INTRODUCTION TO
AUTHORITY CONTROL

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WHAT WILL BE COVERED:

- Authority control basics: terminology, uses, etc.;
- Historical overview of authority control;
- Development of standards;
- Automation of authority control;
- Future directions;
- The global authority infrastructure.
AUTHORITY CONTROL BASICS: TERMINOLOGY

- Authoritative form: a structured heading for a name, title, term, etc. that is preferred over other forms;
- Access point: a data element containing the authoritative form of a name, title, term, etc. that is related to an item;
- Cross reference: an authoritative form of name, title, term, etc. to which a user is directed from a different authoritative form of name, title, term, etc.;
- Tracing: a non-authoritative form from which a user is directed to an authoritative form
EXAMPLES OF AUTHORITATIVE FORMS:

Κατράκης, Πότης
Εθνική Τράπεζα της Ελλάδος
Ελλάδα. Υπουργείον Πολιτισμού και Επιστημών
Δημογραφική Ημερίδα (1984 : Αθήνα, Ελλάδα)
Ακοή
EXAMPLE OF AN ACCESS POINT
(in a bibliographic record):

Κατράκης, Πότης.
Αποκάλυψη θεία : επική ποίηση / Πότη Κατράκη. --

60 σ. ; 24 εκ.

PA5622.A834 A88 1982
84103214
EXAMPLE OF AN AUTHORITATIVE FORM WITH A TRACING AND CROSS REFERENCE:

Geōrgiou, Tasos

Georgiou, Tassos, see Geōrgiou, Tasos

For works in Greek, search under heading Γεωργίου, Τάσος

Introduction to Authority Control 6
AUTHORITY CONTROL BASICS: USES

- Document authoritative forms for librarians;
- Provide cross references and tracings for catalog users;
- Support access point validation by machine;
- Support global update by machine;
- Document treatment of items in collections for librarians;
- Generate secondary products: biographic reference sources, thesauri, etc.
AUTHORITY CONTROL BASICS: TYPES

- Personal name
- Corporate name
- Meeting/conference name
- Geographic name
- Subject term
- Genre/form term
- Chronological term
- Other (facets, functions, occupations, curriculum, etc.)
EXAMPLES OF AUTHORITATIVE FORM TYPES:

- Karamanlis, Costas, 1956- [LC personal name heading for Καραμανλής, Κωνσταντίνος]
- Nea Dēmokratia (Greece) [κόμμα Νέα Δημοκρατία]
- Olympic Games (28th : 2004 : Athens, Greece) [meeting name]
- Thessalonikē (Greece) [place name]
- Hellenism [topical term]
- Aerial photographs [form/genre term]
- 20th century [chronological term]
HISTORICAL OVERVIEW:

- Oldest authority files were manual (non-public, for catalogers);
- Most often included information about prolific authors;
- Used to document bibliographic research and/or tracings;
- Important for common and or easily confused names;
- Sometimes divided by language and/or script;
- Almost always unique and inaccessible to outside users.
DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS:

- British Museum rules (Panizzi's rules), 1841;
- American Library Association (ALA) rules, 1883-1949;
- Rules for Descriptive Cataloging (LC), 1949;
- Anglo-American Cataloging Rules (AACR), 1967;
- Paris Principles, 1961, ISBDs, 1969-present;
- AACR2, 1978 and 1988 revisions;
A.L.A. CATALOGING RULES FOR AUTHOR AND TITLE ENTRIES

  - 1-35 (Choice of entry)
  - 36-70 (Personal names)
  - 71-130 (Corporate names)
  - 131-149 (Miscellaneous bodies--conferences, etc.)
  - 150-156 (Geographic names)
  - 157-158 (References)
ANGLO-AMERICAN CATALOGING RULES

AACR1, 1967 edition contained 15 chapters, 272 rules:

- Rules for entry, chapter 1, rules 1-33;
- Rules for headings, chapters 2-5, rules 40-126;
- Rules for description, chapters 6-15 (monographs, serials, incunabula, reproductions, manuscripts, maps, films, music, sound recordings, images);
- Integrated the A.L.A. rules for names with the LC rules for description.
ANGLO-AMERICAN CATALOGING RULES II

AACR2, 1978, with revisions in 1988 & 2002: 2 parts, 19 chapters, many rules:

- Part I: Description - chapters 1-13 (General rules, books, maps, manuscripts, music, audio, video, graphic materials, electronic resources, regalia, microforms, continuing resources, analytics)

- Part II: Headings, uniform titles, references - chapters 21-26 (Choice, persons, geographic names, corporate names, uniform titles, references)
RDA - RESOURCE DESCRIPTION AND ACCESS

- Successor to AACR, to be published by 2008;
- A new standard designed for the digital world;
- Being developed concurrently with IFLA work to revise the 1961 Paris Principles and the ISBDs;
- Uses FRBR (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records) as a conceptual foundation;
- Will provide rules for the description or items as well as the choice and form of access points.
RDA STRUCTURE

Organization:

- Part I - Resource Description (for all types of material)
- Part II - Relationships (of names with the resource)
- Part III - Access Point Control (formulation of access points and access point control)
- Appendices: capitalization, abbreviations, initial articles, presentation of descriptive data, presentation of access points.
WHAT RDA WILL NOT INCLUDE

- RDA will not include:
  - Provisions for subject access
  - Provisions for classification
  - Instructions on encoding of data in formats such as MARC 21, UNIMARC, or XML
  - Guidelines on handling of holdings information related to specific items (lowest FRBR level).
INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
BIBLIOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION (ISBD)

- Developed beginning in 1969 by the Standing Committee of the IFLA Section on Cataloging;

- ISBD(M), 1971; ISBD(G), 1977; ISBD(A), 1980; ISBD(CF), 1991; ISBD(CM), 1987; ISBD(CR), 2002; ISBD(ER), 1997, formerly ISBD(S), 1974; ISBD(NDM), 1977; ISBD(PM), 1991;

- Now studying an ISBD that would combine provisions of the family into a single document.
AUTOMATION OF AUTHORITY RECORDS

- Machine-readable cataloging (MARC);
- Bibliographic formats: 1969-1976;
- Authorities: A MARC Format, 1976
- Addition of data elements for collected set control;
- Major update simplified control subfield $w$;
- USMARC Format for Authority Data, 1987, 1993;
- MARC 21 Format for Authority Data, 1999.
WHAT WAS AUTOMATED?

- Manual authority/information cards from non-public catalogs;
- Cross references and tracings from public catalogs;
- Guide cards, explanatory references from non-public and public catalogs;
- A variety of heading/reference types was accommodated.
WHAT WAS ADDED?

- Codes data;
- Standard numbers (ISBN, ISSN, STRN);
- Classification/call numbers;
- Form of enumeration and chronology;
- Links to electronic resources (Web sites, etc.);
- Data elements for subdivisions.
FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Virtual International Authority File (VIAF);
- Cooperative project of the Library of Congress, OCLC Inc. and Die Deutsche Bibliothek;
- Reduce cost of cataloging by sharing authority information;
- Simplify authority record creation and maintenance;
- Improve support and access for users of different languages and scripts by linking authoritative forms.
GLOBAL AUTHORITY INFRASTRUCTURE

- IFLA UBC authority principles:
  - Each country is responsible for its own headings;
  - National authority records would be shared freely;
  - Unified standards applied in data creation;
  - Compatible data formats would be used (conversions or "cross-walks" from different formats are essential).
  - Links would control variant national forms of heading.
CHALLENGES

- Lack of international standards;
- Failure to adopt international standards;
- System limitations;
- Language complexities and script differences;
- Size and quality of legacy data files;
- Costs and available financial resources (who has money?)
- Time (solutions were needed yesterday!)