

Draft Policy on Authority Control for MOBIUS, Aug. 29, 2000
Prepared by Sue Wartzok and Mary Ann Mercante

One of the goals of MOBIUS is to provide the capability for our users to do a local search that can then be moved to search the central database without re-keying the search. In order for this goal to be realized, there must be uniformity between the headings found in each cluster's database. Authority control of headings is the means of achieving uniformity. Thus, authority control is the primary method of exercising quality control of the MOBIUS union catalog.

Authority work serves the patrons of MOBIUS members by bringing together titles of the same author or titles on the same subject under one standard form of heading. It also serves to separate people, organizations, or subjects that appear to be the same, but are, in fact, different. Authority work provides more efficient searching and retrieval of information. It reduces patron frustration and reduces the chances that patrons will miss records that are in the database.

It is essential that each MOBIUS cluster exercise authority control over its own database. Because the MOBIUS union catalog is a virtual database, bibliographic records cannot be edited in the union catalog. Thus, authority control cannot be done at the statewide level; authority control can only be done at the cluster level. If clusters do not exercise authority control over their databases, their users--and in fact all users of the union catalog--may not be able to find materials which are nonetheless owned by a Missouri academic library.

Even though authority control is actually done on the cluster level, the contract with an authority control vendor will be managed by the MOBIUS Consortium Office.* Each month, the MOBIUS Consortium Office will send to the authority control vendor a copy of the new bibliographic records added during the previous month to the databases of each cluster. Once the headings in these bibliographic records have been processed by the authority vendor, the changed bibliographic records--with their corrected headings--will be added back into each cluster's bibliographic database. The authority records for each name heading (which includes series titles and uniform titles) and each subject heading will also be loaded into each cluster's authority database.

As a result of the authority vendor's work, reports will be generated for each cluster. These problem reports will be divided up among the libraries in each cluster for resolution. Each cluster must agree to a formula which the Consortium Office can use each month to distribute the reports. (See the MERLIN cluster algorithm in section C.2 at URL)
http://merlin.missouri.edu/lso/standard/mqcc_standards.htm

*The Washington University cluster manages its authority control independently of the MOBIUS Consortium Office.

LC
MESH
Cheddis

Basic Principles

1. No library will be expected to perform authority work on types of headings which are not used for their patrons, i.e. libraries using MESH headings will not be expected to do authority work on LC subject headings, or vice-versa.
2. It is the responsibility of each library to resolve the problem headings distributed to them in a timely manner—with the goal of resolving the problems before the report of the next month's problem headings is received. The resolution of some problems may require contacting the inputting library.
3. Headings may be added to another library's bibliographic record, but they are never deleted from another library's bibliographic record unless they are patently wrong.
4. Headings on bibliographic records are changed only in order to correct them to conform to national standards.
5. An untraced series may be changed to a traced series, but a traced series is never changed to untraced. In other words, more is always better--so long as the access points are correctly formulated.
6. In no case will a heading on a national-level authority record be changed, though cross-references may be added.
7. Libraries with access to the OCLC Authority Files are asked to verify and use the Name and Subject Headings as found in the OCLC Authority Files.
8. Libraries without access to the OCLC Authority files are asked to verify and use Subject Headings as found in the printed publications of the appropriate National Library or source (Sears) if they own the printed publication.
9. Subject Headings which deviate from the appropriate National Library or Sears forms may be used, but should be tagged as a 69X heading.

Tag 6XX Indicator 1 (LC Children's Subject Headings)
Currently: Not indexed
Approved: Approved at Sept. 8, 2000 MCDAC meeting to create a new index for Children's Subject Headings

Tags 6XX (Subject Headings)
Currently: 6XX indicators 0 and 2 are included in Keyword Index
Approved: Approved at March 10, 2000 MCDAC meeting to include all 6XX fields in the Keyword index

Tag 970 (Enhanced Table of Contents Note)
Currently: Subfields d f and t included in TOC and Notes index
Approved: Approved at Sept. 8, 2000 MCDAC meeting to discontinue separate TOC and Notes index and to include 970 subfields d f and t in Keyword Index -

970 + t title

NEW INDEXES SUGGESTED:

A. Subject keyword indexes *with drawer*

Subject keyword indexes for each authority-controlled subject thesaurus because, as the virtual database gets larger, recall will increase and precision will decrease. Increased recall is good only to the point that a patron will manipulate the resulting hit list. If recall is too large, then the heading becomes essentially unsearchable.

1. The same text can mean different things in different subject schemes.
2. Sometimes a term is used as a heading in one scheme and as a see reference in another which is confusing to the user.
3. The same text is sometimes used in more than one type of subject heading which inflates the number of hits giving a false impression of the number of works available and making the hit lists harder to manage.
4. Most of the separate subject indexes would not contain foreign words making them more user friendly.

B. All subjects index -- The purpose is to provide a subject index that would include non-LC, MESH, or LC Children's Headings access, such as Chiropractic Subject Headings. Chiropractic and other such subject headings would be available through the general Keyword Search under current plans, but would not be available in any Subject index. *→ Add keyword -*

C. Author keyword index -

An author keyword index at the MOBIUS level. This should include not only corporate authors (110, 111, 710, 711, 810, 811) but also personal authors (100, 700, 800). The reason for including personal authors is that, especially with foreign language authors, the correct access point is not always obvious.

SERIES TITLES *→ use 229*

SUGGESTED INDEXING CHANGES FOR MOBIUS UNION CATALOG – Dec. 4, 2000

Tags 100, 700, 800: (Personal Name Main Entry, Added Entry, Series Entry)

Currently: Subfields abcdeq are indexed in the author index
Subfields afpqt are indexed in the keyword index (mno are also included from the 700 and m and v are also included from the 800)

Subfield a = Name, b= numeration, c=titles, d=dates, e=relator term (i.e. ill.) q=fuller form of name, t=title In the 700, m,n,o=medium of music performance, # of part/section, arrangement for music In the 800 subfield v=vol.

Suggested: Add subfield c (titles, patronymics) to the keyword index, and possibly subfield b (numeration) to the keyword index

Tag 130: (Uniform Title Main Entry)

Currently: All subfields except for 6 and h are retained in the Title Index
Subfields adfgmnoprst are retained in the Keyword Index

Suggested: Add subfield l (language) to the Keyword Index

Tag 260: (Publication Information) - *not B in 1 key word*
Currently: Not indexed

Suggested: Either a Publisher Keyword Index for subfield b or inclusion of the 260 subfield b (Publisher) in the Keyword Index

Tag 502: (Dissertation Note) - *in adv. 1 key word*
Currently: Not indexed
Suggested: Add to Keyword Index

Tag 533: (Reproduction Note) - *5-2 okay But not enough rep. to be considered*
Currently: Not indexed.
Suggested: Include reproducing agency (subfield c) in either Publisher Keyword if one is created, or else in the Keyword Index
Include series (subfield f) in Title and Keyword Index
830

Tags 505, 508, 511: (Contents, Creation/Production Credits, Participant/Performer Notes)

Currently: Separate TOC and Notes index including all subfields
Approved: Approved at Sept. 8, 2000 MCDAC meeting to discontinue separate TOC and Notes index and to include 505, 508, 511 (all subfields) in Keyword index
505 subfield t (title) to also be included in Title Index *also 970 + t*

Tag 586: (Awards Note) *Approved*

Currently: Not indexed.

Approved: Approved for inclusion in Keyword Index by vote at Sept. 8, 2000 MCDAC meeting