

**Technical Services Planning Committee
December 07 Report, Part I**

**ALEPH AUTHORITIES MEETING
TSPC Authorities Subcommittee
November 2 & 3, 2006**

Preliminary Overview of Discussions

Attendees: Priscilla Williams, UF, and Sue Wartzok, FIU, (Co-chairs); Esmer Brown and Bob Sun, UWF; Angela Randtke, Verna Urbanski and Lee Richardson, UNF; Sarah Cohen and Millie Jackson, FSU; Allison Howard and Charles Gordon, USF; Nancy Williams, Gerald Langford, Haiyun Cao and Jean Bostwick, UF; Elaine Winske, FIU; Jeanne Piascik, Eda Correa and Kimberly Montgomery, UCF; Mary Ann O'Daniel, Daniel Cromwell and Charles McElroy, FCLA.

- 1) MeSH. Daniel Cromwell plans to write the overlay routines for the MeSH headings because the ones used in Aleph for the LC headings will not work for MeSH. His goal is to bring the MeSH authorities up to date.
- 2) Aleph subject and series authorities are now current. Mary Ann has started updating name authorities.
- 3) UF and UNF are continuing to share clean-up work after authority overlays, with UNF having created the necessary macros and UF doing the bulk now as the name authorities are updated. In recognition of their work on behalf of all our databases, certificates of appreciation were presented to the following: *Nancy Lynne Williams* (Authorities Guru), *Angela Randtke* (Macro Queen), and *Gerald Langford* (Gentleman Authorizer & Macro Modification King). The Subcommittee also recognized the dedicated, goal-directed work of *Mary Ann O'Daniel* of FCLA as she and her team have focused on loading the files of authority records which backlogged during the STP process. Mary Ann was presented with a box of Thornebrook chocolates to share with her team.
- 4) Since it is not part of FCLA's mission to produce or train others in Macro Express, possibilities for centralized and shared training in this and other areas were discussed. There was also general discussion of the relative roles of FCLA and the individual libraries in centralized authority control.
- 5) Mary Ann reviewed inadequacies of Aleph's programs that match authorities to bibliographical headings and summarized improvements expected in version

18. The group approved plans for coding deleted headings and coding or removing headings based on alternate thesauri (e.g., children's headings). These headings are preventing valid authorities from linking.

6) Mary Ann and Daniel discussed the overlay process and the Aleph reports available for authority work. Mary Ann then demonstrated the new report FCLA has created. There was general discussion about this report and other reports FCLA might be able to create. There was consensus that there needs to be Aleph authority reports to take the place of the NOTIS authority reports before NOTIS can be shut down.

7) Daniel discussed problems with manage-15 (delete unlinked headings), an Aleph service that removes blind authorities from the headings list and streamlines a number of reports. Agreement was made for libraries to test the patch for manage-15 in their local test and/or report regions.

8) Series authority work was discussed with suggestions about how to report untraced series and to share authority work to fill in the gap left by LC's decision to no longer trace series or create or maintain series authorities.

9) Mechanisms for shared decisions and for communication about automatic update of headings on bibliographic records were discussed. FCLA agreed to set up the automatic update mechanisms so that the libraries could test the process in the local test/report regions. There was an agreement to set up a secure blog to communicate in particular about these kinds of updates, and, in general, to share programs and tips and avoid duplication in authority work. Automatic update of headings from authorities must be approached carefully and decisions must be carefully coordinated by the libraries involved.

10) The group agreed that the implementation of Endeca will be a stronger argument than we could make ourselves for the importance of a clean and authority-controlled database. Endeca displays every variant heading separately. Inconsistencies are not only glaringly apparent to our users but they also prevent full retrieval of information because of split files.

--Submitted by Co-chairs: Sue Wartzok & Priscilla Williams, with special thanks to Angela Randtke for her notes.