

**Quarterly Report of the
TSPC Authorities Subcommittee
March 1, 2006**

The TSPC Authorities Subcommittee has discussed the proposal that we organize an authority control workshop. We have decided that the workshop should not be held until fall '06 so that all the Phase 3 libraries will be up and working on Aleph. Mary Ann O'Daniel at FCLA also prefers this timeframe.

We feel that a face-to-face, hands-on training session will be more useful than an e-workshop. Therefore, we propose an afternoon meeting; an overnight stay with time to talk together over dinner; and a morning session the next day. The University of Central Florida is willing to host but, since UCF has no fall break, parking during the semester may be a problem. The subcommittee will work on developing an agenda and finalizing the date and venue during the summer. Perhaps TSPC will not wish to submit the proposal to the Directors at their next meeting

Mary Ann has sent the following report to the Subcommittee about the authority files loads that she has been doing:

The subjects in LCA10 are now current through 2005, week 48. Files are loaded at the rate of one per day; the last week of 2005 should load Thursday March 2. I estimate that the subject backlog will be completed in mid-March. It's possible that the file for 2006, week 10 will load into NOTIS and Aleph on the same day, March 16.

The next subset of the weekly updates to be loaded will be the uniform title and series records. These are defined as records that contain a 130 field or the 008/12 contains something other than "n". According to earlier analysis, this subset is comparable in size (number of records) to the weekly subject files.

I'm looking for volunteers to help with the postload cleanup for titles/series. Angela Randtke and Gerald Langford have done an excellent job with the cleanup for subjects, their area of expertise. I'm looking for series experts now.

I continue to work with Donna Alsbury on a report for each library that lists the bib records associated with the LCA10 records created or updated by a load. We expect this report to be available by the time the title/series backlog is finished loading.

I have downloaded the MeSH update files for 2005 and 2006 and will start the analysis for Mesh loads in the next week or so.

She also updated the Subcommittee on Aleph indexing issues:

While analyzing UF reports of slow or delayed indexing, we found that the LCA10 updates (both the batch loads and the post-load cleanup) cause bib records to be sent to the indexing queue via ue_08 (the process that links bib and authority headings). This occurs even though the authority records don't update bib headings (i.e., UPD is set to N) and is done to support efficient updating of logical base indexes.

The good news is that the indexing resulting from ue_08 gets the lowest priority. Indexing resulting from OCLC loads, GenLoads, or online updates have higher priority.

The not so good news is that indexing changes resulting from batch jobs (e.g., global change, batch delete) and linking/relinking resulting from work in your local authority library have the same priority as the LCA10 updates, so may get stuck behind them. Staff see this as slow indexing. Aleph hasn't slowed; it just has a backlog of indexing to get through before it gets to the changes of interest to your staff.

To ameliorate this, FCLA is loading just one subject update file per day, late in the day. The hope is that the indexing queue will clear out overnight. It'll be interesting to see if title/series and name authorities have a smaller impact on the indexing queues than subjects. ('Why' would be a half-day seminar in itself.) If so, we'll adjust the loads accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Wartzok, Co-Chair