Library of Congress

CDS Announcement

ADVANCE NOTICE:
RDA CHANGES TO NAME AUTHORITY RECORDS

To prepare for moving to Resource Description and Access (RDA), the successor cataloging standard to the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR), many changes to authority records will be necessary. The Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) has been leading discussions on authority record changes needed before RDA implementation, in consultation with the Library of Congress, node holders of the LC/NACO Authority File, and other interested parties. Documents relating to these discussions can be found on the PCC website for the PCC Acceptable Headings Implementation Task Group (http://files.library.northwestern.edu/public/pccahitg/).

Although final plans/scenarios are still being discussed by the PCC, because the number of records to be updated is potentially quite large even under the most conservative scenarios, we believe this "advance notice" to subscribers to MDS Names is warranted.

Changes to all name authority records (close to 8.4 million) may be desirable but would require time, staff, and system resources that are likely to be difficult to assemble to meet all of the potential goals:

- All 1XX fields not suitable for use under RDA are clearly identified;
- All records needing field 046 (Special Coded Dates, see http://www.loc.gov/marc/authority/ad046.html) or field 378 (Fuller Form of Personal Name, see http://www.loc.gov/marc/authority/ad378.html) receive them;
- All records whose 1XX field can be made suitable for RDA use by automated means are changed, coded as RDA, and redistributed.

Realizing the challenges in achieving these goals, alternative plans for a phased approach to name authority record changes are nearing completion by the Task Group and are being discussed. Some of the alternate scenarios call for redistribution of significantly fewer records (for example, one scenario includes approximately 630,000 name authority records with no more than 30,000 extra records distributed per day). All changed records will be distributed to ensure synchronization of the authority file.

Subscribers are encouraged to follow the work of the PCC task group at the website listed above or on Facebook, and comment on the alternative plans being developed (number of records, timing of changes, etc.). Some changes could begin as early as Summer 2012, while others may be more closely tied to the PCC's announced "DAY 1" for RDA authorities (currently March 31, 2013).

We will continue to alert subscribers as plans finalize.

Comments may be sent to: Policy and Standards Division
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April 25, 2012