

Authority Files & Vocabularies: Standards, Availability, Integration

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**Beacher Wiggins, Director
Acquisitions & Bibliographic
Access**

Library of Congress

My presentation

- Importance of authority control
- Authority control under *RDA*
- LC's role in authority control
- Various authority control initiatives

Enabling Authority Control

- Clearly identify data—
 - New MARC 21 *RDA* coding
- Register controlled vocabularies—
 - *RDA*/ONIX controlled lists
 - Content, media, carrier types
 - *LCSH*/SKOS
 - <http://id.loc.gov/authorities>
 - VIAF name authority data
 - <http://viaf.org/>

***RDA* and authority control**

- Guiding principles—
 - Common usage
 - Accuracy
 - Economy
 - Standardization
 - Integration

***RDA* and authority control**

- Influences—
 - Anglo-American cataloging tradition
 - Paris Principles
 - ISBD
 - FRBR/FRAD
 - Internet
 - Toronto Conference, 1997
 - IME ICC (IFLA Meeting of Experts on an International Cataloguing Code)

LC Authorities & Vocabularies Service (<http://id.loc.gov>)

- Activated April 2009
- Automatic generation of metadata for
 - Digital documents
 - Digital tables of content
 - Digital summaries
- Service will provide
 - Subject headings
 - Code lists
 - Other terminologies

LC Authorities & Vocabularies Service (<http://id.loc.gov>)

- Enriches searching by
 - Providing automatic provision of codes
 - Suggesting subject headings
 - Suggesting alternate terminology
- Free service
 - Open to public for
 - Searching
 - Downloading
 - Linking

LC Authorities & Vocabularies Service (<http://id.loc.gov>)-- *LCSH*

- Current available vocabulary
 - *Library of Congress Subject Headings*
- Expressed in SKOS (Simple Knowledge Organization System)
- Each concept given a unique URI
- Links to related concepts in France's RAMEAU
- Awaiting some 20,000 Universite Laval records to test links with *LCSH*

LC Authorities & Vocabularies Service (<http://id.loc.gov>)-- *LCSH*

- Recent enhancements to *LCSH/SKOS*
 - Use statistics to evaluate service
 - Weekly updates
 - Access to deleted terminology
 - Explicit scope statement

LC Authorities & Vocabularies Service (<http://id.loc.gov>)-- *LCSH*

- Planned enhancements
 - Improved human search functions
 - Non-preferred term search
 - “Social tagging” function
 - “Subject suggester” function
 - Expanded eye-readable labels

LC Authorities & Vocabularies Service (<http://id.loc.gov>)

- Long-term service expansion
 - More vocabularies
 - *Thesaurus of Graphic Materials*
 - *MARC Geographic Area Codes*
 - *MARC Language Codes*
 - *MARC Relator Codes*
 - More technical metadata standards
 - Preservation events
 - Preservation

Who is Using *LCSH/SKOS*

- **Browsing LCSH—**
 - Contains about 6.2 million
 - <http://www.biblio.tu-bs.de/db/lcsh/index.htm>
 - Clicking on term
 - 4 links displayed
 - WorldCat
 - Google Books
 - LibraryThing
 - OpenLibrary

LC Automated MARC Records from ONIX

- ONIX to MARC conversion program test (June 2009)
- Faster and more ergonomic
- More enriched data
 - Tables of contents
 - Summaries
- Publisher data directly serves library community

LC Automated MARC Records from ONIX

- Using ONIX data from publishers in the Cataloging in Publication program
- Matching ISBN of forthcoming book with ISBNs in the ONIX data
- Data converted/MARC record created
- Conversion process twice as fast as the former process
- http://cip.loc.gov/cag_2010.html

VIAF: Virtual International Authority File (<http://viaf.org/>)

- Joint project—LC, Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, and Bibliothèque nationale de France
- Combines name authority files of the libraries into a single name authority service
- Facilitates research across languages anywhere in the world

VIAF: Virtual International Authority File (<http://viaf.org/>)

- Files from other national libraries added
 - 18 personal name authority files from 15 organizations
 - Czech Republic, France, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland
- Increase usefulness of library authority files
 - matching and linking authority files of national libraries
 - making data available on the Web

VIAF: Virtual International Authority File (<http://viaf.org/>)

- Software for matching and linking authority records for personal names
- OAI servers
 - maintain files
 - provide user access to files

The Way Forward

- Taking advantage of various initiatives identified
- Collaborating on new, expanded initiatives
- Sharing plans and projects
- Pursuing open-source paths

Thank you!

- Questions/comments?

Beacher Wiggins

Director for Acquisitions & Bibliographic Access

Library of Congress

bwig@loc.gov