TITLE: What's gender got to do with it? A critique of RDA rule 9.7

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Quarterly Λ Cataloging and Classification

MARC records; our work wasn't boring to this author. Once the bibliographic record was

complete and to the author's liking, we moved on to the authority record. We worked our way	
ing, we moved on to	
the authority record.	
We worked our way	

"cisgender" is a term commonly used to refer to non

female from a glance at the title page, the author's biographical

made no sense that the Library of Congress would be interested in the author's gender; why

didn't want to disclose gender, they would

According to LC, the fact that the author had a "feminine" name was sufficient to direct the

RDA for NACO Catalogers: 2d. MARC 21 in NACO RDA

Authority Records: Personal Names

says, "We're

	assumption" of someone's gender based on their name and biographical information.	equipment? Not who you go to bed with." Polutta goes on to explain how to make a "safe
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alternate labels, RDA's insistence on the relevance of gender as a descriptive attribute reifies

analyzed and critiqued LC classification as "passively hostile"

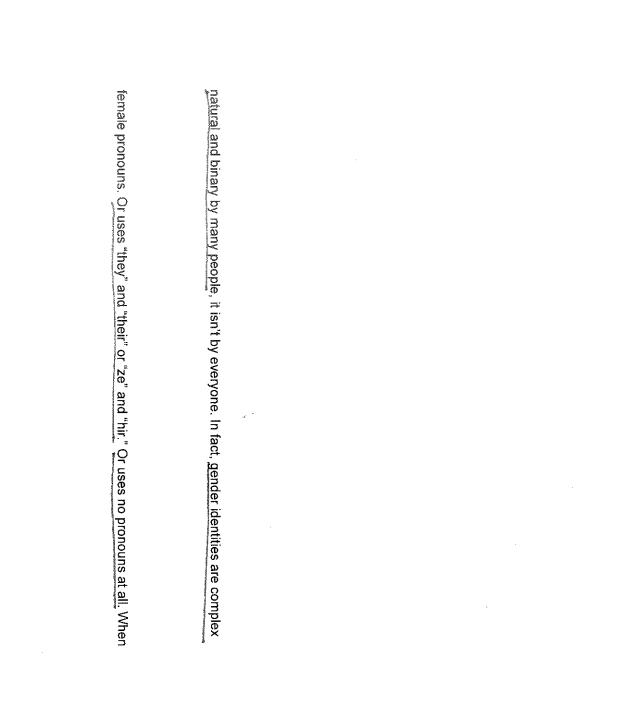
specific directive by NACO to include any information about a person's gender in their authority Λ describe

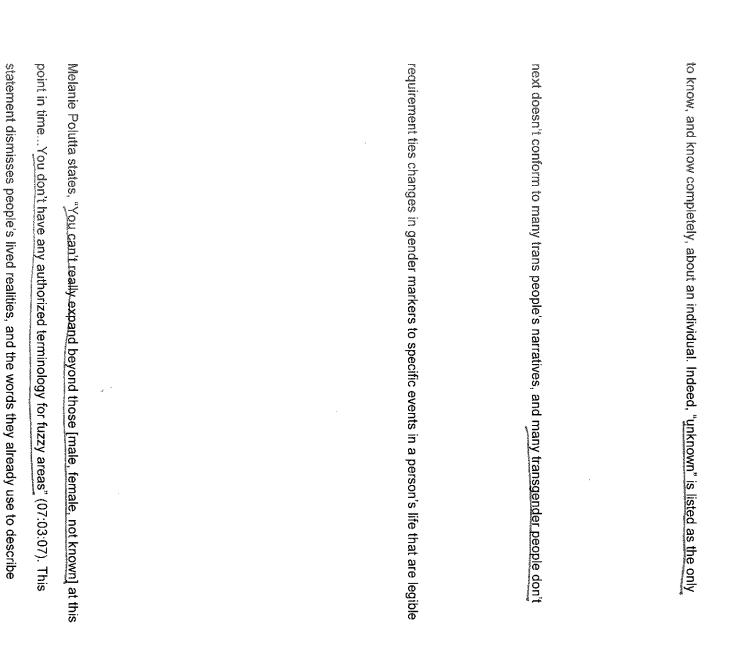
several sources for deriving the list of attributes for persons: IFLA's FRBR and Guidelines for

"appropriate" term (female, male, not known), and, if none of the terms are appropriate, record

In early 2008, ALA's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round

"does not acknowledge the fluidity and variety of possible gender identity or identities of





Chaz Bono's authority record provides a useful example of the problems

authority record has been used as a training example in Ana Lupe Cristán's September 12,

RDA Elements in Name Authority Records (NARs): MARC 21 Fields

have a picture or some other clue it's best not to code this field, but to leave it out." istán begins by suggesting that, "There's not much to say about gender...if you don't

problematic in part because it locates authority about a person's gende

look like

useful for "unisex" and non

, Chaz Bono's authority record to demonstrate how dates can

Cristán experiences Chaz Bono's gender

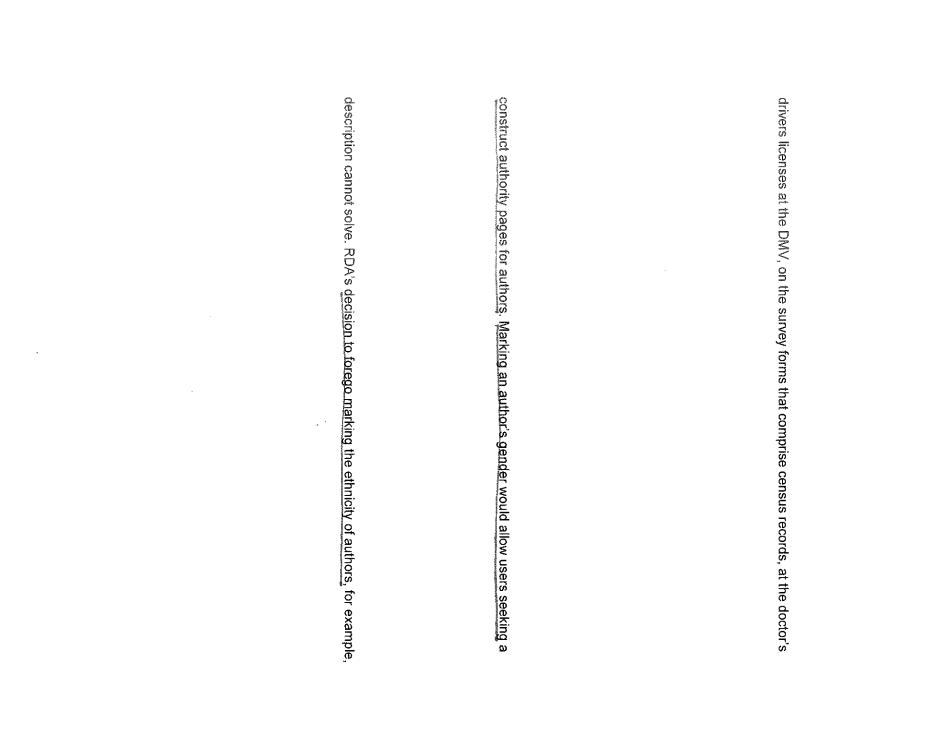
does not account for Bono's lived experience of his gender, which was

"female." While the actual person, Sheldon, may have

ale. In this case, the cataloger has had to seek out the "truth" of Tiptree's gender, Recording Tiptree's gender as female adds

gender as "female."

transgendered; I am just a gay male... I wear women's hair and carry a purse, but I am a work and call himself Big Freedia Queen Diva, in a 2011 interview Big Freedia stated "I am not



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record, catalogers remove that person's	about security alid discrimination. By bildnery floring an autrior's gender transition via autriority

us, the cataloger's impulse to fully describe an item.

simply aren't there.

ender is not a "core" or require

plumbing" of Chaz Bono over t

representation and description of the individual author's authority record. While we see this