# DC-2007

# Identifier Principles and Compromise

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# See Douglas Campbell's DC-2007 paper for a good introduction to Identifier issues

# Issues for Identifier Pattern Design

- Persistence
- Universal accessibility
- Global scoping
- Canonical identification
- Branding
- Search Engine Ranking
- 'Hackability'

- Truncatability
- Functional Classes of Identifiers
- Usability
- Granularity and the FRBR model
- The *Name* is not the *Thing*
- Identifier Opacity

# WorldCat.Org is OCLC's global library consortium catalog

- Functional requirements for Identifiers in WorldCat:

  - Canonical identification of resources
  - Global scope
  - Connect to resource location (through holdings information)
  - Broadcast global library branding
  - Provide highly usable, 'hackable' identifiers through the use of predictable patterns
  - Support granularity appropriate to library assets
    - FRBR entities
  - Provide identifiers suitable to aggregating social bibliographic data (tags, reviews, recommender systems)

# Canonical Identification

- Multiple canonical identifiers dilute social bibliography

    But

- Multiple identifiers make it easier for people to get to a given resource

    - http://worldcat.org/oclc/26160663
    - http://worldcat.org/isbn/083890596X

# Branding is important

- Embedded branding compromises long term persistence

But

- Branding is critical to value recognition, provenance, and trust
  - Global library brand
  - Trusted source of information
  - Alternatives to online bookstores

# Every Identifier is a micro-billboard

http:// WorldCat.org / collection-name / Numeric-Identifier

WorldCat is a global resolution service for persistently
identified library assets

# Hackable Patterns reinforce (extensible) user expectations

http:// WorldCat.org / collection-name / Numeric-Identifier

http://worldcat.org/oclc/

/ISBN/        [numeric identifier]

/profiles/   [numeric identifier]

/lists/        [numeric identifier]

/reviews/   [numeric identifier]

/... ? .../     [numeric identifier]

Principles for identifier design often conflict with one another due to business models, functional requirements, system design.

Compromises are inevitable, but recognition of issues and careful balancing of needs will minimize problems

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Thank you for your attention