

The Pros and Cons of URLs in MFHDs

This section is intended to provide libraries with a basic description of the pros and cons of placing URLs in the Holdings Record or leaving them in the Bibliographic Record. Many libraries are still in a quandary in regard as to whether or not they should put the URL for an electronic serial or monograph in the holdings record or leave them in the bibliographic record. There are many variables that need to be taken into consideration. The below descriptions are not recommendations of the Working Group, but are just the facts libraries should consider in making their decisions.

PROs for URLs in Holdings

- **Library E-Journal Subscriptions**

Many libraries have purchased subscriptions to JSTOR, ScienceDirect, etc. and utilize a proxy server to authenticate their authorized users. It was recommended by USG's *Virtual Library Support* to record links to resources with restricted access (i.e., an *exclude location*) in the holdings record. [9]

- **"Online" Graphic displayed in Search Results Lists**

Voyager has the capability of displaying a graphic of the library's choice to the right of each entry in a results list for each title that is available online. This is a very valuable enrichment to library catalogs when the library has adopted the Single Record Approach to titles available in multiple formats. An example of this graphic is shown below:

Note that both of these titles are on microform with the second entry showing the availability of an online version. Voyager currently can only display this graphic when the URL is in the Bib record (making this a *Con*).

- **Summary Holdings**

Libraries could express a summary of the coverage in the holdings for the electronic serials.

CONs for URLs in Holdings

- **Commercial Link Services**

Libraries with subscriptions to linking services such as SFX or Serials Solution may opt to purchase MARC records for loading into their catalogs. Changes in

holdings data would have to be manually maintained if URLs and content coverage was placed in the MFHD.