



Library Resource Management Systems, Inc.

Working with MARC record Title nulls...

MARC View of the 245a Tile Field having a correct entry.

043		n-us-wa
090		PS3551.L35774 L66 1994
100	1	a Alexie, Sherman,
		d 1966-
245	1 4	The Lone Ranger and Tonto fist fight in heaven
		c Sherman Alexie.
246	3	Lone Ranger and Tonto fist fight in heaven
250		1st HarperPerennial ed.

This Title 245a shows The Lone Ranger and Tonto fist fight in heaven and has a Second Indicator value of 4. This means when this Title is typed in as shown the word "The" as part of the Search; and the program would ignore the first 4 characters and would search beginning with the word "Lone" and everything typed after. Some librarians are unsure of Title Nulls and worry about the patron becoming confused when searching a Title that contains leading descriptions that

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The Title was originally "The Lone Ranger and Tonto fist fight in heaven. "The" was removed from the Title; however the Second Indicator remained unchanged leaving the number 4 in that field. This would cause two problems, 1. The word "Lone" would be completely ignored and the space after "Lone" would throw this Title completely out of Title order because of the presence of the 4 in the second indicator position.

Indicator values are nothing more than a means to tell the program to ignore the first characters of a Title equal to the count that appears in the Second indicator.

Note: The 740a Secondary Title the Indicators are reversed the 1st. indicator is the Title null.



Using Indicators settings to adjust for the Title Null

040	a	DLC
	c	DLC
	d	COV
043		n-us-wa
090		PS3551.L35774 L66 1994
100	1	a Alexie, Sherman,
	d	1966-
245	1 0 a	Lone Ranger and Tonto fist fight in heaven
	c	Sherman Alexie.
246	3	Lone Ranger and Tonto fist fight in heaven
250		1st HarperPerennial ed.
260	a	New York :
	b	HarperPerennial,
	c	1994, c1993.

Set Indicators

1 - Title added entry

1

2 - Nonfiling characters

0

0

1

2

3

4

5

6

The [1st. & 2nd.] indicators when available appear on the Right-hand side of each line (as shown) allows for the setting or correcting of the Indicator Values ranging from a Blank to 0 through 9.

[Marc 21 Bibliographic reference Link](#)

When a Title is added manually it sometimes becomes confusing to someone not quite familiar with the use of MARC Cataloging and how a Title Null is used and why a Title Null is used.

When records come in from a reputable provider, Title Nulls are usually never an issue. Manual cataloging or the concern that a library patron may not always type the character or Title null into their search sets the stage of modification. Most Title Nulls are simply The, And or A; some libraries will remove “The” from a Title thinking someone will not find their Title because of “The”. This is a matter of preference as Title Nulls can be used for hiding or subordinating leading words or characters of a Title. The above Title was modified to eliminate “The” and the 2nd. Indicator position was changed to a value of 0 (zero).

Indicators -- The use of indicators is explained in fields where they are used. Indicators are one-digit numbers. Beginning with the 010 field, in every field -- following the tag -- are two-character positions, one for Indicator 1 and one for Indicator 2. The indicators are not actually defined in all fields, however. And it is possible that a 2nd indicator will be used, while the 1st indicator remains undefined (or vice versa). When an indicator is undefined, the character position will be represented by the character # (for blank space).