MDSCONNECT FAQs

1. **What is MDSConnect?**

   MDSConnect is an open-access version of the Library's MARC records. It includes nearly 25 million MARC records, as distributed in the unabridged 2014 Retrospective file sets.   These MDS record sets are made available at no cost to the end user, and are designated primarily for research, education and development use.

2. **What is a MARC record?**

   MARC records can be best described as individual bibliographic cards in a traditional card catalog.   Like a card in a card catalog, they are portable and follow international standards and Library of Congress cataloging policies. All records use the MARC formats, which are international standards for the representation and communication of bibliographic and related information in machine-readable form. More information about the MARC formats is available at: www.loc.gov/marc

3. **What data is available on MDSConnect?**

   Each of the following datasets is available in three formats: UTF8, MARC8, XML

   - Books All
   - Classification
   - Computer Files
   - Maps
   - Music
   - Name Authorities
   - Serials
   - Subject Authorities
   - Visual Materials

4. **Are all of the Library of Congress MARC records available in MDSConnect?**

   No. Currently, MDSConnect only provides access to the retrospectives listed above.

5. **How do I get updates?**

   We anticipate providing annual updates. The current data sets in MDSConnect contain MARC records through December 2013. Our paid subscription service provides access to the most up

to date records through December 2015, plus daily and weekly updates. Visit
https://www.loc.gov/cds/products/marcDist.php to learn about our subscription service.

6. **I am a current MDS subscriber, can this new service replace my subscription?**

MDSConnect is not a substitute for our MDS Service. If you require data that is updated
regularly, our free service will not support your needs. However, if you are interested in
accessing your subscription data securely via the cloud, rather than through FTP protocols
please contact us at 1.888.682.3557 or email us at cdsinfo@loc.gov

7. **Can I repurpose the data contained in MDSConnect?**

Yes, we encourage you to use the data for research, educational and development purposes.
We also appreciate your attributing the Library of Congress as the source for the original records.

8. **Do you provide customer support for MDSConnect?**

The service solution has been simplified and allows easy access by download. It is up to the end-
user to ingest, interpret and utilize the data to fit their own purpose. We do provide basic
instructions in the "How to Use MDSConnect" pdf found in the "Getting Started" folder.
Customer and technical support is only available to our paid subscribers.