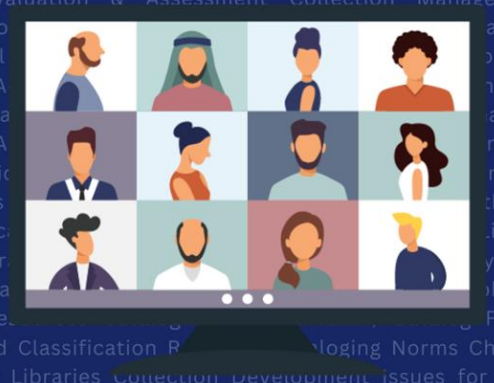
Core
LEADERSHIP
INFRASTRUCTURE
FUTURES

Interest Group Week

MARCH 2-6, 2026



ALA members:
Join an Interest Group via ALA Connect

Experiences with BIBFRAME

MARC Formats Transition Interest Group

Presenters

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University of Central Florida

Core LEADERSHIP INFRASTRUCTURE FUTURES

Agenda

- Introduction
- Informal poll: experiences with BIBFRAME
- Sinopia BIBFRAME editor
- Alma BIBFRAME editor: examples
- Discussion questions and Q&A

Introduction: BIBFRAME “state of the art”

Library of Congress

- Conversion & ontology 3.0 released December 2025
- MARVA editor available for download

Clarivate/Ex Libris

- Recently released BIBFRAME editor for Alma

Sinopia

- Open source linked data editor

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Poll (1)

Informal poll: experiences with BIBFRAME (1)

- Are you currently creating BIBFRAME records?
  - A. Yes, in a production environment.
  - B. Yes, as an experiment.
  - C. No.

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Poll (2)

Informal poll: experiences with BIBFRAME (2)

- My attitude toward BIBFRAME is:
  - A. I love it!
  - B. I'd rather wait for more records and/or a better editor.
  - C. I will give up MARC only if I have to.

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Poll (3)

Informal poll: experiences with BIBFRAME (3)

- Does your library have plans to transition to BIBFRAME?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
  - C. Not sure

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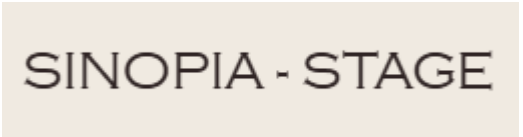
Sinopia BIBFRAME Editor

Our Experiment with Sinopia BIBFRAME Editor

- Tested in 2025;
- Set up **Sinopia-Alma integration** with assistance from Kalli (Stanford) and Daniel (FLVC);
- Created records in **Sinopia Stage** with multi-level relationships (Overarching Work - Works - Instances - Items);
- **Encountered difficulties when exporting records to Alma Sandbox**:
  - Not all relationships were recognized by the system;
  - For *HSK Standard Course*: 7 instances were successfully exported to our Alma sandbox, while 1 failed
- Later tested **exporting directly to Alma Production**
  - Exported records were not editable, and the lack of native BIBFRAME display prevented us from exporting directly to Production
- Also explored **Name Card displays** in both Sandbox and Production for our digital humanities linked data project



Our Experiment with Sinopia BIBFRAME Editor: Example

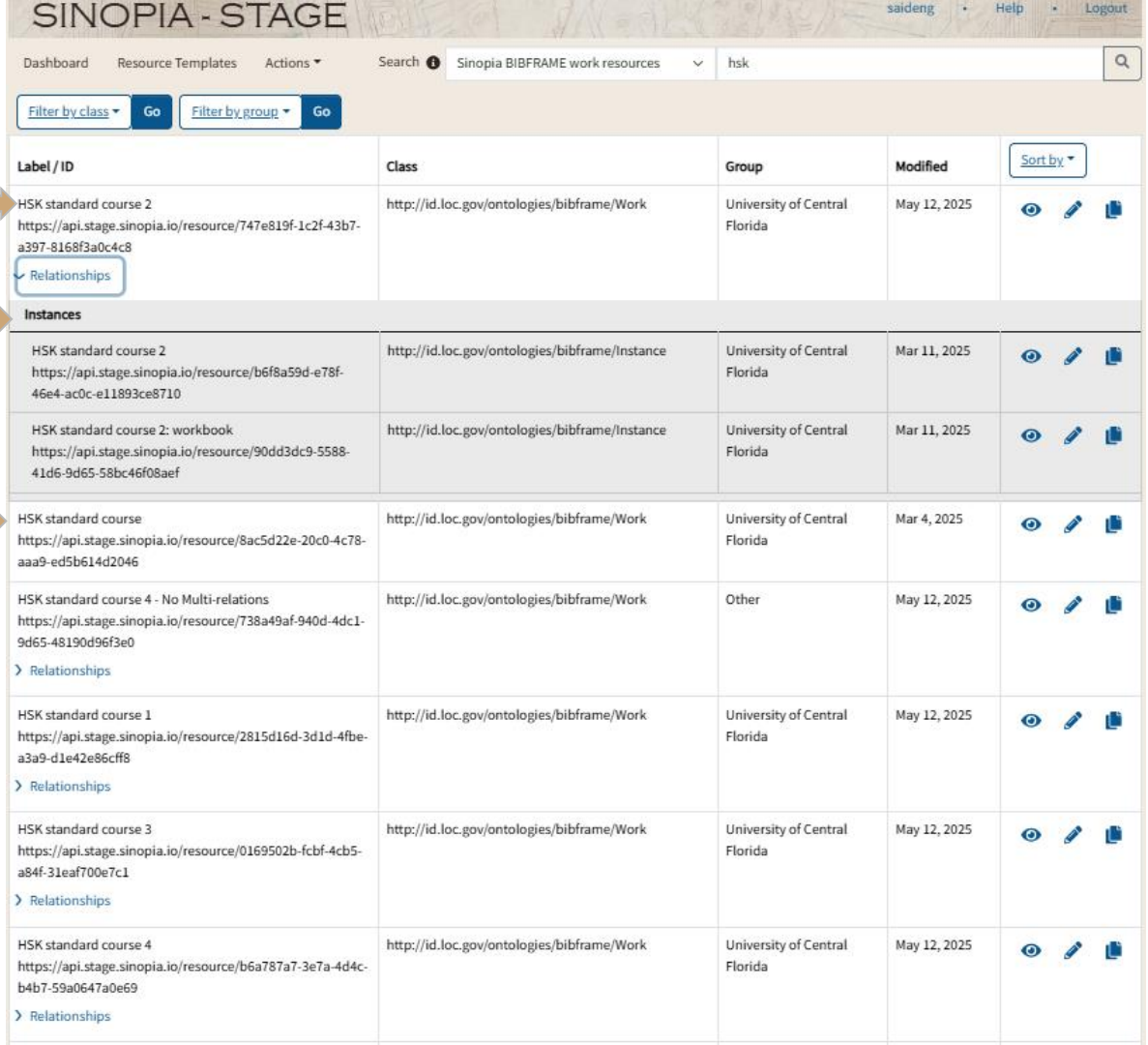
Overarching Work
HSK standard course
- **Related work:** part(s, e.g., course 1, 2, 3, 4)

Works
HSK standard course 1
- **In Series:** HSK standard course
- **Related Work:** prequel, part of

HSK standard course 2
HSK standard course 3
HSK standard course 4

Instances
HSK standard course 1 (*textbook)
- **Instance of:** HSK standard course
- **Has Item:** HSK standard course 1

HSK standard course 1: workbook
HSK standard course 2 (*textbook)
HSK standard course 2: workbook
HSK standard course 3 (*textbook)
HSK standard course 3: workbook
HSK standard course 4 (*textbook)
HSK standard course 4: workbook



Alma BIBFRAME Editor (1)

Our Experiment with Alma BIBFRAME Editor

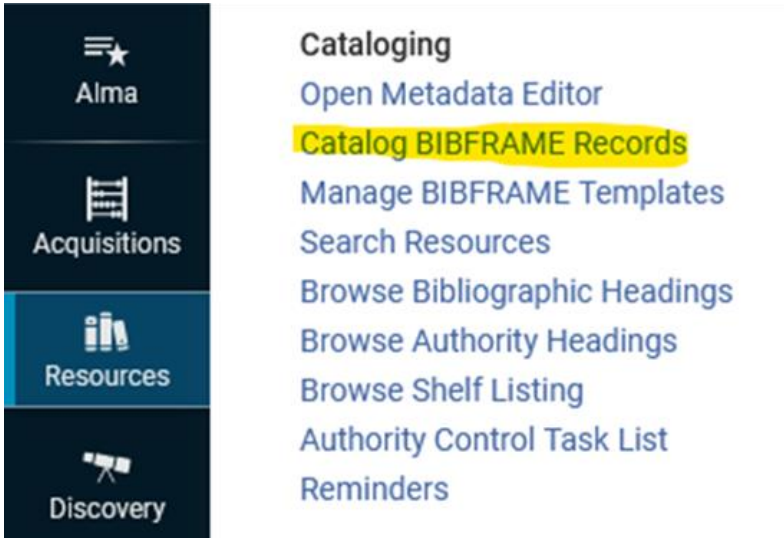
- **Access Alma BIBFRAME Editor**
- **Work Record & Instance Record Templates**
- **Alma BIBFRAME: Search and Display**
- **Examples with Reflections**
  - Overarching Work
  - Work(s)
  - Instance(s)
  - Item(s)

Alma

Alma BIBFRAME Editor (2)

Getting started

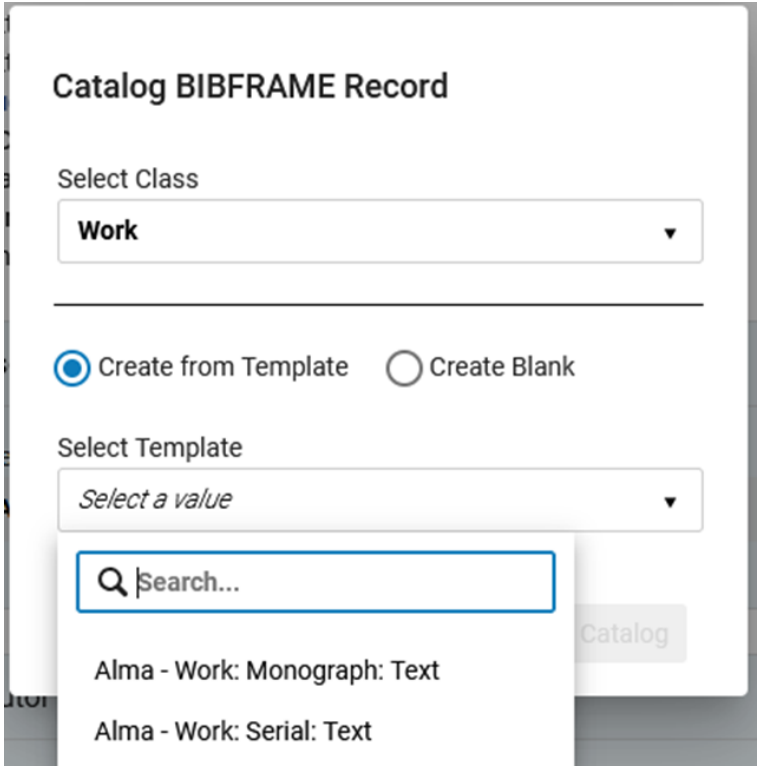
- **Activate BIBFRAME in your institution (Configuration)**
- **Resources > Cataloging > Catalog BIBFRAME Records**
- **Create New Record**



Alma

Alma BIBFRAME Editor (3)

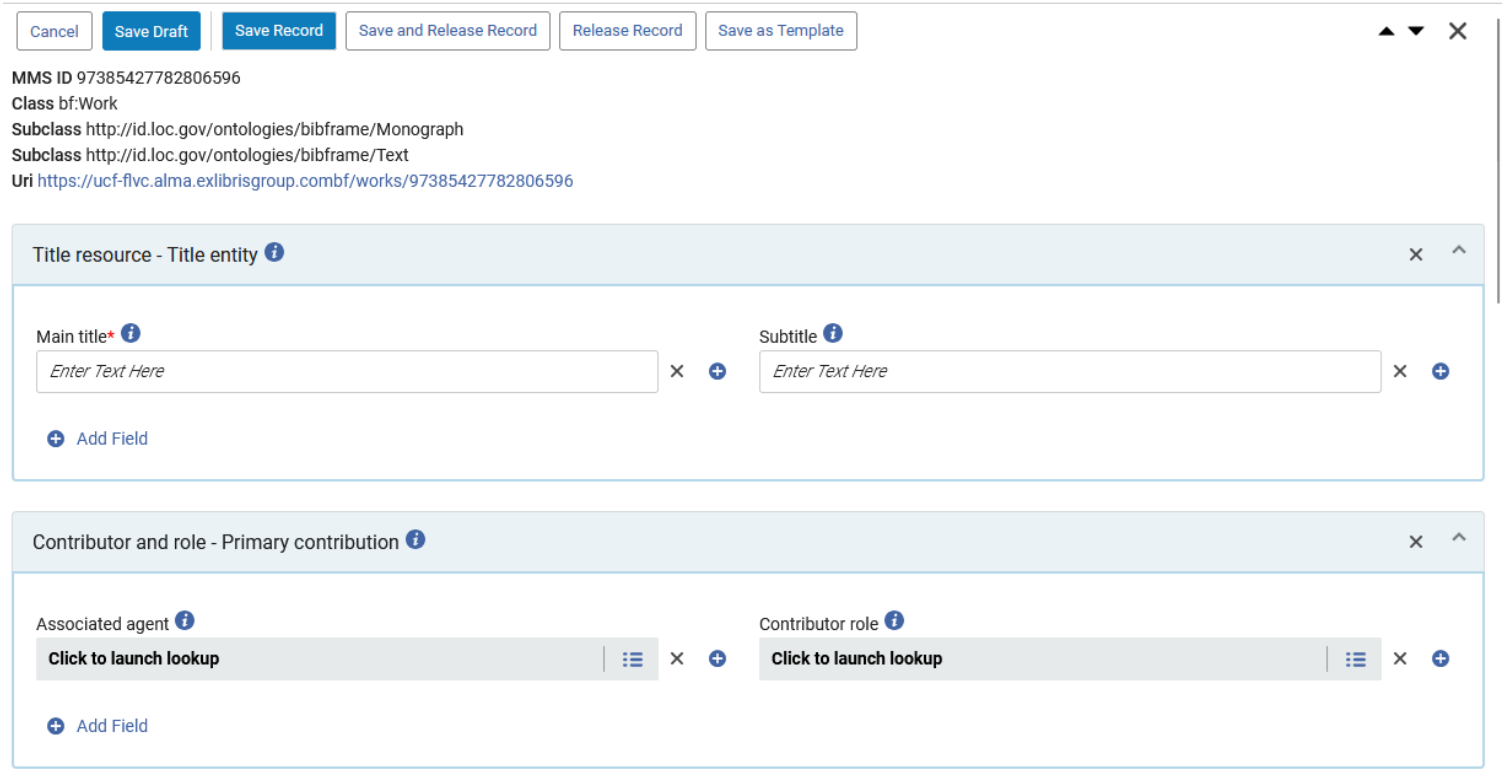
Work record (1)



Alma

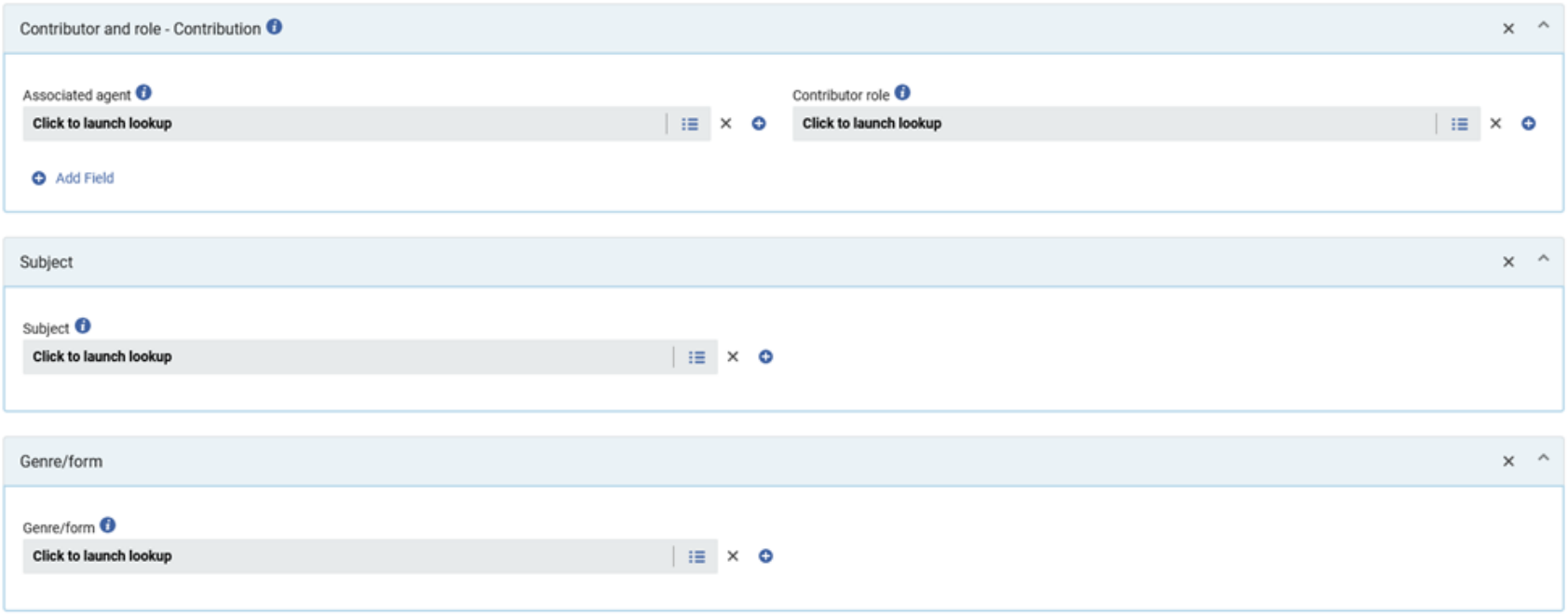
Alma BIBFRAME Editor (4)

Work record (2)



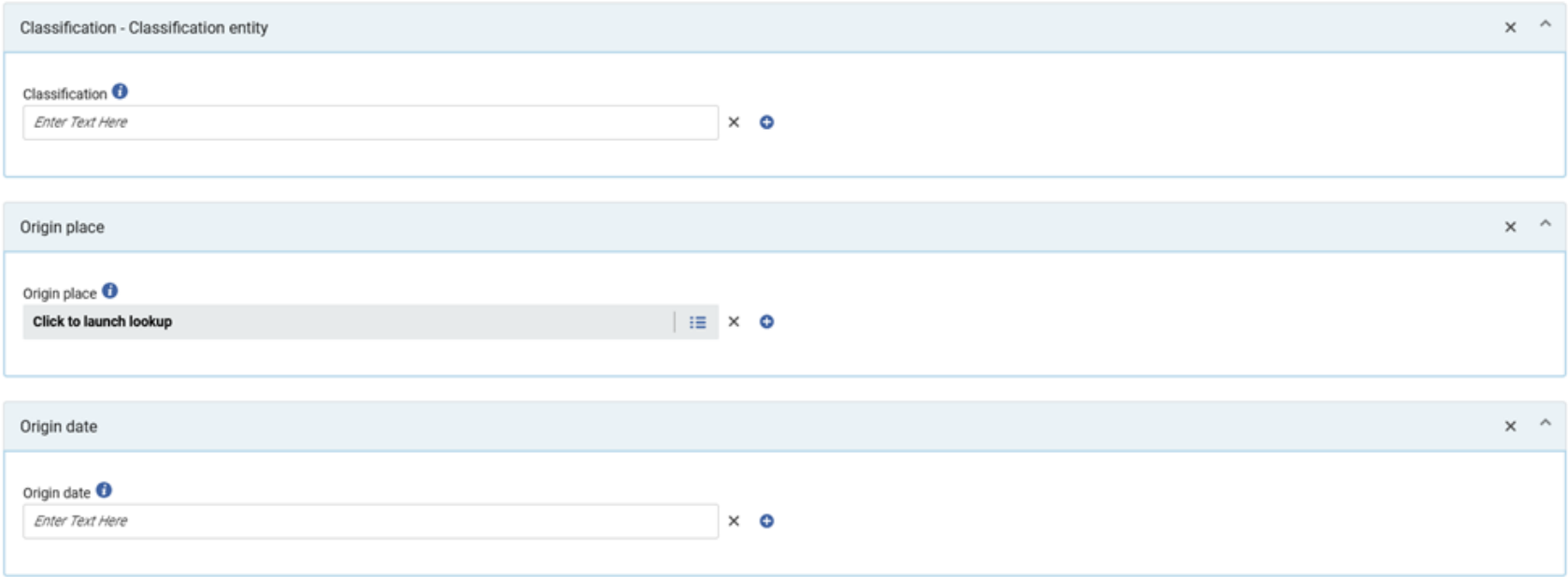
Alma BIBFRAME Editor (5)

Work record (3)



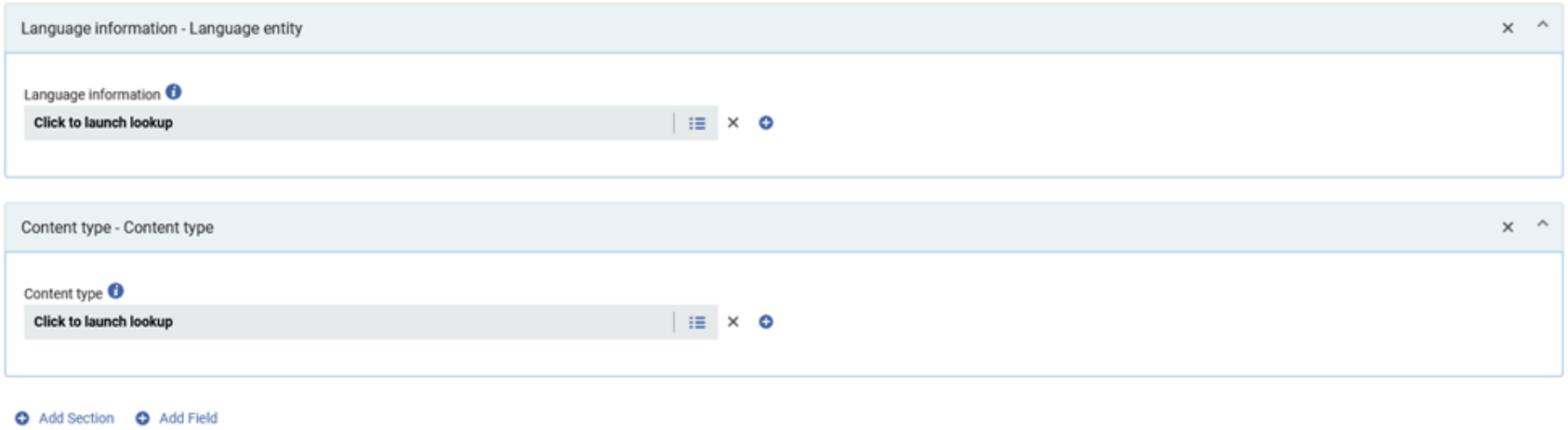
Alma BIBFRAME Editor (6)

Work record (4)



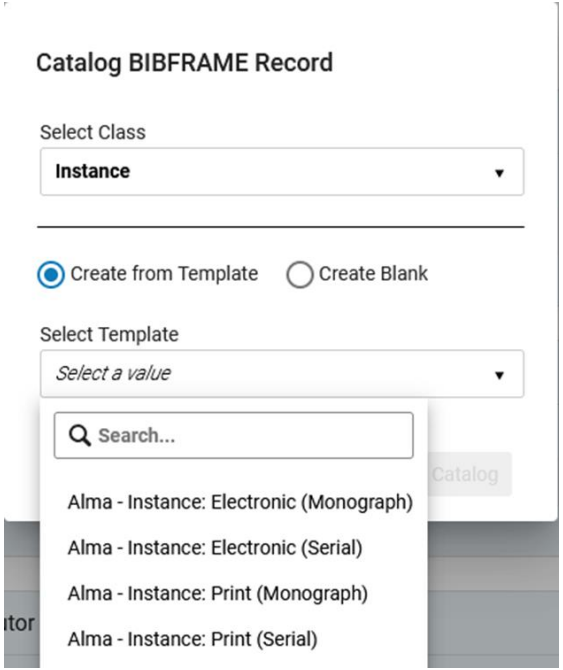
Alma BIBFRAME Editor (7)

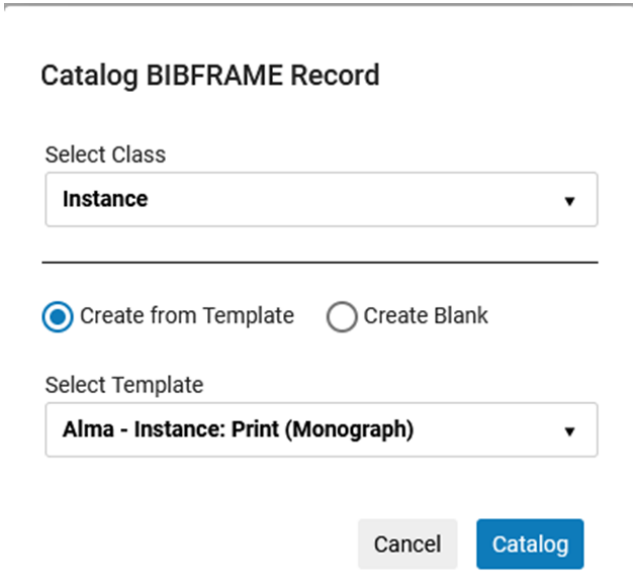
Work record (5)



Alma BIBFRAME Editor (8)

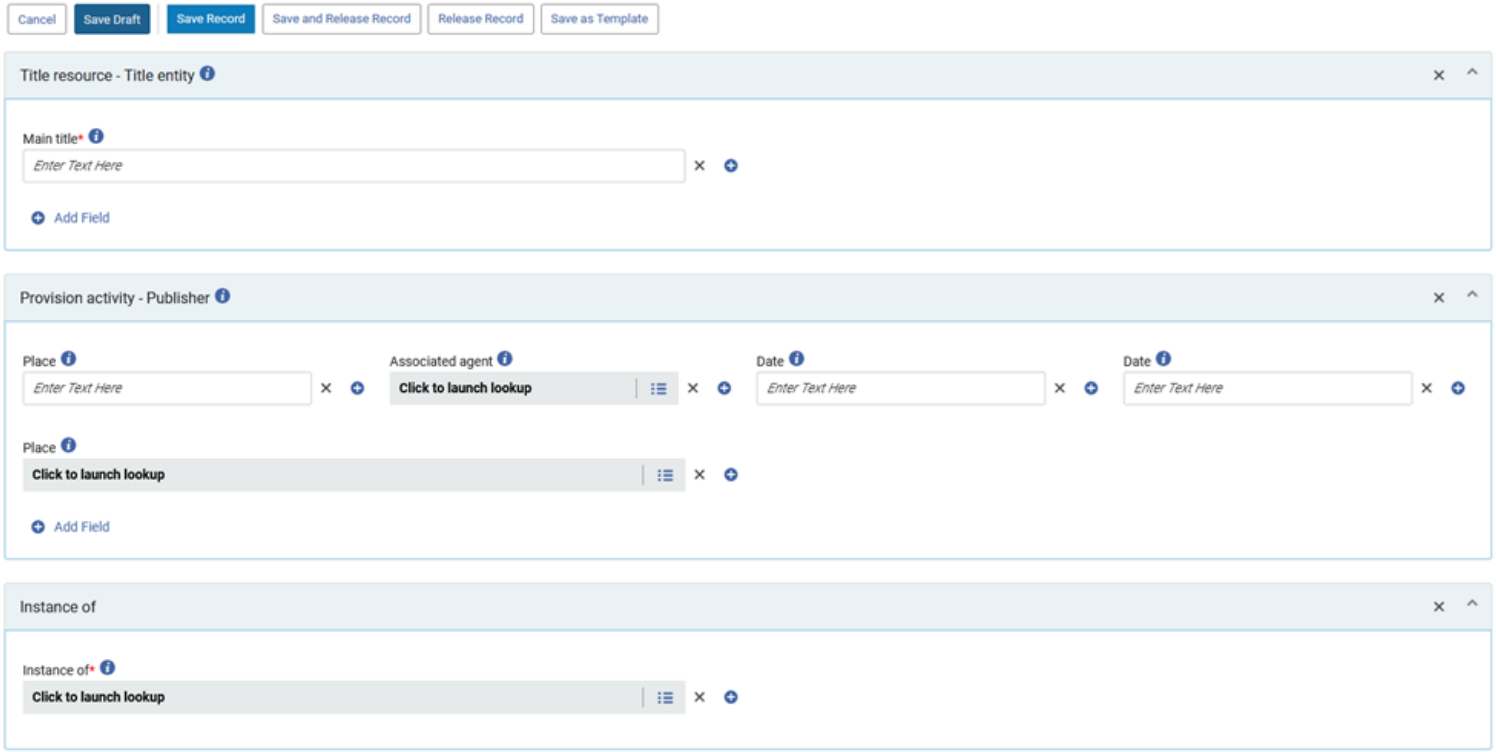
Instance record (1)





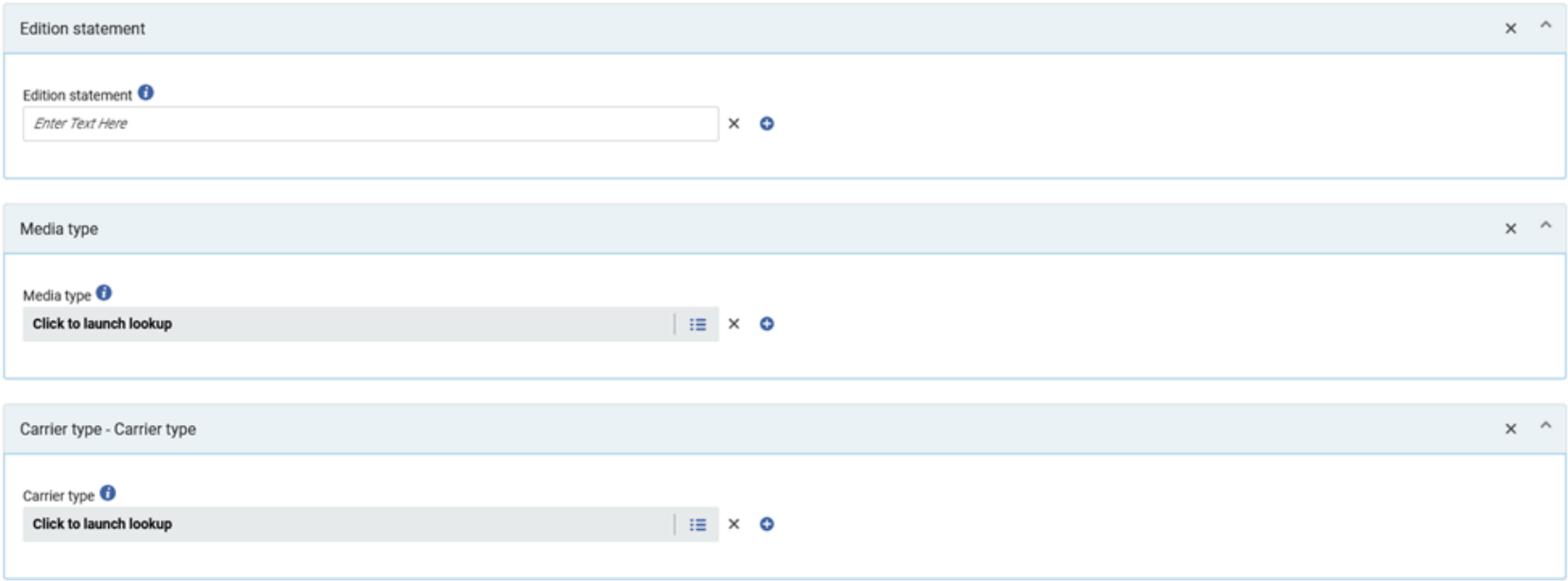
Alma BIBFRAME Editor (9)

Instance record (2)



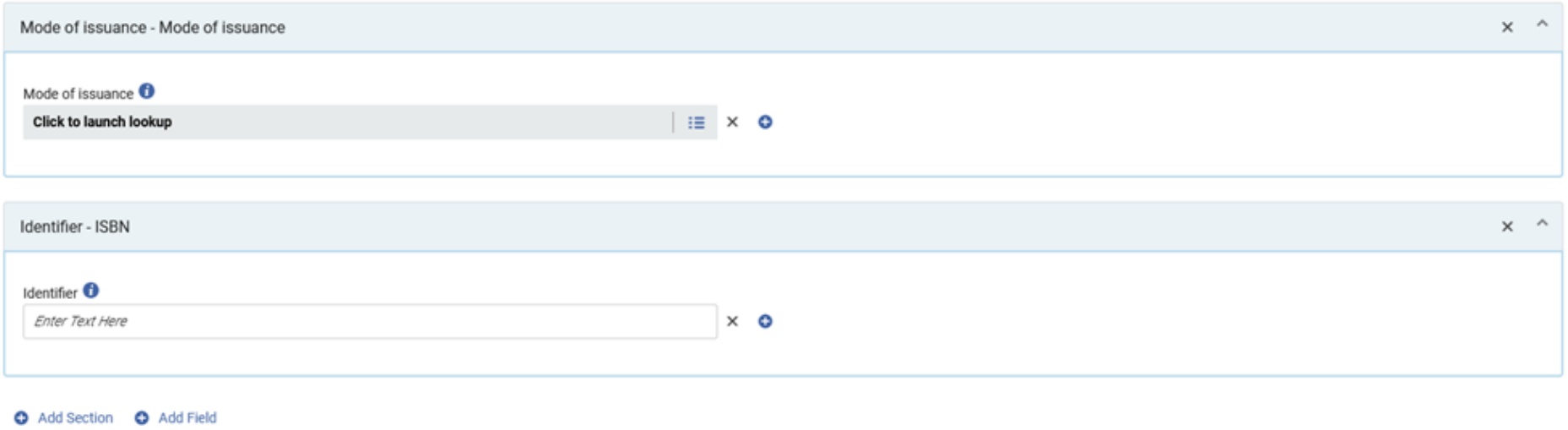
Alma BIBFRAME Editor (10)

Instance record (3)



Alma BIBFRAME Editor (11)

Instance record (4)



Alma BIBFRAME: Search & Display

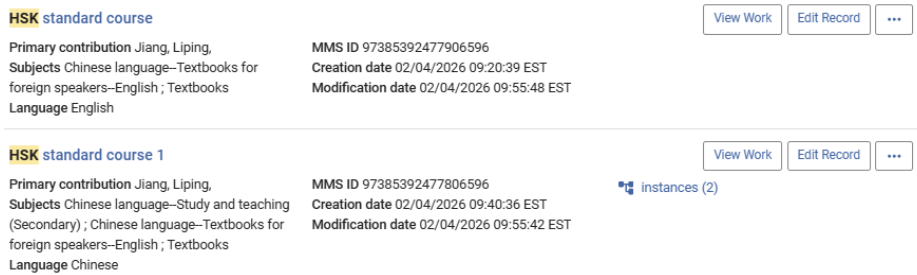
Record Search & Display (Alma)

- Dual-search approach
  - Work search
  - All Titles Search (Instance Search)
- “View Work” in search results
- Side-by-side MARC/BIBFRAME display
- Relationships display as links
- External lookup services

Discovery Display (Primo)

- Works do not display currently
- Linked data fragments: Info Cards
- External knowledge linking, e.g., Wikidata

Search by Works in Alma



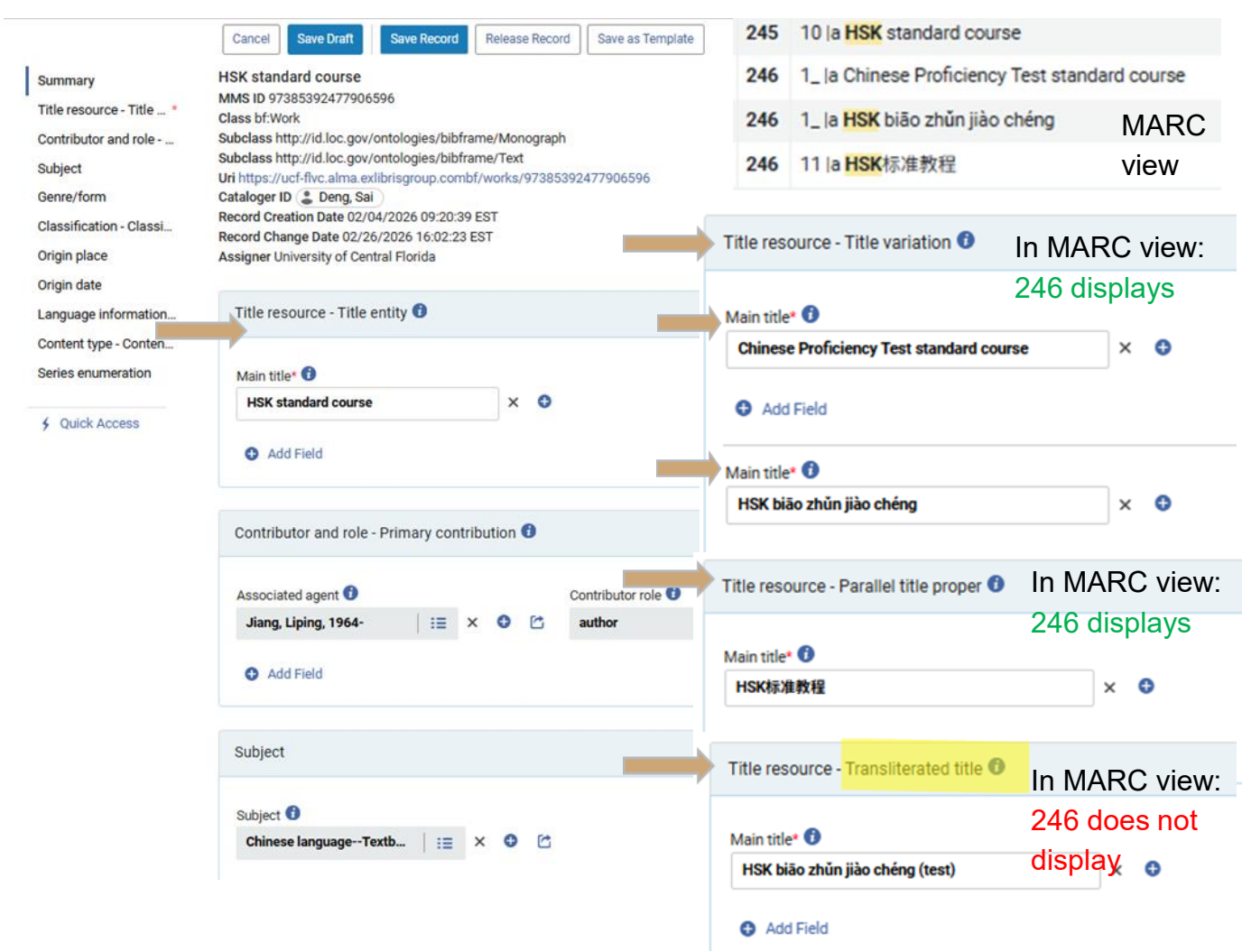
Overarching Work, Works in Alma (Both do not display in Primo)

Alma BIBFRAME Editor

Example (1a)

Example: Overarching Work (1a)

- *HSK standard course*
- Functions more like a **"superwork"**, or **hub**
- Due to the ontology structure, many **sections/ Containers and fields** need to be added
- Title (variant, parallel, transliterated): use **Title resource – Title entity / Title variation / Parallel title proper – Main title**
- Title resource – Transliterated title is not recognized in MARC conversion

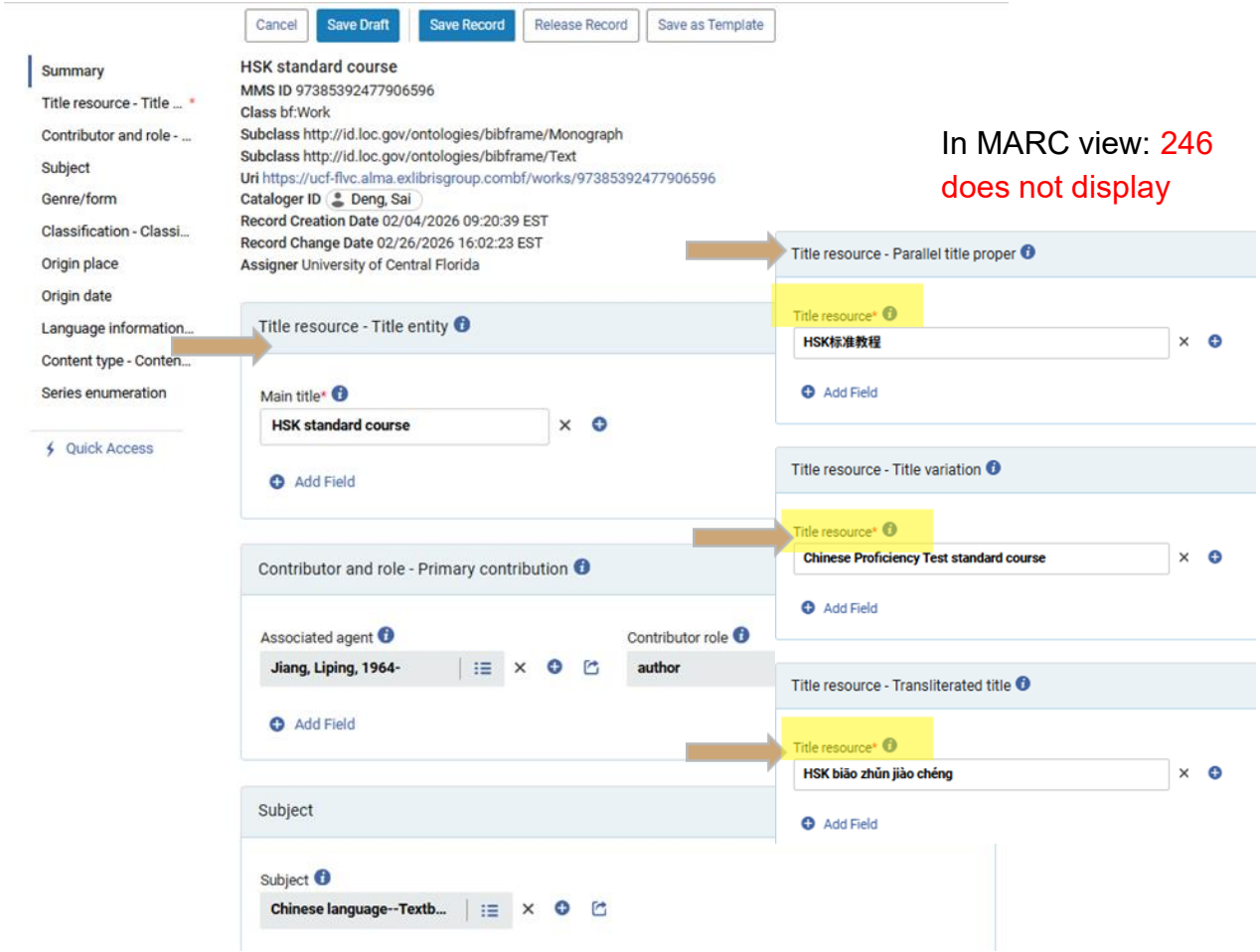


Alma BIBFRAME Editor

Example (1b)

Example: Overarching Work (1b)

- *HSK standard course*
- Avoid recursive nesting
- If we place “Title resource” inside “Title resource”, 246 will not appear in MARC view
- **MARC view:** View Work – MARC



In MARC view: 246 does not display

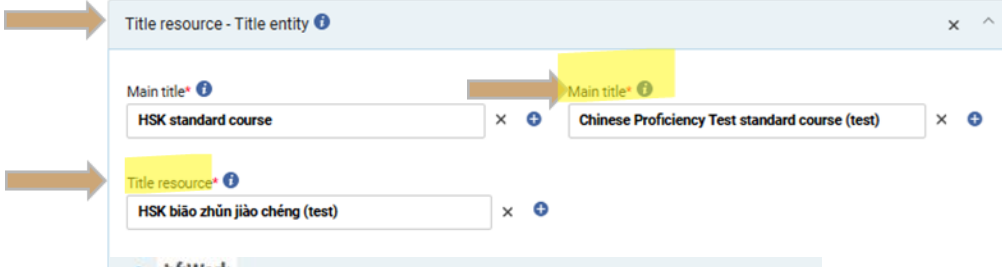
Alma BIBFRAME Editor

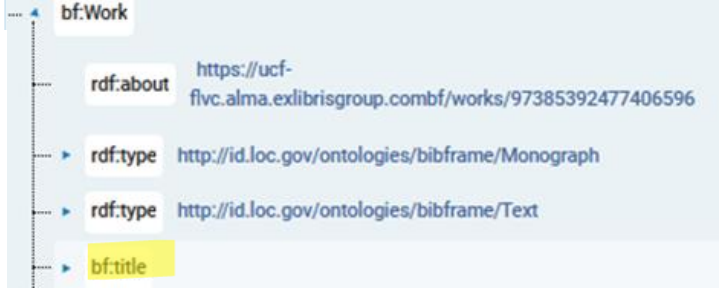
Example (1c)

Example: Overarching Work (1c)

- *HSK standard course*
- Add **multiple sections/ Containers and fields** for titles (main, variant, parallel, transliterated title)
    - Resulting RDF display: 4 bf:title(s)

- **Use one section/ container with multiple title fields** (main, variant, parallel, transliterated titles)
    - Resulting RDF display: blank bf:title





View Work:
Blank bf:title

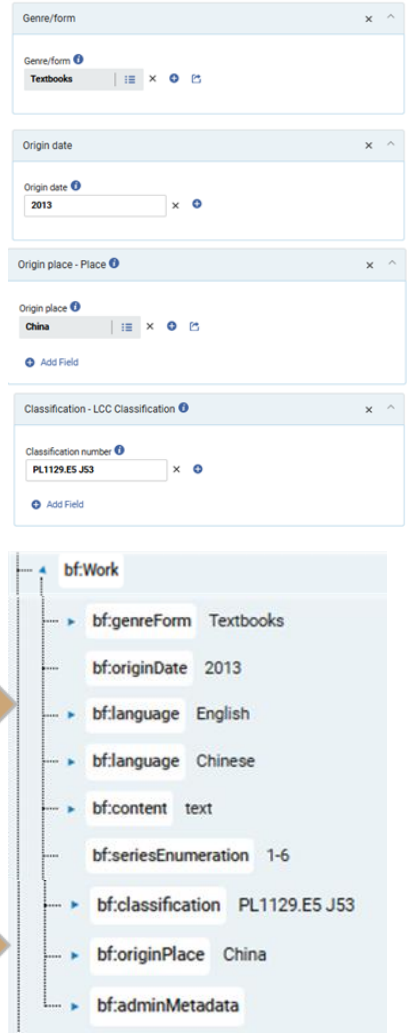
MARC view:
No 246s

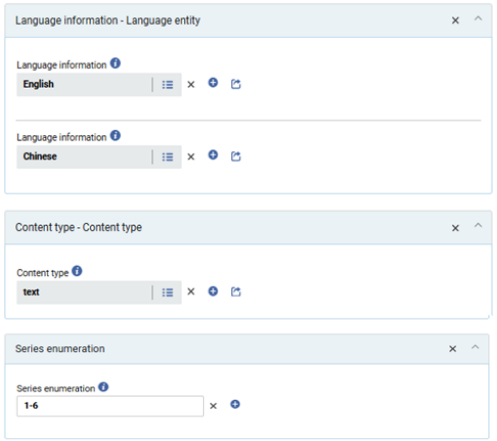
Alma BIBFRAME Editor

Example (1d)

Example: Overarching Work (1d)

- *HSK standard course*
- **Sections** cannot be rearranged
- **Properties**:
  - **Original language** (*Expression under WEMI)
  - **Original place** (allowed)
- Place belongs to the manifestation level under WEMI; for practical use: placed under Work to describe the original place of the work





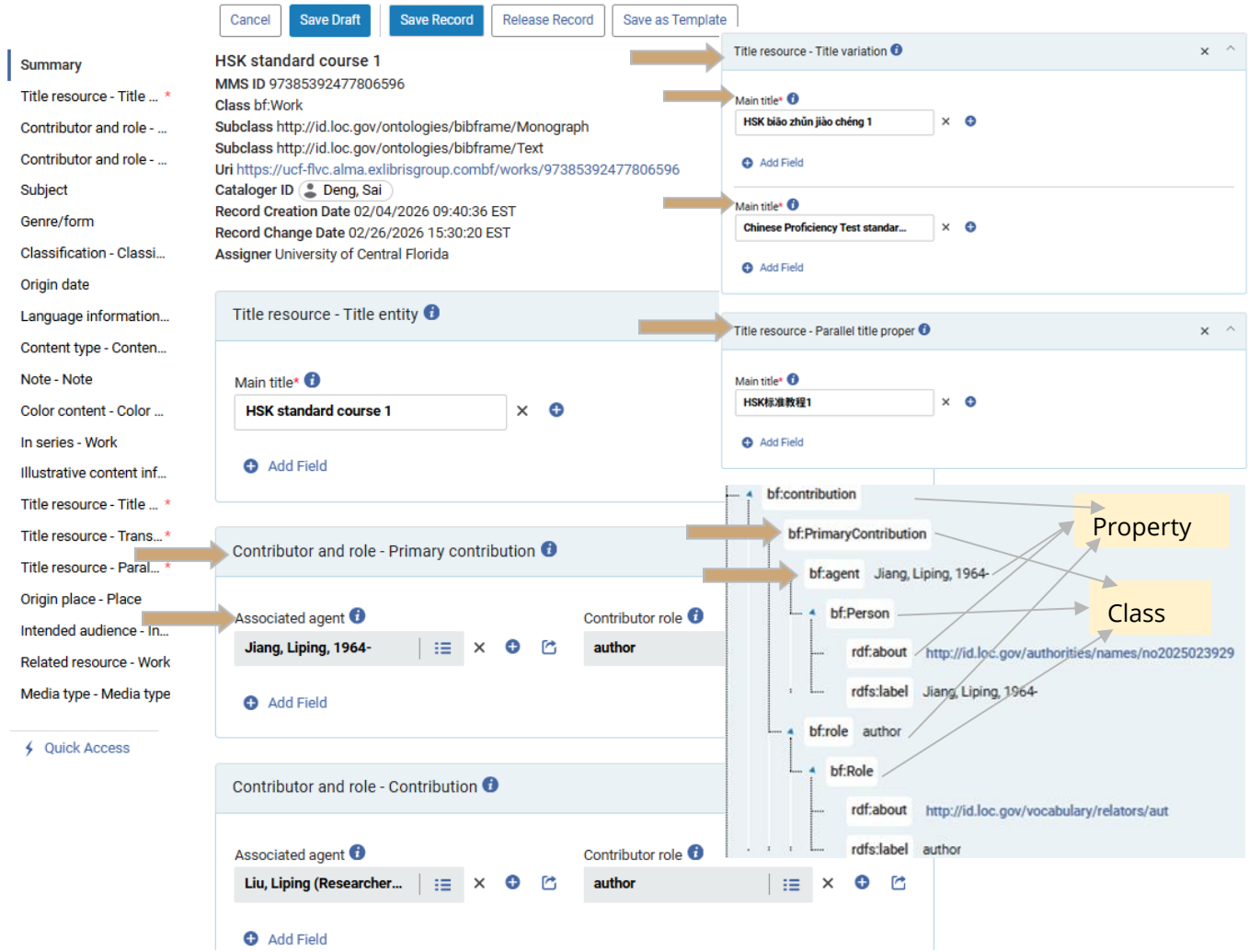
Alma BIBFRAME Editor Example (2a)

Example: Work (1a)

- *HSK standard course 1*
- The primary author is coded under **“contributor” – “Associated agent”** (based on BIBFRAME ontology)

- **Properties** (“connector”/ attribute) **vs.** **Classes** (“what”/type of thing; category)

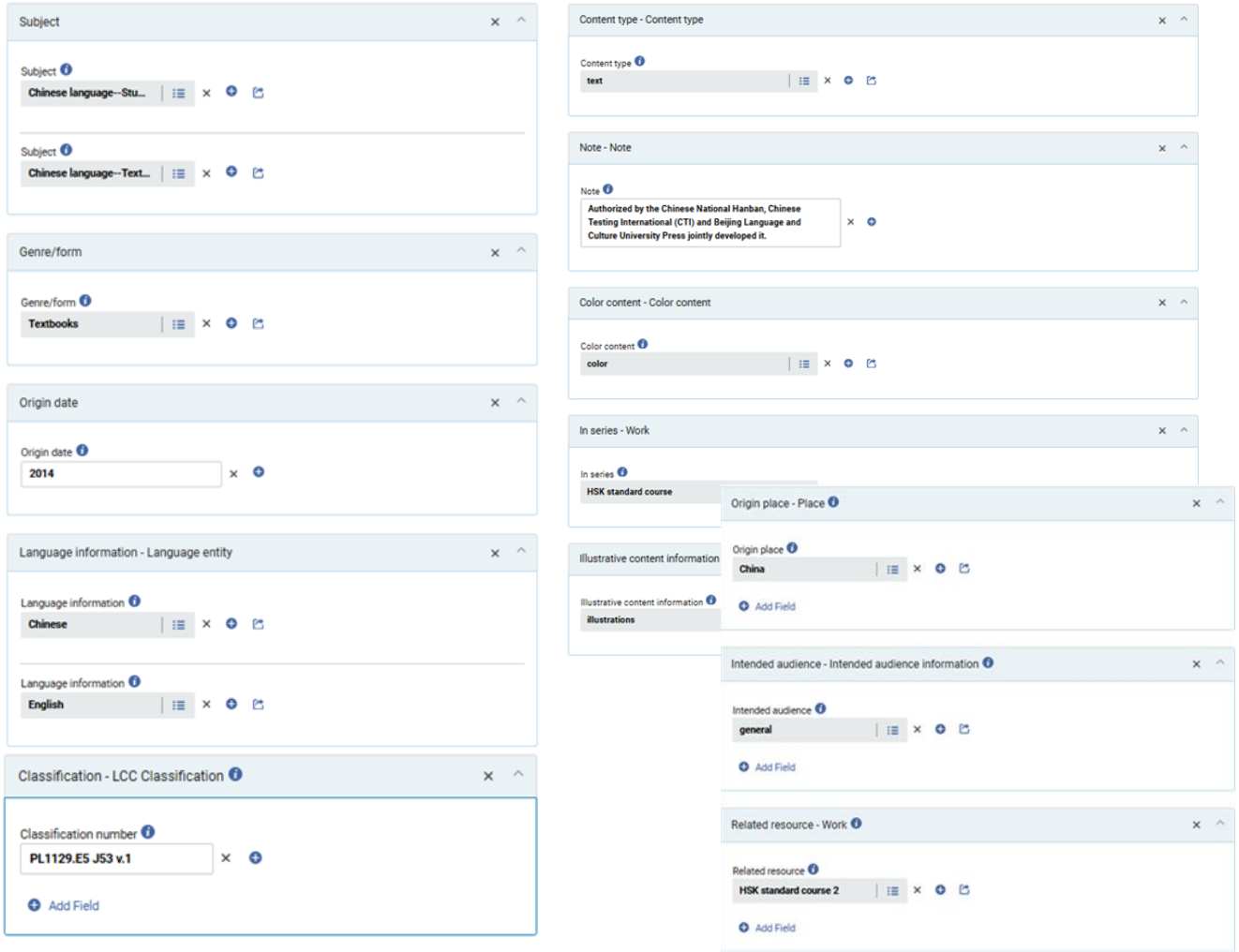
- **Best practices need to be developed** for coding **sections/fields/values**



Alma BIBFRAME Editor Example (2b)

Example: Work (1b)

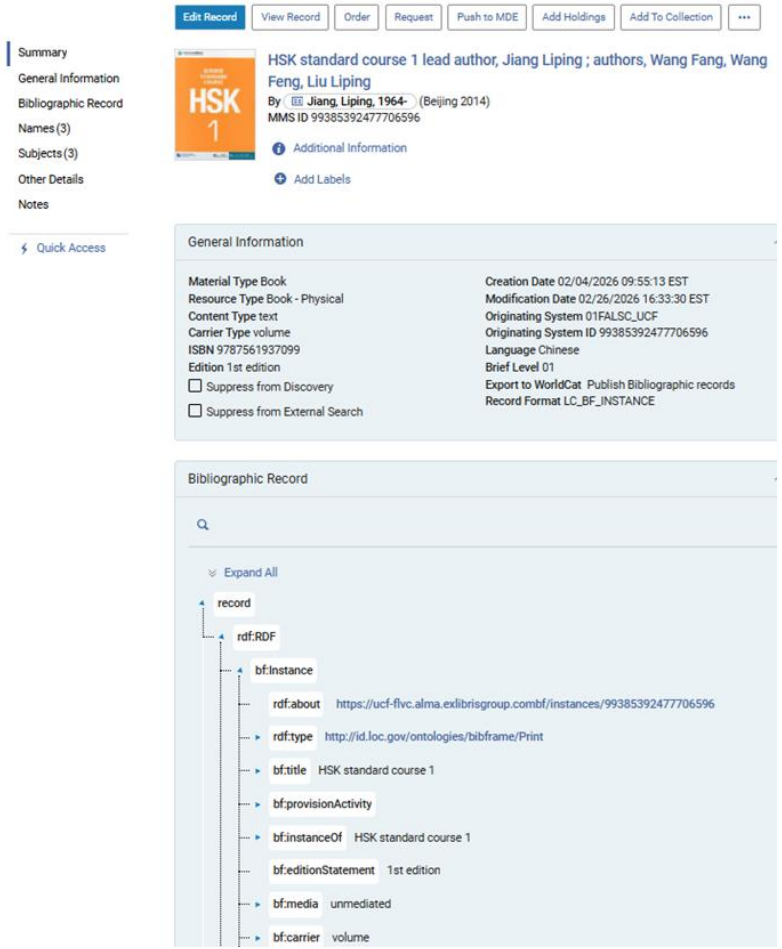
- **Searching for linked data entities**
  - Lookup functionality
  - Blind searching can be challenging
  - **More External Resources are needed** (e.g., for cities: GeoNames?)

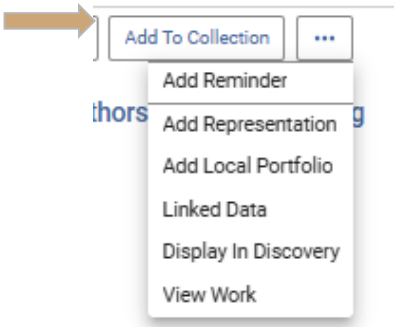


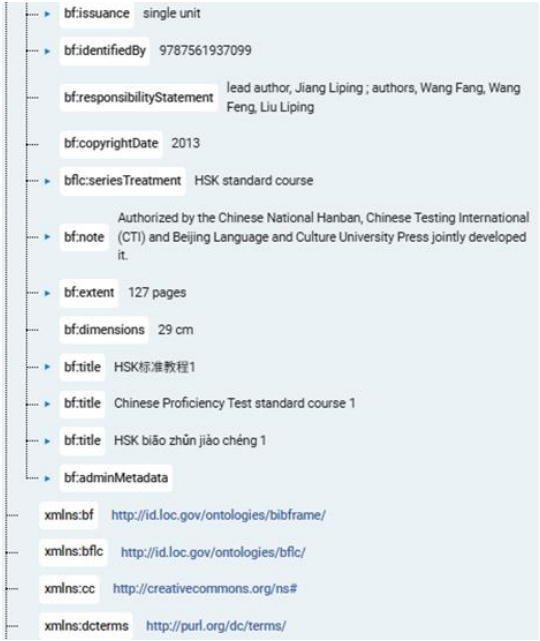
Alma BIBFRAME Editor Example (3a)

Example: Instance (1a)

- **Instances**
  - *HSK standard course 1* (*textbook)
  - *HSK standard course 1: Workbook*
- Access by clicking the instance title under the “Instances” section of the Work record
- Click “…” to select “Display in Discovery”



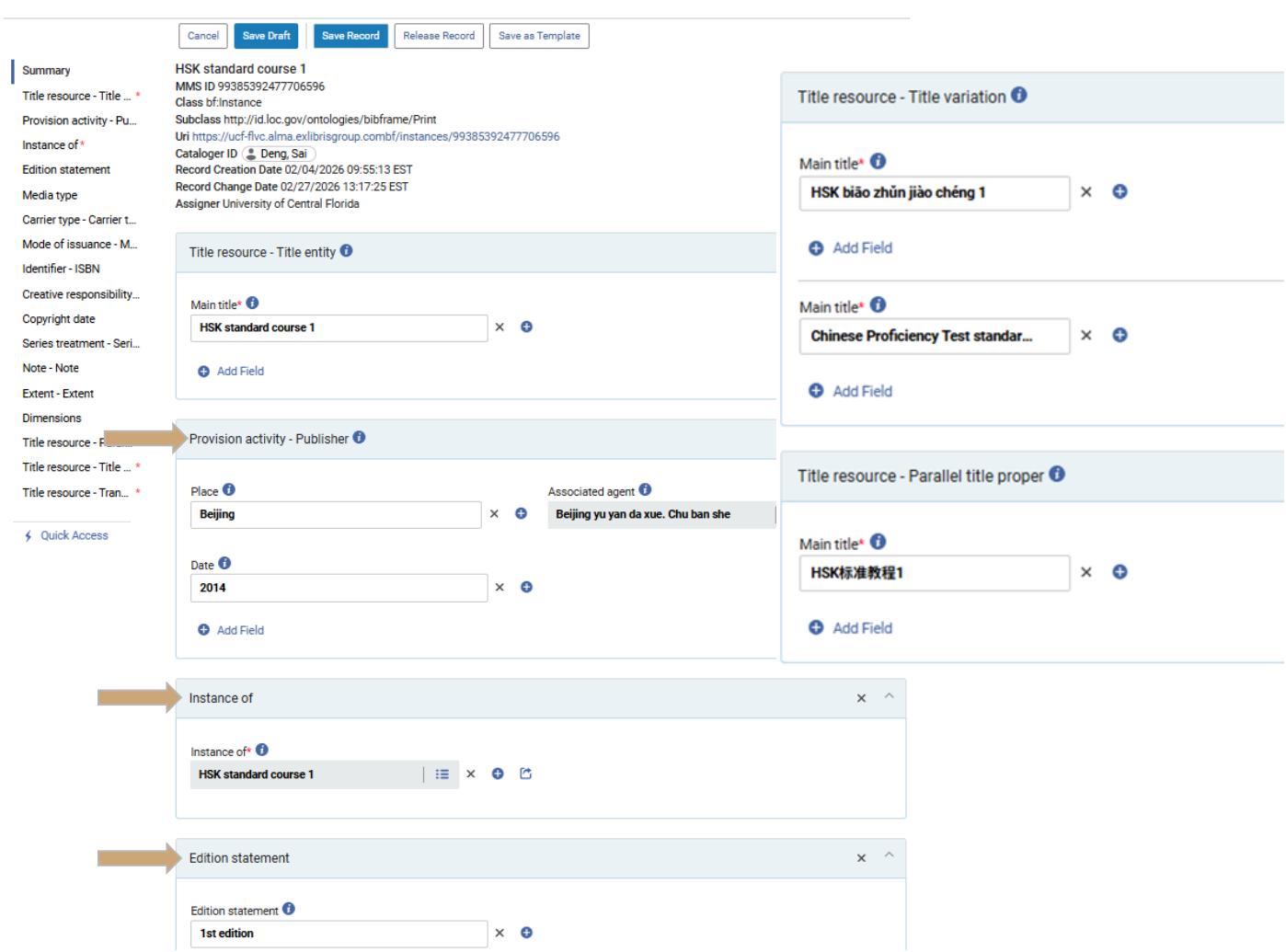




Alma BIBFRAME Editor Example (3b)

Example: Instance (1b)

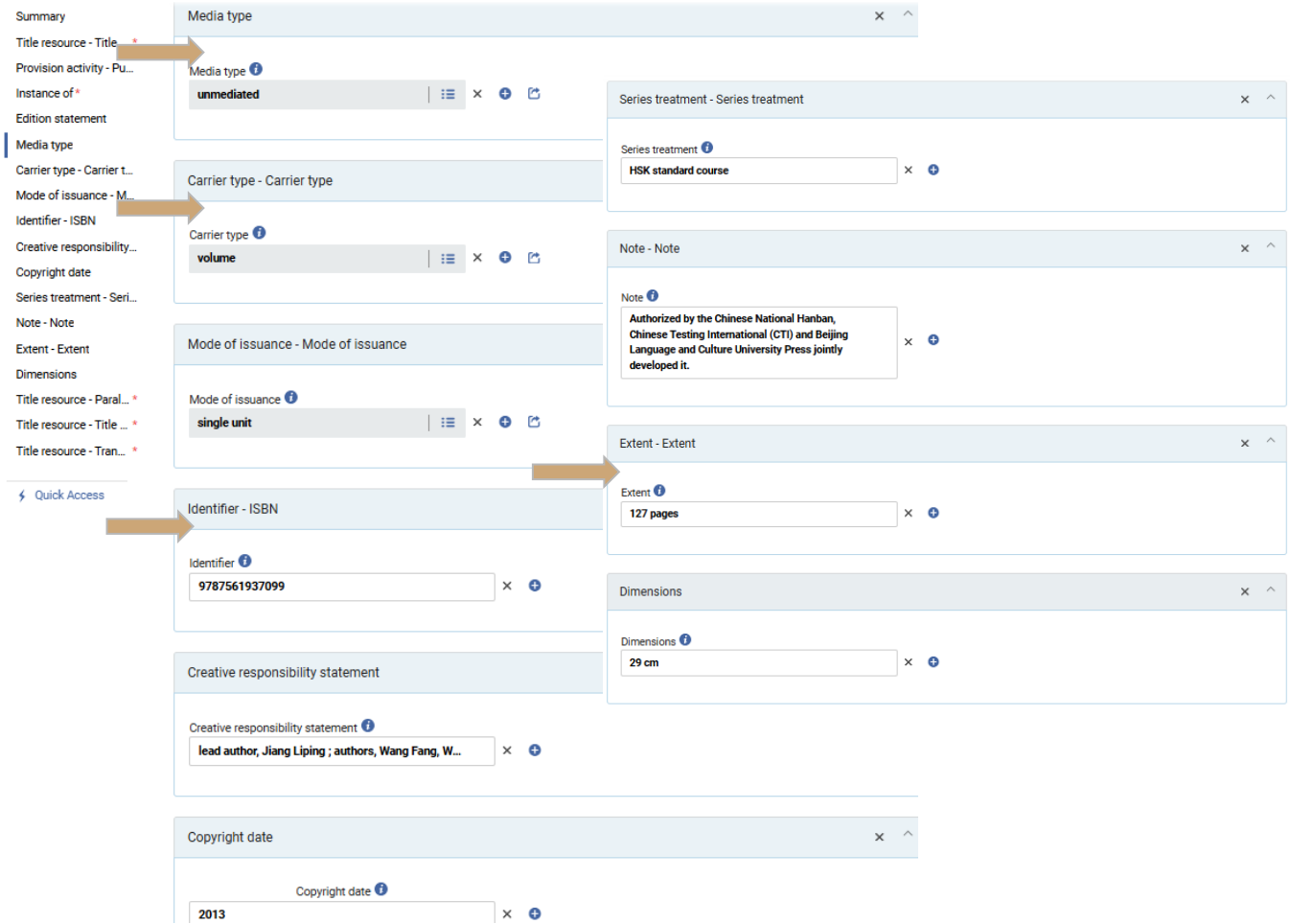
- Access by clicking “Edit Record” on the instance
- Instances cannot **inherit information** from the Work record
- Records can currently only be **derived** from records of the same type/class
- A Work record cannot be converted into an instance record, or vice versa
- **Users must re-enter** the same information



Alma BIBFRAME Editor Example (3c)

Example: Instance (1c)

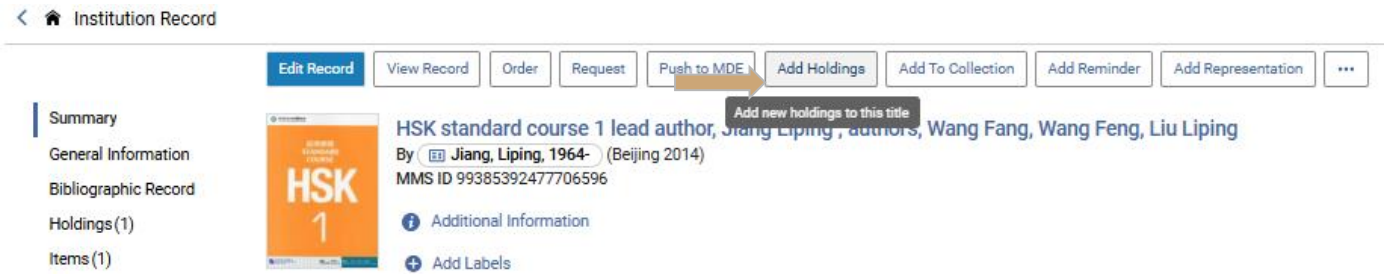
- **Instance only properties**
  - Provision activity
  - Instance of
  - Edition
  - Carrier type (e.g, volume)
  - Identifiers (e.g., ISBN)
  - Extent
  - Media (*e.g., unmediated)



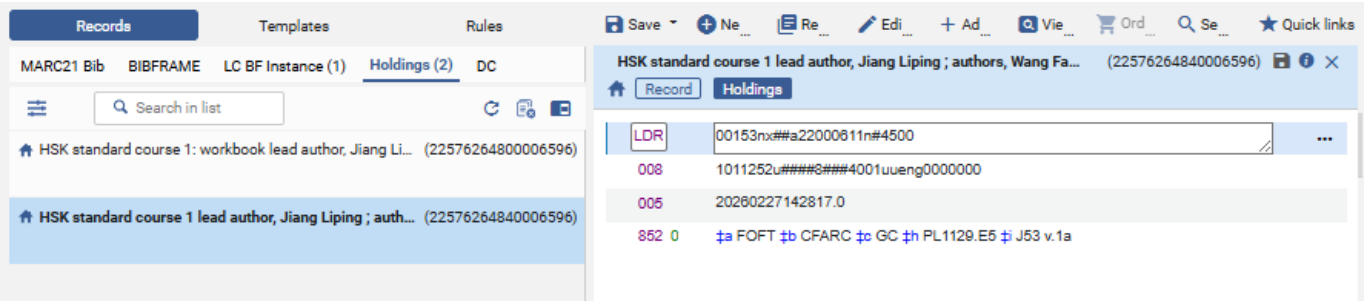
Alma BIBFRAME Editor Example (4a)

Example: Item

- **Create Holding:** click “Add Holdings” unde the Instance record
- **Create Item:** click “Add Inventory - Add Item” under the Holding record
- Result:**Created Item** for the Instance Record



Add Holding

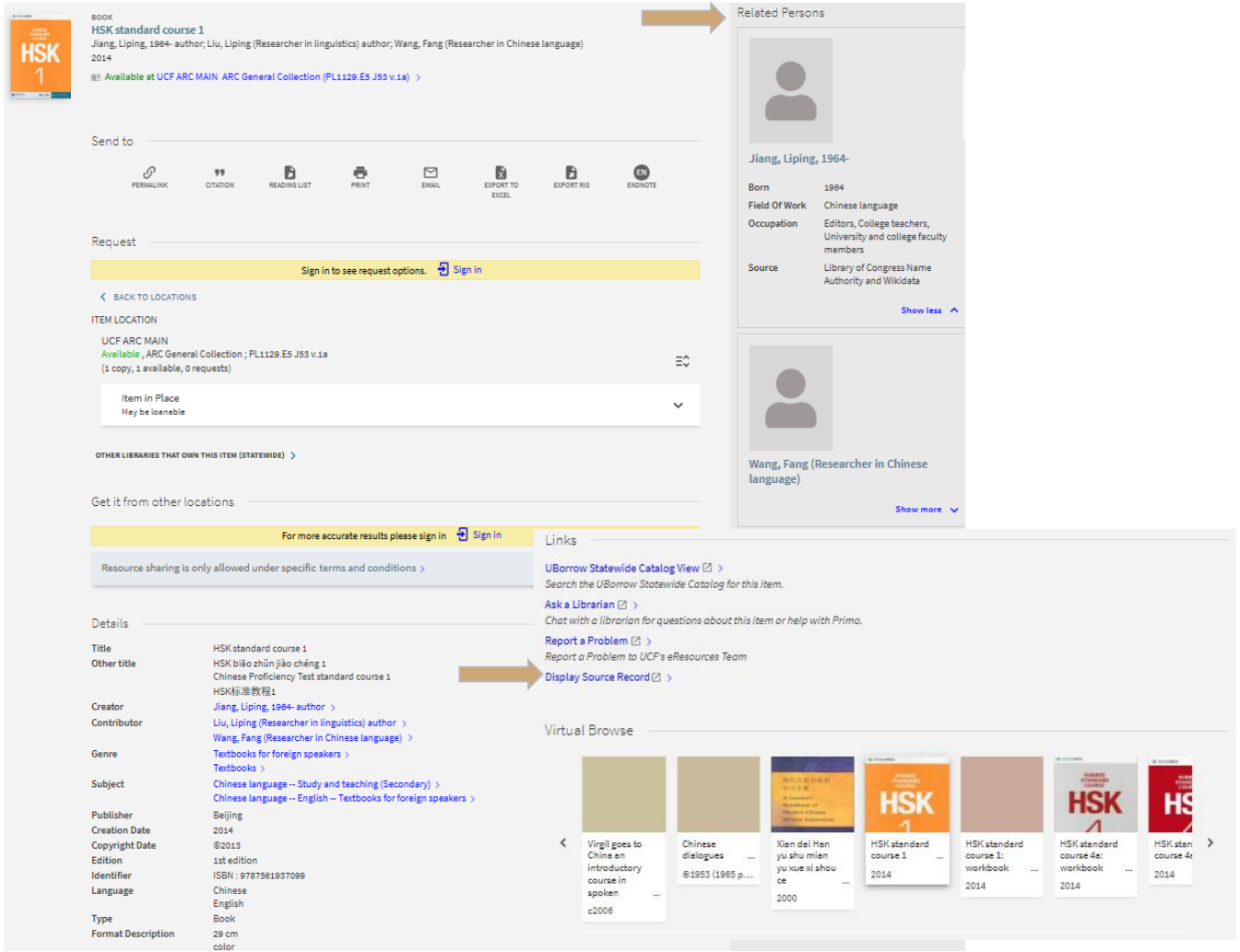


Created Item for Instance Record

BIBFRAME Editor Example (4b)

Instance Display

- Select "**... - Display in Discovery"** unde the Instance record
- **Not a native BIBFRAME record display** yet
- **Work-Instance relationships** are not shown yet
- Displays **Name Cards**
- Can "Display **Source Record**"



Discussion Questions

1. Has your attitude towards BIBFRAME changed after seeing this presentation?

2. What questions or concerns do you have about implementing BIBFRAME?

3. What changes (if any) would you like to see in BIBFRAME editors or records?

Core LEADERSHIP INFRASTRUCTURE FUTURES

Q & A

MARC Formats Transition Interest Group

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Thank you

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