

# How Infor V-smart can help you put your best format forward

---

## Handle any format without customized technology systems

When Infor® V-smart (and its affiliate applications Iguana and V-insight) were first conceived, it was not hard-coded for a specific (bibliographic or authority) format. Instead, Infor V-smart was built to work with any format. This is why we call V-smart “format agnostic”—it can work with any format. The advantages of this approach are huge. A format change (like from USMARC to MARC21 to RDA) does not require changes to the application, but only to the format definitions. This makes the application lightweight and agile.

## Improve efficiency with format-agnostic tools

Infor V-smart is much more than a traditional integrated library system (ILS). It is the solution for metadata management: a single and logical location to describe and manage metadata. Infor V-smart's format-agnosticism offers flexible solutions for the description of bibliographic records, images, archival documents, websites, audiovisual files, digital objects, maps, and museum objects in any conceivable format. All the rich tools from Infor V-smart are available for all these formats, including data import and export, record matching and merging, global change of records and harvesting.

In addition, Infor V-smart is multilingual and multiscript for both staff and customers, it is profile-driven, has adaptable workflows and interfaces, and it enables the parameters controlling these functions to be managed within the application, using the same interface as the rest of the system.

At the front-end, Infor V-smart is browser-based and supports rich internet applications (RIAs) (based on Ajax technology); on the server-side, the application is platform-independent and can run on Microsoft® Windows, Linux®, and UNIX®.

When Infor V-smart was first conceived (along with its affiliate applications Iguana and V-insight), it was not hard-coded for a specific bibliographic or authority format, but to enable it to work with any format. This is why Infor V-smart is “format agnostic”—it can accommodate any format. The advantages of this approach are huge. A format change as for example from USMARC to MARC21 to RDA does not require changes to the application, but only to the format definitions, making the application lightweight and agile.

This paper discusses how Infor V-smart's format agnosticism and multi-format tools can help you better manage metadata. With Infor V-smart, you can:

---

Infor V-smart's format-agnosticism lets you describe bibliographic records, images, archival documents, websites, A/V files, digital objects, maps, and museum objects

# in any format imaginable.

# 1. Manage various types and formats of metadata

Infor V-smart is a single and logical environment for metadata management, providing powerful authority control and supporting flexible formats with local control. Any format and its characteristics can be defined in rules that enable the most sophisticated behavior e.g., field X is mandatory if field Y is not present in the record.

With Infor V-smart, multiple formats can reside on a single system and local formats can be defined at will. Formats can be very simple or very complex. Supported formats include MARC21, UNIMARC for bibliographic records, Dublin Core for digital collections, CHIN or formats based on CDWA for works of art, and formats based on ISAD(G) for archival documents, and local formats. All this is possible in Infor V-smart because formats are defined logically and not hard-coded in the application. With Infor V-smart, you can even manage MARC and non-MARC data on a single system.

All this makes V-smart “format-agnostic”—it works for any format not just one, specific format. That's because Infor V-smart puts you in charge. You can define your local formats or adjust standard formats, so you have full control over all aspects of the process, including:

- The format itself (its fields and subfields)
- All properties (e.g., is a data element mandatory, repeatable, and authority-controlled)
- The authorities
- The input and export templates
- The indexes (index types, index rules, and index content)
- The relationships and the relationship types (reciprocal and hierarchical)
- The rules (if this, then that)

With Infor V-smart, the data dictionary that controls all these properties is managed through the same interface as the actual application, which makes life easier for those involved. You are in control of the whole process of metadata management. Additionally, you can search simultaneously cross-format (in multiple databases).

Because the application's rich tools are available for all formats, the metadata is high quality—in any format. In fact you can think of V-smart as an application and a toolbox at the same time; the application provides standardized solutions, while the toolbox offers creative possibilities for metadata management.

## 2. Experience metadata at work—Fabritius

A powerful example of Infor V-smart’s format agnosticism is the Fabritius format (Fine Arts BRussels InTernet and Intranet USers) developed by the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Brussels and Infor. Fabritius is an implementation of Categories for the Description of Works of Art (CDWA) from the Getty Museum in Los Angeles.

The data in the system must be managed and presented in both French and Dutch, so V-smart’s multilingual interface enables handling of multilingual metadata and multilingual authorities. Use of multilingual authorities requires terms to be entered multiple times—once in French, and once in Dutch. So the type of painting “canvas” is entered in two separate subfields, once as the French “toile” and once as the Dutch “doek.” Naturally the search interface is also multilingual and includes search methods such as:

- Artist (name)
- Type
- Inventory number
- Title
- Iconography
- Classification

When a customer searches for “canvas” in French he sees “toile.” When he uses the Dutch interface he sees the term “doek.”

The data that is stored includes information about work, iconography, bibliography, expositions, conservation, and other elements.

Records in the Fabritius format can be managed with all the application’s sophisticated tools: a full text record editor including:

- Drag and drop
- Undo and redo
- Search and replace

The system also includes:

- Integrated authority searches and integrated form input
- Import/export and conversion profiles (for bibliographic, authority, and holdings records)
- Automatic “triggers” (for auto-update of records)
- Global change of records
- Records matching and merging

Other examples of Infor V-smart’s format-agnosticism include several other art databases and, believe it or not, a cemetery and obituary database.



### 3. Support a range of formats, standards, and interfaces

Infor V-smart's format-agnosticism also becomes obvious if you look at the wide range of supported formats, standards, and interfaces.

For data storage, management, and manipulation supported formats include MARC21 and UNIMARC, and also a variety of formats and standards such as CDWA, ISAD(G), DC (Dublin Core), and CHIN.

For MARC21 and UNIMARC the bibliographic, authority, and holdings standards are supported (for MARC21/H this is the Z39.71 standard). For UNIMARC, Infor also supplies a slightly "simplified" format called Smart, which is basically UNIMARC without the leader and without indicators.

For data exchange (import and export) we support ISO2709, MarcXchange, MarcXML, DC-XML, RIS, RSS, as well as tagged, delimited, and fixed-length formats.

For retrieval and harvesting there is support for Z39.50, SRU, OAI-PMH and OUF from OCLC.

Other supported standards include UNICODE, OpenURL, and digital object identifier (DOI).

Support for these standards is one of the key elements that make Infor's products "smart." The applications are open and Infor is committed to standards, but we often build on them with "smart" extensions.

### 4. Control digital asset children with Iguana DAM

Another powerful example of Infor's format-agnosticism is Iguana digital asset management (DAM). Iguana's specific DAM functionality includes at the back end a parent record wizard which manages the automatic generation of "digital asset children" by selection of an image folder and support for a number of language-dependent viewers and full-text search (OCR) at the front-end. Specific information about digital assets can be stored easily using V-smart's format flexibility.

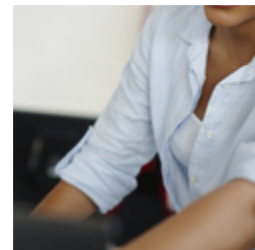
Infor V-smart and the affiliate application Iguana used for presentation to the public, e.g., on the library's website provide straightforward handling of digital assets using a format called DAMSmart. This is a customized format for digital assets, based on the Smart format. It includes additional fields to store the specific metadata of the digital assets, based on the metadata structure as documented for the METS standard. The parent records with the descriptive metadata of the digital manifestations are stored in one of the standard formats that ship with V-smart. Additional fields are added to the format to handle the unique ID of the asset manifestation and links between parent and child records. New relation types are created during installation.

## 5. Customize your interface with Infor V-smart Air

In addition to format flexibility, Infor V-smart's user interface also offers great flexibility. The user interface—called Air—allows users to define their own, personal interface. This is done via cascading style sheets (CSS) and a powerful tool called “Preferences” (which is basically the application's CMS). A user of the application can define his or her own default input values for almost all fields.

The application also makes extensive use of the concept of profiles. With profiles, multiple “views” of the same data are supported. A user sees the data he or she is allowed to see in the way he or she wants to see it, by choice of skin and/or theme. In this sense, this fully configurable user interface is also part of the toolbox concept.

Infor V-smart Air offers a user interface unlike anything other. It is beautiful and responsive and can be deployed on any browser or device—from desktops to laptops, tablets, and smartphones. And, Infor V-smart Air has been built for every user, offering right-to-left reading modes and accessibility for blind and visually impaired people.



## Get the support you need to keep up with the constant evolution of libraries, archives, and museums

Infor V-smart's format-agnosticism makes it agile, adaptable to change, and open to any format and data type. Infor V-smart is a toolbox to manage metadata in any shape or form. The ability to manage "unprescribed" formats is part of Infor's commitment to provide solutions for interoperability, innovation, and evolution across all products in the portfolio. By providing an evolutionary path to support continuing business and technology innovation in a non-disruptive manner, Infor supports the constant evolution of libraries, archives, and museums.

[Learn more about Infor V-smart.](#)



Share this :   

**infor**

Copyright ©2016 Infor. All rights reserved. The word and design marks set forth herein are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of Infor and/or related affiliates and subsidiaries. All other trademarks listed herein are the property of their respective owners. [www.infor.com](http://www.infor.com).

641 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10011

INF-1470723-en-US-1216-3