

Arthur Technical Services Committee
April 19, 2006
Westminster College
Minutes of Authority Meeting

Present: Vandy Evermon, Columbia; Tom Schultz, William Woods; Inas El-Sayed, Lincoln; Corinne Caputo, Westminster; and Pat Seavey, Stephens.

The Arthur Technical Services Committee met briefly at Westminster College to discuss problems found in authority records. Pat created a review file (#30) of authority records where `asuppress=d`. There are just over 600 records in the file and most of them are coded incorrectly. When the weekly headings reports sent out they contain blind references. These are authority records where there are no bibliographic records that exactly match the 1xx field. These should be reviewed and coded. There are two choices: keep or delete.

Keep the authority record. This is a heading where there are bibliographic records that have the heading with subdivisions (no bibliographic record has the heading by itself).

Coding for authority records we want to keep:

`acode1= b`

`acode2= -`

`asuppress= -`

Delete the authority record. These are headings where there are no bibliographic records that have the heading included in any form (i.e. alone or with subdivisions).

Coding for authority records we want to delete:

`acode1= -`

`acode2= [code for the correct index, usually "a" for name or "d" for subject]`

`asuppress= d`

At the end of the 1xx field type DELETE

There was some discussion about problem headings we encountered.

Invalid headings where heading really is valid. Often these are acronyms in a 4xx field (e.g., WAR in White Aryan Resistance authority record). Because the system normalizes the headings, it cannot recognize the capitalization. Ignore the report entry.

Authority records that seem to loop. e.g., Babies see Infants and Infants see Babies. Babies is a children's heading and does not belong in the LC subject index. Mark it for deletion. E.g., Scholastic Aptitude Test see SAT (educational test) and see also Scholastic Assessment Test. Scholastic Assessment Test was an old authority record that should have been deleted. When in doubt about a heading, check the authority file on OCLC or LC (authorities.loc.gov).

Death dates. LC has recently started closing dates on authority records when the death date is known. This is a new practice and LC has weekly lists of updated authority records available at www.oclc.org/rss/feeds/authorityrecords/default.htm Quarterly significant change reports should report these. The original 1xx will not appear in a 4xx field in the new authority record:

Old: 100 1 Adams, Ansel, ßd 1902-

New: 100 1 Adams, Ansel, ßd 1902-1984

AACP will not update the bibliographic records. Global update using Index instead of Review file is the best way to update the bibliographic records.

MCO is developing a tutorial to answer questions about death dates in authority records. It should be available soon.

Pat also mentioned bad codes in item records. Some of these bad codes may be the result of a code being deleted but bibliographic records not updated. A slice of item records was searched in Millennium statistics field statistics report to show which fields have bad codes. Libraries are encouraged to create review files of their item records with bad codes and fix them.

Vandy asked if libraries were displaying their order records in the OPAC. Everyone at the meeting said yes, they do that for most order records.

Thanks to Corinne and Westminster College for hosting.

Submitted by Pat Seavey.