

**UC Link Resolver General Principles and  
Detailed Linking Guidelines  
Adopted: October 3, 2005  
Approved by: UC Link Resolver Planning Group**

## **Background**

Since late 2003, CDL and Shared Cataloging Program staff has been working together on a planning process to identify a less redundant, more cost-effective, and more integrated system for providing link resolution services to UC campus libraries. Discussions have resulted in agreement on some basic principles and have led to information gathering, tests, and software development. The following list of principles and guidelines documents common agreement on the use of various resolution services by Shared Cataloging Program staff.

## **Definitions**

An **OpenURL** is a URL formulated to a standard that allows metadata to be imbedded within its structure. A resolver uses this metadata to perform certain actions, such as to search a database for an article fitting the metadata carried by the OpenURL. Within the context of the SCP, SFX OpenURLs will be used so as to point to the UC-wide SFX KnowledgeBase. When clicked on in the bibliographic record (whether in Melvyl or in a local campus OPAC), it will either open an UCeLinks service window which will provide a variety of choices for the user, or if the resource is available from only one provider, link directly to the provider. SCP will primarily use OpenURLs for electronic serials.

In cases where OpenURLs can not be constructed, or the workflow requires it, a **PID** is created. A PID is a URL which points to a redirect table which in turn points directly to the resource itself. When clicked on in the bibliographic record (whether in Melvyl or in a local campus OPAC), it connects the user to the resource itself. SCP will primarily use PIDs for licensed electronic resources.

A **BibPURL** is the same as a PID but is a URL created through the CONSER PURL project of which UCSD is a member. BibPURLs are used in OCLC bibliographic records for linking to open access resources. SCP will primarily use BibPURLs for open access resources.

A **GPO PURL** is the same as a BibPURL but is a URL created by the U.S. Government Printing Office for federal documents. GPO PURLs are used in OCLC bibliographic records for linking to federal resources. SCP accepts GPO PURLs for federal documents as assigned.

## **General Principles**

- Redundant work should be avoided. Processes that reduce duplication of effort will be favored.

- Workflows for creating and maintaining components of an OpenURL should be seamless and streamlined, and must incorporate a capability for batch creation and modification.
- URL persistence is important and mechanisms that support persistent URLs will be favored.
- Though persistence is important, UC cannot make the same commitment for persistence for its licensed resources that it does for its own digital content.
- Accept global holdings data from link resolver unless it is inaccurate or wrong.
- Services, processes, and procedures that allow for and support multi-agency participation are preferred.
- The use of standards, such as the OpenURL standard, is preferred as it will allow for better and faster migration of data in the future and improved services.
- There will be occasion to make modifications to established processes to serve legitimate local needs, but such modifications are to be avoided.
- Generic processes can not support the maintenance needs for all UC electronic resources (e.g. works without standard identifiers), so UC will support alternative mechanism for link resolution for those materials.
- Link resolution services should maximize benefits for end users.
- Linking to “heaps of articles” is a choice of last resort.
- Assurance of persistence by publishers is preferable to any steps libraries must take to achieve persistence.
- As often as possible, UC staff will pursue assignments of identifiers by authoritative agencies for resources that lack them.

### **Detailed Linking Guidelines**

The following detailed linking guidelines are for the current URL server resolution environment that includes SFX OpenURLs, PIDs, BibPURLs, and GPO PURLs.

MARC field 856 default procedure:

- Enter a single 856 field consisting of only a \$u containing the unique SFX OpenURL for that title.

MARC field 856 addendums, exceptions, and modifications to default procedure:

- If the title should be part of an existing package target, but package target lacks a portfolio for the title, the SFX Project Manager notifies SFX. When SFX adds title portfolio to package, add 856 per default procedure.
- If the title is not part of an existing package target:
  - Consult with SFX project manager to see if title will be added. If it will, when SFX adds title, add 856 per default procedures.
  - If SFX will not be adding the title, create individual title portfolio in the UC instance, if possible, and add 856 per default procedures.
  - If creation of individual title portfolio is not possible, use GPO PURL or create and use a BibPURL or PID per SCP procedures.

- If the SFX OpenURL options menu link for a specific provider resolves to a page not appropriate for our users, consult with SFX project manager to see if an alternative link can be made. Otherwise, create and use a PID per SCP procedures for that specific vendor. Reasons for a site not being appropriate for our users include, but are not limited to: language, login requests, vendor requirement, and ease of navigation.

SFX KnowledgeBase coverage data default procedure:

- Update coverage data only to reflect local coverage thresholds or to correct mistakes in actual coverage licensed for access. Notify SFX of any errors pertaining to global coverage access.
  - Remove local coverage thresholds on a regular basis.