**Authority Control Interest Group – Interest Group Week, March 7, 2023**

The following questions are ones that we were unable to address during our hour together.

1. How relevant do you foresee the authority controls will be for electronic records?
   1. Greg: I may be biased here but I see authority control and authority work increase in need and relevance with electronic records. I can’t guarantee that the nuts and bolts of authority work will continue to look exactly the same as tools and technologies evolve, but there will always be a need to uniquely distinguish entities from one another and bring together related resources. Authority control is exactly designed to achieve these ends both for catalogers and metadata experts as well as for end-user discovery.
   2. Casey: I would agree with Greg. What’s been interesting to see as an Authority Control vendor, though, is that there are an increasing number of libraries that don’t load e-resource MARC records into their ILS and instead utilize other e-resource management tools and are thus not sending records for traditional “Authority control” processing. It will be interesting to see how control of these entities morphs.
2. What about information discoverable on Google that the person in question does not want to be made public, but has been made public without their consent or inadvertently? I would think that would contribute to harm already done.
   1. Guy: This is a tough one. How will we know? Perhaps this is why reaching out to people is important and allows them to help. We can omit what they do not want. At the same time, it is out there. As we link data together, it may be lost cause. I just read a newspaper article that outed 3 people of Gardner's Bricketwood Coven. One used a pseudonym Robert for his creative work and eventually he came out of the closet, using his full and Craft names together. He's lucky as it did not appear to harm his career. Everything we do in the area should be done with caution. It helps being on the inside because people are more willing to have this dialog.
3. If an individual wishes to not be linked to their dead name and the work they did under it should we create individual authorities for the new name and the dead name, even if it is public knowledge? We want to be respectful. Would this be something that could be linked after they are deceased?
   1. Guy: I think if it is known the individual does not want to be associated with their dead name we should honor it. Flexibility in bending the rules is necessary. They would have two - unlinked authorities. Should we add the 670 note in the preferred name stating their wishes to not be linked to their dead name (without mentioned what the dead name is)? Yes, otherwise someone not in-the-know may do it for them. I think linking after they have deceased is ok if it is known. I also think there could be exceptions to the rule. I need to be placed in that situation and make an informed decision. I have created a name heading for one transgender individual that included her dead name in a 400. Her creative work for an Erasure album was not something to dismiss lightly. In the end, she decided.
4. During the live Q&A there was a question regarding the use of “real name” and wondered if “legal name” were a better distinction. There were some great comments that came through that we wanted to be sure to share. So do keep these things in mind as you decide how to described the preferred name of an individual.
   1. “Legal name" has issues in the trans context as not all trans people have access to legal name changes
   2. Just a reminder to folks, that in some cultures, the "legal name" or birth name is the one that actually should be kept secret due to spiritual reasons.
   3. It's also not always easy (or as quick) to get a name legalized, so that could create unnecessary hurdles.
   4. Many people opt not to use a legal name as their AAP.
5. What listservs do you recommend that are authority control-specific? *This was also posed during the live Q&A and a written answer was given*
   1. PCCLIST
   2. CAT-L
   3. RDA-L
   4. AUTOCAT
   5. Facebook group: Troublesome Catalogers and Magical Metadata Fairies does field a lot of authority control related questions
6. Other resource for the use (or not) of Gender in an authority record: <https://loc.gov/aba/pcc/taskgroup/TG-on-Gender-charge.pdf>