requests, and routed through the review file of the patron’s home campus central ILL unit?