

ezMARC – Why it is not supported in Version 5.0

Mapping MARC tags, indicators and subfields to PastPerfect was first enabled in 2002 to assist clients who had MARC21 data that they wanted imported into PastPerfect. Over the years, it has proven impractical to support and improve the product due to the variability of desired mapping. Creating a usable map for one client resulted in an unusable map for another. Simply put, the huge variability of MARC records combined with the huge variability of outcomes desired by our clients have made this product all but impossible to support.

Additionally, in PastPerfect 5.0, we have made behind-the-scenes database changes to increase each catalog's capacity to up to a million records, which has added to the complexity of data mapping. For these reasons the ezMARC feature is not available for PastPerfect 5.0.

Importing Data to PastPerfect

Importing data is not a simple process. If you have the technical know-how, it is possible to use the PastPerfect basic program's Import Utility to import data from several formats including FoxPro, dBase, Excel and ASCII. Our website has FAQs with instructions for importing from Excel using Versions 4 and 5. However, many clients use our Import Assistance (for Excel) and data conversion services to ensure the import is accurate and requires a minimum amount of manual cleanup.

If you have MARC 21 data in one large file, multiple files to import at once, or have no way to transfer data into one of the above formats, our conversion specialists can import the data for you. Please note that there is a cost of \$50 per hour for conversion services.

Another option is to stay in PastPerfect 4.0 while you need to routinely import MARC 21 data into PastPerfect. We will continue supporting Version 4.0, as we have Versions 3 and 2.

Exporting Data from PastPerfect

If you need to share data, the PastPerfect basic program's Export Utility enables you to export to other common file formats including, Excel/HTML (which allows more than 254 characters in cells), Excel, XML, Dublin Core XML, ASCII and Microtext. Many applications enable you to import data from these widely-used formats.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions. Call us toll free 1-800-562-6080.