

## **Mitinet Library Services™ K-12 Library Guided Reading Levels, Scores and Material Correlations Guide**

### **This guide contains:**

- 1 - How to Use Any Reading Program/Level Effectively**
- 2 - The Reading Programs/Levels supported by Mitinet™ Library Services**
- 3 - Mitinet Measures™ - definition and factors**

When it comes to getting kids to read, nothing matters more than getting the right book in their hands. Enhancing your library's MARC records database to include reading program levels and scores, helps accomplish that goal.

The school library is the primary warehouse for a school's reading assets. The MARC database is the inventory management system containing the metadata needed to match reading levels and scores to an associated book. Adding and correcting reading program and level information helps maximize your assets by improving the amount and accuracy of the data in your database.

This guide describes what factors Mitinet™ Library Services recommends for effective use of any reading program or level, what reading programs and levels we support and information about Mitinet Measures™, our data matching Lexile® measure correlation service.

Including accurate information on text complexity in your MARC records immediately improves the number and accuracy of search results for your existing database.

You get more out of the money you've already spent on your collection. Your students and teachers find more materials - more easily, reducing frustration and improving motivation.



## Section 1: How to Use Any Reading Program/Level Effectively

Three steps to get the most out of both your collection and your chosen reading program...

### Step 1. Before adding any reading program levels or scores to your database, be sure your MARC records are as complete and accurate as possible.

Schools often own many titles that support their reading and curriculum objectives but corrupted data or poor quality MARC records in their database can significantly lower their hit-rates. This not only reduces readership in general, but also effectively prevents those materials from inclusion in any curriculum or reading initiative.

### Step 2. Use accurate metadata matching tools to get the highest possible match rate.

Like low hit-rates, mismatched reading data-to-materials is a primary cause for a reading program's failure. Once you have clean, high quality MARC records, you need matching methods that use data quality assessments and error reduction algorithms to get trustworthy output accuracy levels.

#### **Only use the ISBN as a primary match if the data is perfect.**

In the book industry 17% of all ISBN's are known to be incorrect. If you rely only on the ISBN number to match Lexile® measures or reading scores the result can be an incorrect or missed match.

In addition, in libraries with multiple copies of similar materials purchased in different years from different vendors, data corruption is almost unavoidable. These libraries often combine the MARC records of multiple holdings with different ISBNs, preventing material differentiation (like specifying a book's edition or content) during a search. If the ISBN is incorrect or missing, the match is missed and the asset unusable.

*In other words, to ensure that a child gets the version of "Black Beauty" that actually matches their reading skills, rather than one that's either too simple or too complex, metadata matching needs to be more sophisticated than just the title, author or ISBN.*

#### **Use tools that "fill in" missing or inaccurate critical data elements to get the highest hit-rate/match returns.**

Using validated match points and automated data review methods increases data integrity as part of the process. This also allows certain invalid or nonexistent match points to be overwritten or ignored, creating the flexibility needed to get an accurate match.

#### **Use correlations to increase the number of hits/match returns.**

Not all materials have authorized reading levels or scores assigned when they're purchased. Correlations, like Mitinet Measures™, used to enhance Lexile® measures, can increase the number of usable items in your collection.

### Step 3. Regularly maintain your metadata.

Effective reading program results require regular MARC record updating and maintenance.

#### **New materials need the appropriate reading program levels and scores.**

This helps to integrate all new materials immediately and makes them available to everyone.

#### **Regularly incorporate routine updates of corrections or revisions from the vendor.**

Reading level or program vendor corrections are routine and may significantly affect the accuracy of the data if not updated. Internal changes to existing records may also inadvertently affect matches or levels.

#### **Update correlations with newer authorized metadata as it becomes available.**

If authorized reading program levels or scores become available (not all materials will have levels or scores assigned), the affected MARC records with correlations need to be updated and the correlations (Minet Measures™) replaced.



## Section 2: The Reading Programs/Levels Supported by Mitinet™ Library Services

There are many reading programs and levels out there. Implementing Common Core and other standards has dramatically increased the demand for school libraries to associate educational materials with standards based on existing guided reading level programs. Mitinet™ Library Services provides **Reading Program Update Services** for four of the most common programs, listed here.

### Accelerated Reader®

Created by Renaissance Learning®, AR® is based on over 170,000 quizzes. Students read a book, take a quiz and get immediate feedback on their comprehension. AR® has a BookFinder tool on their website, but Mitinet™ makes finding the right AR® book even easier by adding all available AR® information to your library's database, simplifying the book search process. Mitinet™ matches all materials in a library's database associated with AR® quizzes and reading levels, corrects inaccurate AR® data, and adds missing AR® information for any stand alone tests a library owns.

### Reading Counts!®

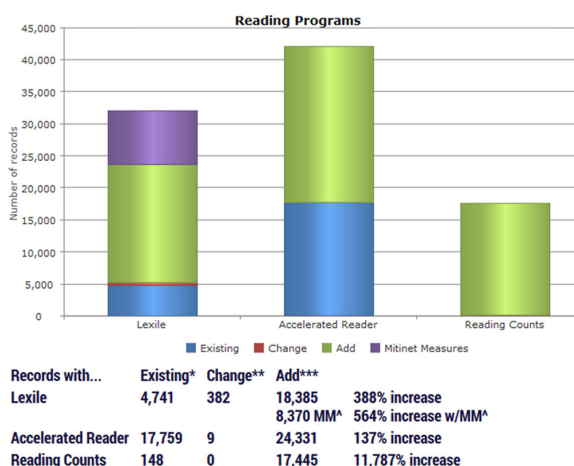
**Reading Counts!®** combines reading practice and reading assessments. RC!® titles align with Lexile® measures. The RC!® site offers Book Expert Online, a book finder tool that helps teachers, librarians, parents and students find books to fit their reading level and interest. Mitinet™ matches all materials in a library's database associated with RC!® quizzes and reading levels.

### Fountas & Pinnell®

**Fountas & Pinnell® Benchmark Assessment System** is a set of tools created to assess reading levels. Mitinet™ offers authorized Fountas & Pinnell® data matching services. We do not offer correlation services due to the subjective nature of Fountas & Pinnell® scores. Schools should note that unless they are buying materials directly from Fountas & Pinnell®, the percentage of hits to populate a general school library MARC record database will be low, with the average collection hit rate at 2-5%. As of May, 2017 there were 56,811 Fountas & Pinnell® leveled titles and materials, with more being added each month.

### The Lexile® Framework for Reading

Created by MetaMetrics®, **A Lexile® Measure** is a number that defines either a person's reading ability or the difficulty of a text. Students are tested to learn their reader measure. Books only receive a Lexile® measure when they've been tested by MetaMetrics®. Lexile® measures are widely used by schools in all 50 states. Currently there are over 232,126 Lexile® measures available, with over 117,000 of those K-12 materials. New materials are added all the time. Mitinet™ adds or updates all materials in your library's database that have corresponding Lexile® measures.



Sample Reading Program Chart from Mitinet's Database Diagnostic Report

To see how many reading program/level data elements Mitinet™ can add to your collection, sign up for our free **Database Diagnostic Report**.

The Database Diagnostic Report uses your actual database information to determine the effectiveness of Mitinet Data Services™ for your library.

We show you how many records can be enhanced with Lexile®, Accelerated Reader®, Reading Counts!® and now Fountas & Pinnell®. We can also show you how many additional records can have Lexile® correlations through our Mitinet Measures™ service.

*\*Fountas & Pinnell® information has now been added to this report.*



## Section 3: Mitinet™ Measures - Definition and Factors

**Of the many reading assessment programs out there, The Lexile® Framework for Reading is one of the most common.**

It is used at the school level in all in all 50 states, supporting state tests and integrating with many standards. As of January 2016, there are over 232,126 titles with Lexile® measures available, with over 117,000 of those in K-12 range.

**However, not all books have a certified Lexile® measure.**

Mitinet™ created Mitinet™ Measures when it became apparent that many schools either lacked the library materials to support their Lexile® initiatives or they were missing the metadata needed to use the library assets they had. Often, the lack of inventory and matching metadata combined to make using Lexile® measures impractical, if not impossible.

**What Mitinet™ Measures Is...**

Mitinet™ Measures is a solution for books that don't have a certified Lexile® measure. While no correlation is perfect, Mitinet™ Measures usually comes within 50 points (+ or -) of the potential Lexile® measure, making it that much easier to fully enhance MARC records with searchable information about a book's text complexity.

***The combination of Lexile® measures and Mitinet™ Measures can almost double the hit rate for reading level searches in a K-12 library database.***

**Mitinet™ Measures is not a permanent solution.** Once a book has a Lexile® measure, we automatically assign it to the MARC record. ***Mitinet™ Measures currently has reading scores for over 291,000 K-12 specific items.***

**How Mitinet™ Measures Works...**

Mitinet™ Measures uses a variety of data, including two primary data points, quantitative and qualitative, as well as weighted metadata elements, to create a correlation that is comparable to a Lexile® measure.

Using proprietary formulas, we combine the available data points and arrive at a likely level that falls within a useable threshold of 10% of an authorized Lexile® measure. Any correlations that fall outside this threshold (approximately 2.5%) are not used. In this case, we believe that a no-hit is better than an inaccurate hit.

**1. Quantitative Data Points.** This is material specific numeric information available from the material and other reading programs, such as...

***Accelerated Reader® Levels by Renaissance Learning***

***Reading Counts!® Levels***

***Developmental Reading Assessment Levels***

***reading grade and interest levels***

***and the number of pages***

**2. Qualitative Data Points.** This is information that can't be measured numerically, such as...

***The Control field audience (from the MARC data)***

***Whether or not the material is part of an established series and the typical reading level for that series***

***Who the publisher is, and what level they typically publish for***

***Who the author is, and what level they typically write for***