

OCLC Bibliographic PURL Service

Getting Started



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Revision History

Date	Section title	Description of changes
August 2002	Throughout	Updated to add BIBCO participants to CONSER participants as those who have authority to maintain PURLS in the 856 fields of MARC bibliographic records

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1 Administrative Options

Introduction

A PURL is a Persistent Uniform Resource Locator, which provides flexible naming and name resolution services for Internet resources that can help ensure reliable, long-term access to Internet resources with minimal maintenance.

The OCLC PURL software was developed by the OCLC Office of Research to assist Internet users in locating resources.

A URL points directly to the location of an Internet resource. The PURLs you create point to the OCLC Bibliographic PURL Service, which uniquely associates the PURL with the actual URL. The PURL then returns the URL to the client, which completes the transaction.

The OCLC Bibliographic PURL service allows CONSER and BIBCO participants to maintain PURLs in the 856 fields of MARC bibliographic records.

User information

Registered user information consists of your name, e-mail address, ID, and password.

You must use your OCLC CONSER or BIBCO authorization (ID) and password. Once entered, the user ID and password cannot be modified. They prevent unauthorized users from creating and modifying PURLs. You can change only the name and e-mail address associated with an ID and password.

User registration

Follow the steps below to register to use the OCLC Bibliographic PURL service.

	Action
1	Log on to the OCLC Bibliographic PURL service web site: http://bibpurl.oclc.org .
2	On the Bibliographic PURL service home page, under Account Creation and Maintenance, click Register a new user .
3	Read the terms and click I Agree (scroll to the bottom of the page).
4	The User Registration screen appears. Type your name in the Your Name box. Type your e-mail address in the E-mail address box. Type your OCLC CONSER or BIBCO authorization in the ID box. Note: You may type your authorization with or without dashes. Type your OCLC CONSER or BIBCO password in the Password box.
5	Click Register .

Log on Follow the steps below to log on to the OCLC Bibliographic PURL service.

	Action
1	Log on the OCLC Bibliographic PURL service web site: http://bibpurl.oclc.org .
2	On the Bibliographic PURL service home page, under Account Creation and Maintenance, click Log in to this Resolver .
3	<p>The PURL Server Login screen appears.</p> <p>Type your OCLC CONSER or BIBCO authorization in the ID box. Note: You may type your authorization with or without dashes.</p> <p>Type your OCLC CONSER or BIBCO password in the Password box.</p> <p>Click Log In. Note: Click Reset Form to clear everything you have typed.</p>

Log off Follow the steps below to log off the OCLC Bibliographic PURL service.

	Action
1	<p>Scroll down to the bottom of your current screen. Click PURL Resolver Home Page.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Click your browser's Back button to return to the PURL Resolver Home Page.</p>
2	On the Bibliographic PURL service home page, under Account Creation and Maintenance, click Log out from this Resolver .
3	The system responds "You are now logged out of the PURL server."

Automatic log off If you do not take any action for 30 minutes, the system automatically logs you off.

Search user information Follow the steps below to search for user information. You can retrieve user information only for users registered to use the OCLC Bibliographic PURL service.

	Action
1	On the Bibliographic PURL service home page, under Search this Resolver for, click Search user information .
2	<p>The User Search Form appears.</p> <p>Type search terms in the boxes. See the table below for explanations of each index. Note: If you type search terms in more than one box, your search results will be limited to items that contain both terms.</p> <p>Click Search. Note: Click Reset Form to clear everything you have typed.</p>
3	The Use Information Display screen appears.

The table below explains what each index on the User Search Form retrieves.

Index	Retrieves
User ID	OCLC CONSER or BIBCO authorization of registered users
User's real name	Real names of registered users
User's e-mail	E-mail addresses of registered users
Institution symbol	Institution symbols of registered users

Change user information

Follow the steps below to change user information.

	Action
1	On the Bibliographic PURL service home page, under Account Creation and Maintenance, click Modify user information .
2	The User Information Modification Form 1 appears. Type the User ID (CONSER or BIBCO authorization) of the user whose information you want to modify. Click Continue . Note: Click Reset Form to clear everything you have typed.
3	The User Information Modification Form 2 appears. Type your changes in the boxes. Click Modify . Note: Click Reset Form to clear everything you have typed.
4	The Confirmation screen appears. Click Confirm . The system confirms with a message that your change was made. Note: Use the browser's Back button to return to the User Information Modification Form 2 to correct any mistakes.

2 Create PURLs

Introduction

Remember, a PURL is a URL. However, instead of pointing directly to the location of an Internet resource, a PURL points to the OCLC Bibliographic PURL service. The PURL service associates the PURL with the actual URL and returns that URL to the client, which can then complete the transaction. This is called a standard HTTP redirect.

Create PURLs

Follow the steps below to create a PURL. The system supplies the PURL for the URL you type.

	Action
1	On the Bibliographic PURL service home page, under PURL Creation and Maintenance, click Create a PURL .
2	The PURL Creation Form appears. Type the URL for which you want to create a PURL in the URL box. Click Create PURL .
3	The Confirm PURL Information screen appears. To correct errors, click the browser's Back button. If the information is correct, click Confirm .
4	The Results of PURL Addition Request screen appears with the PURL.

3 Search for PURLs

Search for PURLs Follow the steps below to search for PURLs.

	Action
1	On the Bibliographic PURL service home page, under Search this Resolver for, click Search PURLs .
2	The PURL Search Form appears. Type search terms in the boxes. If you type in name of the PURL exactly, the system supplies the PURL Information Display screen appears (without a list of search results). See the table below for explanations of each index. Note: If you type search terms in more than one box, your search results will be limited to items that contain both terms. Click Search . Note: Click Reset Form to clear everything you have typed.
3	The PURL Search Results screen appears. Click the PURL to view information about it.
4	The PURL Information Display screen appears.

The table below explains what each index on the PURL Search Form screen retrieves.

Index	Retrieves	Example
PURL	The name of PURLs.	In the PURL http://bibpurl.oclc.org/hello/there , http://bibpurl.oclc.org is the prefix /hello/there is the name. Do not search for the prefix in the PURL field.
URL	Any part of any URL associated with a PURL. All parts of the URL are significant and can be entered to help limit the search.	

Index	Retrieves	Example
Maintainer	<p>Registered user ID or group ID that is a PURL maintainer and exactly matches this string. Since a PURL's maintainers access control list can include group IDs, matches against this input field are determined by expanding any such group IDs into a list of its members' IDs and then matching against all IDs in the fully expanded list.</p> <p>Note: To retrieve all CONSER and BIBCO PURLs, type CONSER in the maintainer box and leave all other boxes blank. (CONSER and BIBCO participants are in the same group in the server.)</p>	<p>If BOB is a member of the group TALL and TALL is the sole maintainer of the PURL duck-when-entering, then BOB will match as a maintainer of duck-when-entering. Thus, entering BOB in the Maintainer field would match the PURL duck-when-entering.</p>
Explicit Maintainer	<p>Registered user ID or group ID that is an explicitly named PURL maintainer and exactly matches this string. This match is NOT executed like that done for the Maintainer field above. Instead, the input will match only an ID that appears explicitly in the maintainers access control list.</p>	<p>Searching for BOB in the Explicit Maintainer field would NOT match the PURL duck-when-entering.</p>

4 Edit PURLs

Edit PURLs

Follow the steps below to edit a PURL.

	Action
1	On the Bibliographic PURL service home page, under PURL Creation and Maintenance, click Modify a PURL .
2	<p>The PURL Modification Form 1 appears.</p> <p>Type search terms in the boxes. See section 3 “Search for PURLs” for explanations of each index. Note: If you type search terms in more than one box, your search results will be limited to items that contain both terms.</p> <p>Click Continue. Note: Click Reset Form to clear everything you have typed.</p>
3	<p>The Modify PURL Search Results screen appears.</p> <p>Click the PURL to view information about it.</p>
4	<p>The PURL Modification Form 2 appears.</p> <p>Edit the URL and type your reasons for your changes. Click Modify PURL.</p>
5	<p>The Confirmation screen appears.</p> <p>Check your edits. If your edits are correct, click Confirm. Click your browser’s Back button to redisplay the PURL modification screen and correct errors.</p>
6	The Results of PURL Modify Request screen appears with the PURL.

Clone PURLs

Cloning is copying everything about an existing PURL including its URL, maintainers (and partial redirection status, if any) to a new PURL.

Follow the steps below to clone a PURL.

	Action
1	On the Bibliographic PURL service home page, under PURL Creation and Maintenance, click Clone a PURL .
2	The Cloning Form 1 appears. If you know the exact PURL you want to clone, type it in the PURL box. To search for a PURL, type your search terms in the search boxes. See section 3 "Search for PURLs" for explanations of each index. Click Continue . Note: Click Reset Form to clear everything you have typed.
3	The Cloning Search Results screen appears. Click a PURL to clone it.
4	The Cloning Form 2 screen appears. Click Clone to clone the PURL.
5	The Confirmation screen appears. To correct errors, click the browser's Back button. If the information is correct, click Confirm .
6	The Results of PURL Addition Request screen appears with the PURL on it.

Partial redirect

The concept of partial redirection is the use of a domain as a prefix for a localized hierarchy of URLs. This is possible because a PURL resolver resolves as much of a PURL as it can find in its database and adds the remainder (unresolved portion) to the end of the resolved URL.

Using this concept, you could create a partial redirect as the permanent name prefix for all the resources stored at a web site or any hierarchical subset of the site.

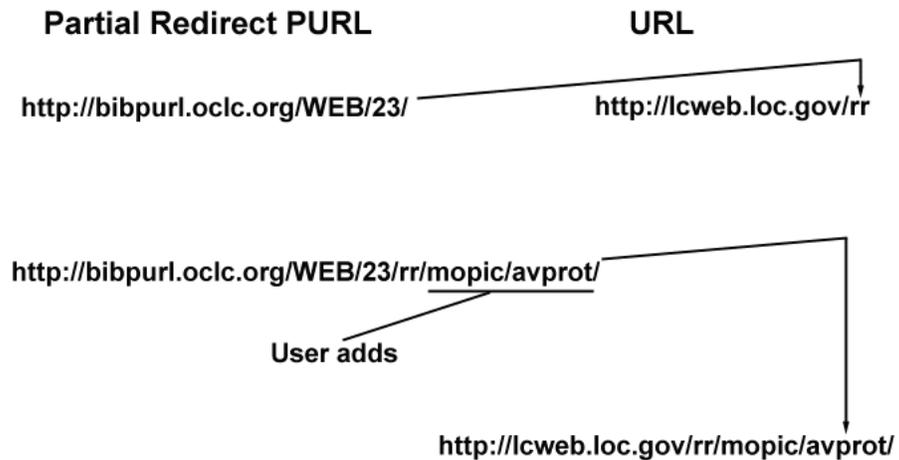
For example, suppose you created the partial redirect described in the example below. Every document stored under the Library of Congress server's root directory could then be accessed by adding its relative (i.e., partial) path to the partial redirect. This would allow your site's users to use the partial redirect as the prefix for all documents at the Library of Congress site. If the Library of Congress changed its root directory, you could update the partial redirect PURL and keep unchanged all the other links that were created by adding relative paths without your users needing to know anything about it

Example

The partial redirect **http://bibpurl.oclc.org/web/23/** is associated with the URL **http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/**.

If you add the root URL **mopic/avprot/** to the partial redirect PURL **http://bibpurl.org/web/23/** the system will resolve to the URL **http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mopic/avprot/**.

The Partial Redirect PURL is automatically generated for you. The Root URL should be the root of a remote hierarchy of URLs.



Follow the steps below to partially redirect a URL.

	Action
1	On the Bibliographic PURL service home page, under PURL Creation and Maintenance, click Create a Partial Redirect PURL .
2	The Partial Redirect Creation Form appears. Type the URL you want to be redirected. Click Create PR PURL to create a partially redirected PURL. Note: Click Reset Form to clear everything you have typed.
3	The Confirmation screen appears. To correct errors, click the browser's Back button. If the information is correct, click Confirm .
4	The Results of PURL Addition Request screen appears with the PURL on it.

Chain PURLs

When you chain an existing PURL, a new PURL is created. The new PURL's associated URL is set to the URL of the existing PURL. The existing PURL's URL is then set to the new PURL.

Example

1 Before chaining: You maintain the PURL <http://bibpurl.oclc.org/NET/37>, which links to the URL <http://www.loc.gov/library/>. You want to chain this PURL to a new PURL.

2 After chaining: After you retrieve <http://bibpurl.oclc.org/NET/37> and chain it, the system automatically

- Supplies the new PURL (<http://bibpurl.oclc.org/NET/40>)
- Sets the new PURL's URL to <http://www.loc.gov/library/>
- Sets the URL of the old PURL (<http://bibpurl.oclc.org/NET/37>) to link to the new PURL (<http://bibpurl.oclc.org/NET/40>)

You can use and edit the new PURL <http://bibpurl.oclc.org/NET/40> as if it were the only PURL. The old PURL <http://bibpurl.oclc.org/NET/37> will continue to work and point to the current information (via the new PURL).

1 Before chaining



2 After chaining



Follow the steps below to chain a URL.

	Action
1	On the Bibliographic PURL service home page, under PURL Creation and Maintenance, click Chain a PURL .
2	<p>The Chaining Form 1 appears.</p> <p>Type search terms in the boxes. See section 3 "Search for PURLs" for explanations of each index. Note: If you type search terms in more than one box, your search results will be limited to items that contain both terms. Click Continue. Note: Click Reset Form to clear everything you have typed.</p>
3	<p>The Chaining Search Results screen appears.</p> <p>Click the PURL you want to chain.</p>
4	<p>The Chaining Form 2 appears.</p> <p>Click Chain.</p>
5	<p>The Confirmation screen appears.</p> <p>Check your edits. If your edits are correct, click Confirm. Click your browser's Back button to redisplay Chaining Form 2 and correct errors</p>
6	The Results of PURL Modify Request Screen appear with the new domain, and added and replaced PURLs.

5 Usage Statistics

Usage statistics

Usage statistics record your usage of the OCLC Bibliographic PURL service. Follow the steps below to search for your statistics.

	Action
1	On the Bibliographic PURL service home page, under Search this Resolver for, click Search Usage Statistics .
2	The PURL Usage Statistics screen appears. Type search terms in the boxes. See the table below for explanations of each index. Note: If you type search terms in more than one box, your search results will be limited to items that contain both terms. Click Generate to search for usage statistics. Note: Click Reset Form to clear everything you have typed.
3	The Query Results screen appears. Click a PURL for more detailed information. Click a URL to display it. Click your browser's Back button to search again.

The table below explains what each index on the PURL Usage Statistics screen retrieves.

Index	Retrieves
Action: Create	PURLs that have been created.
Action: Modify	PURLs that have been modified. Note: Search results include each time a PURL has been modified. Example: If a PURL has been modified 4 times, it will appear 4 times in the search results.
User ID	OCLC CONSER or BIBCO authorization of registered user.
Institution symbol	Institution symbols of registered users.
Date Range	PURLs created or modified between the dates specified.
PURL	The name of PURLs. Note: In the PURL http://bibpurl.oclc.org/hello/there , http://bibpurl.oclc.org is the prefix. /hello/there is the name. Do not search for the prefix in the PURL field.
URL	Any part of any URL associated with a PURL. All parts of the URL are significant and can be used to help limit the search.

6 Validation

Validating PURLs

Validation is the process of checking that the links from PURLs to URLs are unbroken. OCLC automatically sends you a PURL validation report once a week. You may also validate PURLs and search previous validation results.

Validation report

Once a week, OCLC e-mails a PURL validation report to PURL service users. The subject line of the e-mail is "PURL validation report." If there are no validation problems, the report states "No errors." Failed PURLs will be sorted by status code in the e-mail. Failed PURLs are listed once. Subsequent reports will not contain PURLs already listed as failed in an earlier report.

Report elements

The table below explains the elements of the PURL validation report.

Report Element	Explanation
PURL	System-supplied link to URL.
URL	Web address to which the PURL links.
User	The CONSER or BIBCO authorization of the user who created the PURLs.
Institution symbol	OCLC institution symbol of the user who created the PURLs.
Hops	Number of redirects needed to retrieve the URL.
Status codes	Indicates the status of the link between the PURL and the URL. See table below.

Status codes

The table below explains the status codes used in PURL validation.

Status codes	Explanation
200	Valid URL.
4xx	Client error: The request for the URL contained incorrect syntax or could not be fulfilled.
5xx	Server error: The server failed to fulfill an apparently valid request for the URL.

Validate

Follow the instructions below to search for a PURL to validate.

	Action
1	On the Bibliographic PURL service home page, under PURL Validation, click Search PURL, URL, or Institution Symbol .
2	The Select PURLs by Searching PURL, URL, or Institution Symbol screen appears. Type search terms in the boxes. See table below for explanations of each index. Note: If you type search terms in more than one box, your search results will be limited to items that contain both terms. Click Search . Note: Click Reset Form to clear everything you have typed.
3	The Submit PURLs for validation screen appears. Click the radio button to Validate the PURLs or Show previous validation results . If you select Show previous validation results , type a number of days back from today. Optional. Edit the list of PURLs in the box of search results. To limit your search by status code, type the code in the Code equals box. To exclude a code from your search, type it in the Code does not equal box. (See status codes table above). Note: The Code does not equal box overrides the Code equals box. The results are not ANDed together. If you leave these boxes blank, your search results will include PURLs that have all types of status codes.
4	Click Validate .
5	The PURL Validation Results page appears.

The table below explains what each index retrieves.

Index	Retrieves	Example
PURL	The name of PURLs.	In the PURL http://bibpurl.oclc.org/hello/there , http://bibpurl.oclc.org is the prefix. /hello/there is the name. Do not search for the prefix in the PURL field.
URL	Any part of any URL associated with a PURL. All parts of the URL are significant and can be entered to help limit the search.	
Symbol	Institution symbol	To search for PURLs created or modified by someone at the University of Kentucky, type KUK.

Search previous validation results

Follow the instructions below to search previous validation results. .

	Action
1	On the Bibliographic PURL service home page, under PURL Validation, click Search Previous Validation Results .
2	The Search Previous Validation Results screen appears. See table below for explanations of each index. To limit your search by status code, type the code in the Code equals box. To exclude a code from your search type it in the Code does not equal box. (See status codes table above). Note: The Code does not equal box overrides the Code equals box. The results are not ANDed together. If you leave these boxes blank, your search results will include PURLs that have all types of status codes.
3	Click Search Now . Note: Click Reset Form to clear everything you have typed.
4	The Submit PURLs for validation screen appears.
5	Click the radio button for Show previous validation results. Type the number of days back from today that you want to search. Click View Now . Note: Click Reset Form to clear everything you have typed.
6	The Previous PURL validation results screen appears.

The table below explains how each index on the PURL Previous Validation Results screen limits your search.

Index	Explanation
Code equals	Limits search to PURLs with the status code you type. See status code table above.
Code does not equal	Limits search to PURLs that do not have the status code you type. See status code table above. Note: This input box will override the Code equals input box. The results are NOT ANDed together.
Days	Limits search to validation results no more than this many days old.
Occurrence	The status code you typed above occurred at least this many times.
Last	Limits search to this many of the most recent validation results. Note: The search covers previous validation results by all users, not just those done using your user ID. Example. To retrieve the last 5 that failed, type 5 .

Validate by hand

Follow the instructions below to search for a PURL to validate.

	Action
1	On the Bibliographic PURL service home page, under PURL Validation, click Hand Enter PURLs .
2	The Submit PURLs for validation screen appears. Click radio button to choose Validate PURLs at this time .
3	<p>Type PURLs in the box. Example: /web/30.</p> <p>To limit your search by status code, type the code in the Code equals box. To exclude a code from your search, type it in the Code does not equal box. (See status codes table above).</p> <p>Note: The Code does not equal box overrides the Code equals box. The results are not ANDed together.</p> <p>If you leave these boxes blank, your search results will include PURLs that have all types of status codes.</p>
4	Click View Now . Note: Click Reset Form to clear everything you have typed.
5	The PURL Validation Results screen appears.

7 Batch Files

Create batch file

A batch file is a collection of PURL information in an SGML file that allows you to add multiple PURLs to the PURL resolver in a batch. To add the batch file, see the next section, Batch add PURLs.

	Action
1	Create a batch file in SGML by following the format of the sample file below (Use the Document Type Definition below to create the SGML batch file). Note: When creating the batch file in SGML, leave the the PURL element blank. The system supplies the PURL automatically.
2	Place the file under a WWW server.
3	See the "Batch add PURLs" section below.

Sample batch file

The sample batch file below adds two PURLs. The tags (<recs></recs>, etc.) are defined in the Document Type Definition.

```
<recs>

  <rec><!--This is a minimal record. It uses PURL and URL tags only--!>
    <purl></purl>
    <url>http://www.oclc.org</url>
  </rec>

  <rec><!--This record includes optional tags, such as Type and Partial--!>
    <purl></purl>
    <url>http://www.oclc.org/test/</url>
    <type>User_Batch_Add</type>
    <partial></partial>
  </rec>

</recs>
```

Tags for batch document type definition

The tags in the Document Type Definition have the following meanings:

- PURL (required) the PURL to be added. Do not include the prefix in the values inside these tags
- URL (optional) the new URL to associate with PURL
- ID (optional repeatable) a maintainer of the PURL.
Note: The system automatically supplies CONSER in this tag.
- PARTIAL (optional) make this PURL a Partial Redirect

Note: Do not use </> as a shorthand close tag.

Sample batch document type definition

Below is a sample document type definition for a batch file.

```
<!DOCTYPE RECS [
<ELEMENT RECS  O O ( REC+ )>
<ELEMENT REC  - - ( PURL & URL? & ID* & PARTIAL? & TYPE? & NEXTDOM?)>
<ELEMENT PURL  - - (#PCDATA)>
<ELEMENT URL  - - (#PCDATA)>
<ELEMENT ID  - - (#PCDATA)>
<ELEMENT PARTIAL - - (#PCDATA)>
<ELEMENT TYPE  - - (#PCDATA)>
<ELEMENT NEXTDOM - - (#PCDATA)>
<!ENTITY #DEFAULT " *** UNDEFINED ENTITY REFERENCE *** ">
]>
```

Batch add PURLs

To batch add a set of PURLs:

	Action
1	On the Bibliographic PURL service home page, under PURL Creation and Maintenance, click Batch add PURLs .
2	The Batch Add PURLs Form appears. Scroll down to the 2 boxes labeled URL of the Batch File and Add List . Type the URL of the batch file you want to add in the URL of the Batch File box or Copy and paste the batch file into the Add List box. Click Add Batch . Note: Click Reset Form to clear everything you have typed.
3	The Confirmation screen appears. To correct errors, click the browser's Back button. If the information is correct, click Confirm .
4	The Results of PURL Addition Request screen appears with the PURL on it.

Batch modify PURLs Follow the steps below to batch modify PURLs.

Action	
1	Create a batch file in SGML by following the format of the sample file below (Use the Document Type Definition below to create the SGML batch file). Note: When creating the batch file in SGML, supply the PURL element so the system will know which PURL you want to modify.
2	Place the file under a WWW server.
3	See the "Batch add PURLs" section above.

Default values for omitted elements

Warning. The information you provide in the batch file replaces the existing PURL information. It does not add to it. Therefore, if you omit information, it may default to an unwanted value..

Omitted element	Defaults to
ID	The value in the ID input box below
URL	Null, which disables the PURL
PARTIAL	Does not affect partial redirection
TYPE	Null
NOTE	Null

Sample batch modify file

Below is a sample document type definition for a batch modify file.

```
<recs>

  <rec>
    <purl>/WEB/OCLC</purl>
    <url>http://www.oclc.org</url>
    <type>Batch_Modified</type>
    <note>Public note for change</note>
  </rec>

  <rec>
    <purl>/WEB/TEST</purl>
    <url>x</url>
    <type>Batch_Modified</type>
    <note>Public note for change</note>
  </rec>

  <rec>
    <purl>/WEB/TEST2</purl>
    <type>Batch_Modified</type>
    <note>Public note for change</note>
  </rec>

</recs>
```

Tags for batch modify document type definition

The tags in the Document Type Definition (DTD) have the following meanings:

- PURL (required) the PURL to be modified.
Note: Do not include the prefix `http://bibpurl.oclc.org` in the values inside PURL tags.
- URL (optional) the new URL to associate with PURL.
Note: To indicate that the URL should be reset to null, use an empty URL tag (`<url></url>`) or omit the URL tag.
- TYPE (optional) a one word category name for the change.
- ID (optional repeatable) a maintainer of the PURL..
Note: If no ID is specified in the records, your ID will be used. The IDs specified in the ID tag will replace all IDs in the current record.
- NOTE (optional) a free text description for the change (listed with the old URL as Reason for Change).
- PARTIAL (optional) make this PURL a Partial Redirect.
Note: This will enable partial redirection only on PURLs that end with a slash. Once enabled, partial redirection cannot be disabled.

Note: Do not use `</>` as a shorthand close tag.

Sample batch modify document type definition

Sample Batch Modify Document Type Definition

```
<!DOCTYPE RECS [  
  
<!ELEMENT RECS  O O ( REC+ )>  
  
<!ELEMENT REC  -- ( PURL & URL? & ID* & PARTIAL? & TYPE? &  
NEXTDOM?)>  
  
<!ELEMENT PURL  -- (#PCDATA)>  
  
<!ELEMENT URL   -- (#PCDATA)>  
  
<!ELEMENT ID    -- (#PCDATA)>  
  
<!ELEMENT TYPE  -- (#PCDATA)>  
  
<!ELEMENT NOTE  -- (#PCDATA)>  
  
<!ELEMENT PARTIAL -- (#PCDATA)>  
  
<!ENTITY #DEFAULT " *** UNDEFINED ENTITY REFERENCE *** ">  
  
>
```

