Using Provider-Neutral Records for Database-Level Records

For database-level records, libraries should select provider-neutral records from the CZ. When this is not possible, libraries should only contribute the "best available sets" from vendors when adding to the NZ. For local needs, local bibliographic extensions may be used in the IZ.

Recommends the use of Provider-Neutral records for database-level records to eliminate proliferation of records describing essentially the same content.

Background

The use of Provider-Neutral records for materials in Alma eliminates redundant records describing the same content. It reduces confusion and leads to better discoverability. Using the national standard master record saves time and money. If needed, local additions can then be made using local bibliographic extensions in the IZ (at the discretion of the individual libraries).

The exception is when libraries catalog and/or migrate records representing databases (also known as integrating resources; e.g., Web of Science; Academic Search Elite). Libraries cataloging database-level records should follow the guidelines outlined in this policy to emulate Provider-Neutral records, which are identified in OCLC in 040 field with the code **"pn"** in subfield **$e**.

Policy Statement

This policy addresses the Alma Network Zone, and **does not apply to Alma Community Zone records.**

- Libraries must use Provider-Neutral records when sharing database-level records to the Alma Network Zone;
- Follow the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) practice to use a provider-neutral approach for all resources as described in the PCC Provider-Neutral guidelines (or the Library of Congress-Program for Cooperative Cataloging Policy Statements (LC-PCC PS) for RDA 1.11);
- Vendor records for sets of electronic resources added to the Alma NZ must, **whenever possible**, be provider-neutral. Exceptions may be made for vendor record sets, including streaming video collections, but libraries must use the best available sets that adhere to the standard of provider-neutral in such cases (more context);

Procedures in Alma

- Follow PCC Provider-Neutral guidelines for encoding URL in 856 field in the OCLC master record: Use $u for URLs that are general (not institution specific). Do not use $z for

information that is institution specific. If the domain name is not specific enough, $3 may be used to record package/provider name.
- Encode local data following guidelines for Local Extensions.