

Exploration of using MarcEdit Delimited Text Translator to convert Excel data from the UW Gaihōzu inventory into MARC records



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Introduction

- The University of Washington (UW) holds a substantial collection of uncataloged Japanese gaihōzu maps.
- Lack of MARC records limits discovery in our library system
- A detailed Excel inventory exists but is not integrated into the catalog other than a collection level bibliographic record

Would it be feasible to use MarcEdit to convert the existing inventory data into standardized MARC records, thereby streamlining cataloging and enhancing discoverability?

Project Objectives

- Convert structured inventory data into MARC format
- Develop a repeatable workflow using MarcEdit
- Reduce manual cataloging time
- Improve metadata consistency

Resources

- Reese, Terry. "MarcEdit Delimited Text Translator." YouTube. Accessed June 30, 2025. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kp_N3ncjS7Q&t=21s
- Reese, Terry. "MarcEdit Delimited Text Translator: Auto Generate Translation Arguments." YouTube. Accessed June 30, 2025. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPyIF4MfC30&t=11s>
- Tanaka, Azusa. "外邦図 Inventory: The list of Gaihozu held at University of Washington Libraries." Accessed July 22, 2025. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WjMSrj42744OsCkOnKAe-58-StjJedwTuCx-VFfS14/edit#gid=1162903304>



Scan QR code to see spreadsheet

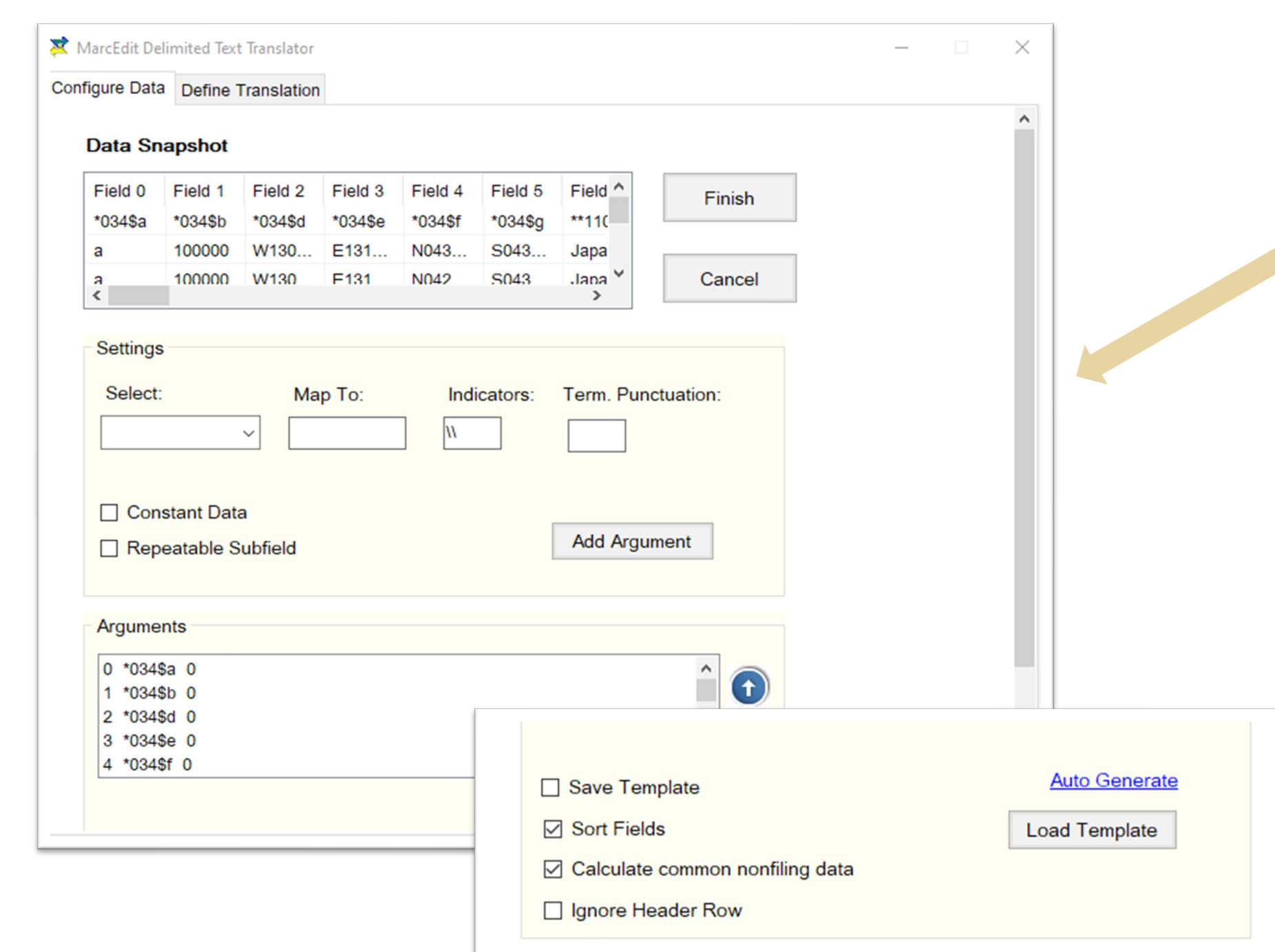
Methods

- Select 10 titles from the inventory sheet
- Modify inventory data in Excel spreadsheet
 - Add corresponding MARC field headings
 - Add corresponding romanization to each field
- Use MarcEdit tools
 - Delimited Text Translator for converting Excel data into MARC records in .mrk output file
 - MarcEditor for compiling MARC records into a .mrc file
- Import the .mrc file to OCLC Connexion
 - Apply Connexion bibliographic constant data record that contains standardized content for fixed fields and shared elements in the variable fields

Rec stat n	Entered 20250716	Replaced 20250716							
Type e	ELvl	Srce d	Relf ag	Ctrl	Lang jpn				
BLvl m	Form	GPub f	SpFm	MRec	Crty ja				
CrTp a	Indx 0	Proj	DtSt s	Dates 1941					
040	WALU	fb eng fe rda fc WAU							
050	4	G7822.M2 S100 fb .J39							
052	7822	fb M2							
336		cartographic image #2 rdaccontent							
337		unmediated #2 rdamedia							
338		sheet #2 rdacarrier							
651	0	Manchuria (China) fv Maps.							
655	7	Topographic maps. #2 lgft							
655	7	Military maps. #2 lgft							
655	7	Maps. #2 lgft							

Constant data for maps

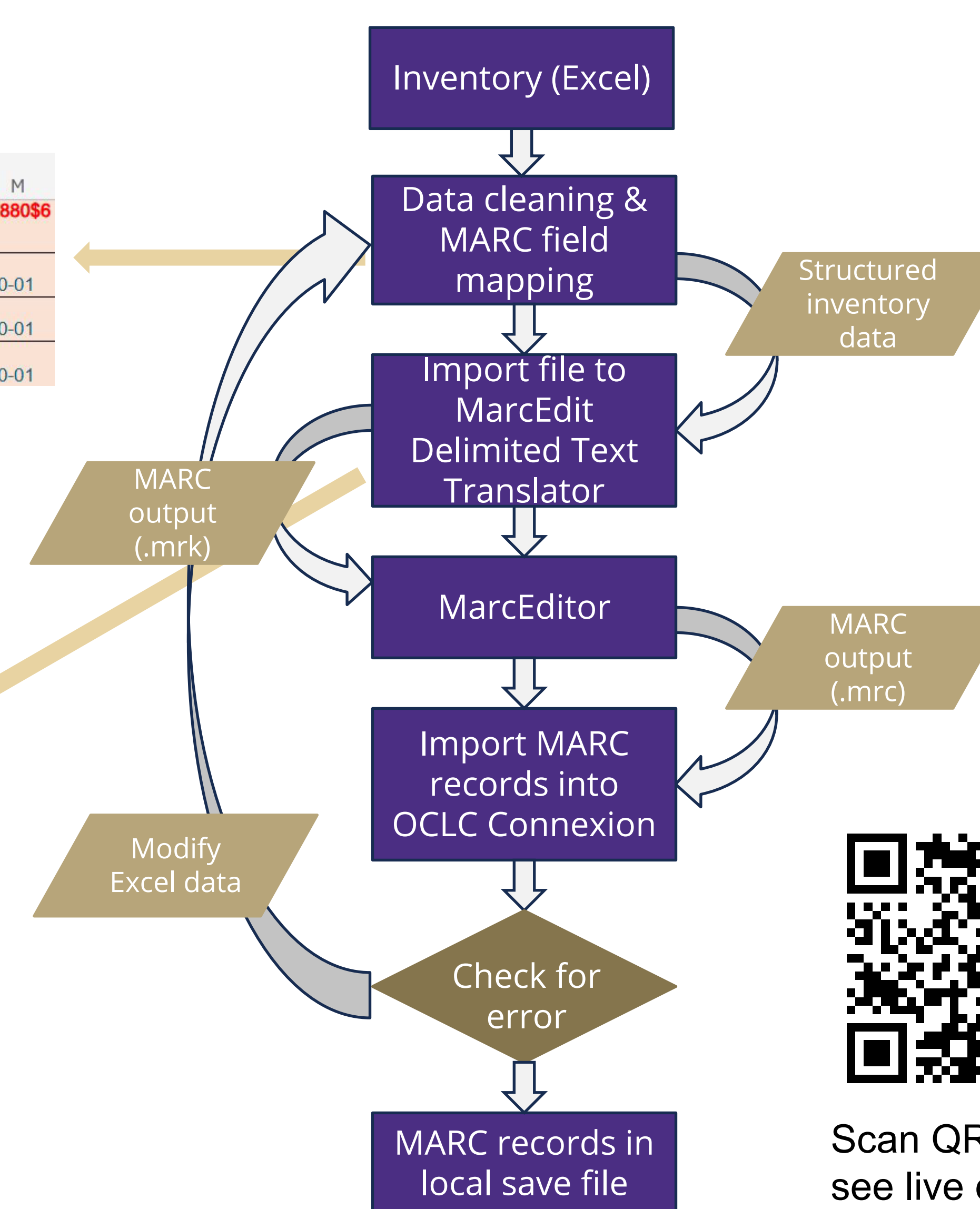
	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	**110\$a1L		**110\$b1L	**110\$c6	**880\$a1L	**880\$b6
2	Japan.\$bRikugun.\$bKantōgun.\$bSokuryōtai	cartographer	880-01	Japan.\$b陸軍.\$b関東軍.\$b測量隊	cartographer	110-01
3	Japan.\$bRikugun.\$bKantōgun.\$bSokuryōtai	cartographer	880-01	Japan.\$b陸軍.\$b関東軍.\$b測量隊	cartographer	110-01
4	Japan.\$bRikugun.\$bKantōgun.\$bSokuryōtai	cartographer	880-01	Japan.\$b陸軍.\$b関東軍.\$b測量隊	cartographer	110-01



Challenges

- Learning new tools
 - Lack of comprehensive documentation or tutorial on handling non-Latin scripts in MarcEdit
- Inconsistent transliteration (Non-standardized place names)
- Handling individual maps from different map series with various publication dates
 - Unable to apply constant data for the LDR/008 consistently
 - Need to process maps with same publication dates from the same series as a batch to apply the tailored constant data
- Special characters / encoding issues (UTF-8, MARC-8)
- Working with non-Latin script materials involves additional columns which require more time and demand greater attention to detail

Processing Workflow



Scan QR code to see live demo for the conversion process

Key Takeaways

- When using MarcEdit, make sure to check encoding setting in "MarcEdit Preferences" to set default encoding to UTF-8
- Use "Auto Generate" function in the Delimited Text Translator to generate arguments or mapping column field to MARC field
- To use "Auto Generate," format the MARC field headings with the appropriate punctuations
 - Add the same number of asterisks(*) to join the arguments for the same MARC field
 - Use "\$" for subfield delimiter
 - Add MARC field indicator(s) and use "v" if no indicator value

T	U	V	W
*****264\$a1L	*****264\$b1L	*****264\$c	*****264\$d6
[Tokyo]	Kantōgun Sokuryōtai : \$b[Shōwa 16 [1941]		880-03

Outcome

- MARC records successfully generated
- Improved metadata consistency

MARC record example

Rec stat n	Entered 20250714	Replaced 20250714							
Type e	ELvl	Srce d	Relf ag	Ctrl	Lang jpn				
BLvl m	Form	GPub f	SpFm	MRec	Crty ja				
CrTp a	Indx 0	Proj	DtSt s	Dates 1941					
007	a	fb j fd a fe a ff n fg z fh n							
040	WALU	fb eng fe rda fc WAU							
050	4	G7822.M2 S100 fb .J39							
052	7822	fb M2							
336		cartographic image #2 rdaccontent							
337		unmediated #2 rdamedia							
338		sheet #2 rdacarrier							
400	1	a fb 1000000 rd E1200000 fe E1200000 ff N0520000 fg N0524000							
430	1	满洲十万里一圖 西四行北十一段 呼魯 ; fv 13							
450	1	Manchū jūwanban no ichibu. Nishi 4-gō Kita 11-dan Koma ; fv 13							
490		軍事地圖							
500		966679.							
510	1	Japan. #b 陸軍. #b 測量隊. #b 測量隊. #b cartographer.							
511	1	Japan. #b Rikugun. #b Kantōgun. #b Sokuryōtai. #b cartographer.							
651	0	Manchuria (China) fv Maps.							
655	7	Topographic maps. #2 lgft							
655	7	Military maps. #2 lgft							
655	7	Maps. #2 lgft							
830	0	满洲十万里一圖 西四行北十一段 呼魯 ; fv 13.							
830	0	Manchū jūwanban no ichibu. Nishi 4-gō Kita 11-dan Koma ; fv 13.							

Considerations & Future work

- MarcEdit Delimited Text Translator could be useful for working on large sets of materials that has similar elements
- Batch process title level records to Connexion is not an ideal solution for the gaihōzu map collection
 - Potential of creating duplicate records in Connexion
 - Complexity of the collection
- Possible option is to add records to Alma
 - Import Excel data to Alma IZ with the Alma Profiles feature