## **Special Issue Call for Papers**

### **Cataloging and Classification: Back to Basics**

The cataloging and classification field is changing rapidly. New concepts and models, such as linked data, identity management, the *IFLA Library Reference Model*, and discovery products, are starting to change how libraries provide access to their collections. Yet, to understand these concepts more fully, students and practitioners need to understand the basic theory and history underlying them. For example, what is descriptive cataloging and why is it important? What is the purpose of authority control and how does it help users? How does cataloging work provide value for libraries? This special issue of *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly* will get back to basics by providing readers with targeted introductions to important library cataloging and classification concepts, standards, and issues. Each article will provide a brief history of the topic, a description of the topic and how it is used, its importance in libraries, and discuss current trends and issues. The target audience for these articles will be students, new practitioners, and anyone looking to refresh their knowledge.

**Proposal Abstract Draft**

**Authority Control Today: Principles, Practices, and Trends**

**The Power of Authority Control**

**The Principle and Purposes of Authority Control**

Authority control and the technologies that support its implementation continue to evolve; however, the underlying principles and purposes remain the same. Written primarily for a new generation of technical services librarians, this paper will introduce them to the importance of authority control in library database management, discuss the history, describe current practices, and introduce readers to current trends and issues in the field. Suggested readings for deeper study will be provided.

This paper provides an understanding of the history of authority control in the context of the development of general cataloging practice beginning with basic tenets for the creation and maintenance of a library catalog outlined by Cutter (1876) and the Paris Principles. Emphasis is given to the impact of computerization, enabling more efficient cataloging and improved patron access.

Authority control is explained in the context of cataloging activities and processes to describe information resources. These activities include description, subject analysis, classification, and authority control. Authority control is the process of establishing, through verification and validation, controlled forms of entities (i.e. people, places, corporate bodies, families, subjects, and genres) used to describe information resources. This process creates a database of consistent, unique terms that includes variant terms, related terms, other associated attributes, and sources of information to disambiguate entities.

This paper will describe the various ways libraries maintain their authority database (i.e. authority file) including via batch loading, partnering with library vendors, participating in cooperative cataloging programs (e.g. PCC, NACO, SACO, etc.), and manually editing records one by one. Individual libraries create and maintain this authority database in connection with their integrated library system. Libraries also need to consider how archival authority structures complement bibliographic authority records and how these can work together in their discovery system.

The importance of authority control lies in establishing and maintaining consistent, reliable, and unique terms. The authorized terms in the authority file act as a controlled vocabulary supporting users’ information retrieval needs by bringing precision to searches and collocating related materials in results lists. Examples of benefits to patrons and staff will be shown in the paper.

Current practices and technologies in authority control will be discussed including computer and networking technologies. The move towards the semantic web, linked data technologies, and identity management continues to shape the practices of authority control in libraries. This paper will also introduce the aim to connect library authorities to other real world entities through resources like VIAF, IMDb, Wikipedia, and ISNI. In addition to technological advancements, the paper will address issues relevant to the evolution of ethical authority control practice.

**Bios**

Greg Reeve is the Metadata and Identities Librarian at the HBLL since 2019. Previously he worked as a web developer within the Library's IT division. His professional assignment includes filling the role as the library's NACO coordinator, processing name authority records, monitoring the quality and use of metadata within various library systems, and leading the library in its linked data efforts. His research interests include metadata governance, assessment, and implementation, authority control, and semantic web technologies.

Rebecca A. Wiederhold is the Technical Services Archivist at BYU’s Harold B. Lee Library. She is responsible for cataloging the library’s manuscript collections and maintaining archival authority structures within the library’s archives management system. She currently serves as co-chair of Society of American Archivists’ Standards Committee. In her former life, Rebecca worked as a bibliographic services project manager and account representative with a library services vendor, gaining experience with vendor authority control and cataloging services.

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**Notes**

References to Data from Star Trek in the intro

Once a vocabulary is controlled you can always add multiple variant names to lead to the controlled vocabulary. If you need to update the controlled form to a more modern version you can do so once.

Authority control used to be a hyper-local activity to each library

Automation: be able to make the whole process more efficient; the reality is it becomes more important in a an automated system

If typo in local system it would file fine;

In automated system typos make it undiscoverable

Archival things: digital projects are controlled by systems people or archival people

Entity/identity management; make sure people are represented the same way

Creates new efficiencies but also obfuscates information; so the links become infinately more important

**Future titles?**

**Authority Control: The Next Generation**

**Getting Control of Authority Control**

**Authority control: Is it a library luxury?**

**We Love Authority Control and You Should Too!**