

WEBVTT

00:00:07.050 --> 00:00:20.790

Bob Cullen: Thank you, Rosalyn. So, as, highlighted in recent email announcements, and also towards the end of last month's TLR, today's TLR speaker is,

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00:00:20.870 --> 00:00:31.610

Bob Cullen: is Anders Johnson, the Librarian for the Research Program slash Business Solutions Office at the Montana Department of Transportation. The title of his,

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00:00:31.610 --> 00:00:42.989

Bob Cullen: presentation today is What's in a Name? NACO and Name Authority Work at Montana DOT Library. To start off, before I do formally

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00:00:43.420 --> 00:00:53.729

Bob Cullen: introduce, Anders and figuratively hand him the microphone for a good part of the rest of the hour. I wanted to share some biographical information about him, even though I know

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00:00:53.850 --> 00:01:08.180

Bob Cullen: quite a few of you already know Anders, but I just want to share this information to help get things started here. Anders Johnson is the librarian for the Montana Department of Transportation.

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00:01:08.220 --> 00:01:17.599

Bob Cullen: He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Rhetoric from the University of California, Berkeley, an MLS from Indiana University, Bloomington.

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00:01:17.740 --> 00:01:33.029

Bob Cullen: And a PhD in comparative literature from the University of California, Irvine. He is a member of the Astro Research Advisory Committee and the Transportation Research Thesaurus Advisory Group.

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00:01:33.150 --> 00:01:39.810

Bob Cullen: And he serves as a NACO reviewer for the Montana NACO funnel.

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00:01:40.240 --> 00:01:45.920

Bob Cullen: Previously, Andres taught European studies and composition at the college level.

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00:01:46.030 --> 00:01:58.769

Bob Cullen: And has worked in other special libraries, an art library, a media library, and a law library, quite a diversity there, mostly in a technical services capacity for each of those.

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00:01:58.770 --> 00:02:09.659

Bob Cullen: In his free time, Anders collects and organizes movies. His Blu-ray collection numbers more than 600 titles. That's quite impressive. I just should add,

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00:02:09.660 --> 00:02:23.459

Bob Cullen: Anders is, of course, indeed a very valued member of our transportation libraries community. I've had the privilege, as several of you have too, I believe, of actually getting to,

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00:02:23.460 --> 00:02:33.650

Bob Cullen: not only interact with, Anders by way of the TLR and other virtual events, but also getting to see him in person, at the, transportation

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00:02:33.850 --> 00:02:50.179

Bob Cullen: annual TRV annual library here in Washington, D.C. I think by Mike Hunt Anders, I think you and I have met up with each other at a couple of those meetings. We are very fortunate to have him as a member of our community, and I think we're doubly fortunate to have him as our speaker today.

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00:02:50.180 --> 00:02:59.760

Bob Cullen: So, without any more delay on my part, I'll go ahead and hand the microphone over to Anders Johnson so he can give his presentation. The floor is all yours, Anders.

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00:03:04.280 --> 00:03:05.070

Bob Cullen: Thank you.

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00:03:07.500 --> 00:03:09.060

Bob Cullen: Need to unmute, I believe.

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00:03:12.770 --> 00:03:13.500

Anders Johnson: Okay.

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00:03:14.090 --> 00:03:16.479

Anders Johnson: Can you confirm that you see my slides?

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00:03:16.720 --> 00:03:19.389

Bob Cullen: I see, yep, see the slides fine.

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00:03:19.390 --> 00:03:20.390

Anders Johnson: Okay, perfect.

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00:03:21.340 --> 00:03:33.309

Anders Johnson: So thank you, Bob, for that introduction, and thank you, everyone, for coming today to this TLR. The title of my presentation today is, What's in a Name? NACO and Name Authority Work at the Montana DOT Library.

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00:03:43.210 --> 00:03:55.480

Anders Johnson: So the topic of my presentation today is the Name Authority Cooperative Program, or NACO, Creating Name Authority Records and how I have engaged with this program and practice at the MDT Library.

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00:03:55.750 --> 00:04:13.869

Anders Johnson: From... for this presentation, I will move from general to particular, if that makes sense. So I'm going to talk generally about the idea or concept of name disambiguation and why it is important for libraries. Then I will talk about NACO, which is a specific program that's dedicated to name and identity disambiguation.

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00:04:14.010 --> 00:04:31.550

Anders Johnson: Then I'll get more into the specifics of what a name authority record consists of, since these are kind of the product, if you will, of what NACO works on. And then last, I'll turn to some specific projects at MDT that I've been working on that are somehow related to NACO and name authority records.

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00:04:33.110 --> 00:04:43.200

Anders Johnson: So as a way into this discussion about NACO, I'm going to first discuss name disambiguation at more of an abstract level to make a case for why this is important to us as librarians.

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Anders Johnson: First, I want to begin by posing a question to everyone.

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00:04:49.120 --> 00:04:57.150

Anders Johnson: Most basically, what is a library catalog actually for? What is it supposed to let a user do? And you can just kind of think to yourself.

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00:04:57.300 --> 00:04:58.720

Anders Johnson: For a second.

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00:05:01.090 --> 00:05:02.369

Sarah Zepeda: If you have avocado.

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00:05:02.500 --> 00:05:04.640

Sarah Zepeda: Put some ham on it, dude?

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00:05:05.920 --> 00:05:07.200

Sarah Zepeda: Turkey, the best.

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00:05:08.350 --> 00:05:09.919

Anders Johnson: Yeah. Yeah.

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00:05:09.920 --> 00:05:13.210

Alleman, Rosalyn (OST): Hi, if everybody could mute, please, we'd appreciate it, thank you.

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00:05:14.060 --> 00:05:15.229

Bob Cullen: Thank you, Allison.

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00:05:15.720 --> 00:05:20.029

Anders Johnson: So, according to the International Federation of Library Associations, or IFLA,

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00:05:20.220 --> 00:05:24.030

Anders Johnson: There are 4 user tasks that a catalog needs to support.

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00:05:24.320 --> 00:05:30.160

Anders Johnson: The first task is find, to find entities that correspond to the user's stated search criteria.

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00:05:30.300 --> 00:05:48.680

Anders Johnson: The second task is identified, to identify an entity, i.e. to confirm that the entity described corresponds to the entity sought. The third is to select, to select an entity that is appropriate to the user's needs, and the last is to obtain, to acquire or obtain access to the entity, like, through checking it out or downloading it.

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00:05:48.840 --> 00:05:51.989

Anders Johnson: So these are the four user tasks according to IFLA.

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Anders Johnson: That, in a sense, the whole job of a catalog. Everything a catalog does, it does in service one of these tasks.

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00:05:59.870 --> 00:06:08.299

Anders Johnson: So now I want to pose another question to you in order to illustrate the relation between these IFLA user tasks and the importance of name disambiguation.

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Anders Johnson: So just kind of think to yourselves in your head, how many distinct individuals named John Williams do you think have authored or contributed to works held by libraries?

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00:06:21.650 --> 00:06:25.919

Anders Johnson: Well, it's a bit of a trick question, but if you said a lot, you're definitely right.

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Anders Johnson: So, I did a search in authorities.loc.gov, and so these are distinct John Williams, distinct people named John Williams that are recognized in this database.

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00:06:36.710 --> 00:06:47.390

Anders Johnson: And there were 820 authorized named headings for Williams John, including Williams John, Williams John 1500-1559, 1582-1650, etc.

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00:06:47.490 --> 00:06:51.300

Anders Johnson: And so each of these headings correspond to a distinct person.

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00:06:53.630 --> 00:06:59.480

Anders Johnson: Now, imagine if all 820 of these were just labeled John Williams.

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00:06:59.920 --> 00:07:15.170

Anders Johnson: with nothing to tell these individuals apart. Referring back to those Ferber tasks, especially, I would say, find and identify, it would be quite challenging to find the specific John Williams that you're looking for, because your results in a catalog would look something like that.

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00:07:15.220 --> 00:07:20.450

Anders Johnson: And each of those might be different people, they might be the same people, it would be hard to tell.

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00:07:21.220 --> 00:07:30.289

Anders Johnson: And so this is kind of a diagram, to sort of represent that. So imagine here that we did a search in a catalog for John Williams.

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00:07:31.120 --> 00:07:38.029

Anders Johnson: And... but these names were not distinct. And so we would... we would be returned with the results.

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00:07:38.650 --> 00:07:51.500

Anders Johnson: that looks something like this. We would have, on the left, there's 3 John Williams, and then on the right, John Williams A, John Williams A, John Williams A. So you can see there's kind of two different issues that are going on here.

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Anders Johnson: One is the... what I call collisions, so different names of distinct people potentially overlap.

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Anders Johnson: And so what I mean by that is.

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00:08:01.270 --> 00:08:05.290

Anders Johnson: the first John Williams on the far left, and the John Williams next to it.

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00:08:05.470 --> 00:08:11.810

Anders Johnson: Those may be distinct people, but their names in the catalog overlap, because they're transcribed the same way.

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Anders Johnson: The other issue is variance. So, perhaps there's a person named John Williams A, or he goes by that title.

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Anders Johnson: in one publication, and then there's another publication that he's written, and he just uses his name, John Williams, without the A. So without any kind of name disambiguation, it's going to be difficult to tell if that's the same John Williams, because their names are written differently.

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00:08:38.110 --> 00:08:52.660

Anders Johnson: So just to summarize overall, then, in a library catalog, you want to be able to identify and differentiate between people with

similar or even the same names, so users can find works by a specific person, and not mistakenly retrieve works by other people with similar names.

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00:08:52.820 --> 00:09:03.770

Anders Johnson: At the same time, you also want name variants that all correspond to the same person to be connected or linked together, so that users can find everything by that person without having to search every variant separately.

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00:09:05.530 --> 00:09:20.049

Anders Johnson: So in response to these kinds of problems, librarians perform what is called authority control, which I'm sure is a familiar term to most of you, but in case you're not familiar with it, here's a definition. The procedures by which consistency of form is maintained in the headings.

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Anders Johnson: Names, uniform titles, series titles, and subjects used in a library catalog or file of bibliographic records through the application of an authoritative list.

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Anders Johnson: So most likely, many of you are familiar with the concept, or the idea of a controlled vocabulary, for instance, like the Library of Congress subject terms, or even the Transportation Research Thesaurus.

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00:09:43.730 --> 00:09:50.289

Anders Johnson: And so making sure a catalog's subject terms adhere to a controlled vocabulary is one important aspect of authority control.

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00:09:50.870 --> 00:10:08.560

Anders Johnson: The other aspect, though, is enforcing something like a controlled vocabulary, but for names. And names here is broader than what I've just been talking about so far, which is really people, because if you think about it, names actually can encompass other things, like, for instance, a corporate body, like NCHRP, RTRB.

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00:10:08.570 --> 00:10:14.270

Anders Johnson: It can encompass events, like, I don't know, a war, or a battle, or even a conference.

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00:10:14.400 --> 00:10:18.650

Anders Johnson: They can encompass titles, like the titles of works, the titles of series.

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00:10:18.940 --> 00:10:24.310

Anders Johnson: It can include the names of places, like towns or highways, and more.

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00:10:25.530 --> 00:10:30.600

Anders Johnson: So this is that same diagram from earlier, but now with authority control applied.

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00:10:32.290 --> 00:10:37.419

Anders Johnson: And so you can see we do our sort of search, John Williams, but in this case, there's actually

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00:10:38.000 --> 00:10:41.549

Anders Johnson: The different colors correspond to three different distinct people.

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00:10:41.770 --> 00:10:52.100

Anders Johnson: And so there's a preferred name, Williams John 1500-1559, and Williams John 1932, William John's illustrator. So those are all three distinct people.

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Anders Johnson: And then underneath them, there's different variants of those names, but those variants are all linked back to who that person actually is. And so with

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00:11:02.000 --> 00:11:04.609

Anders Johnson: A catalog that is properly controlled.

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00:11:04.740 --> 00:11:10.899

Anders Johnson: You can imagine that searching and those user tasks of searching and finding and identifying are much...

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00:11:11.240 --> 00:11:12.490

Anders Johnson: more effective.

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Anders Johnson: This is just kind of a real-world example, so a little less abstract. This is... this kind of illustrates the issue of variance from my own catalog.

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Anders Johnson: So on the left, there's... There were multiple different names for the TCRP research report series in my catalog.

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00:11:30.940 --> 00:11:38.139

Anders Johnson: If we were to scroll down further, there would have been even more... more versions of this... of this series, more different entries.

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00:11:38.270 --> 00:11:52.759

Anders Johnson: Whereas on the right, you can see that all of these different items are all consolidated around that same heading. So, what do you think would be more effective from a user standpoint? If they had to scroll through and click every single

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00:11:52.860 --> 00:11:55.399

Anders Johnson: Possible name for this report series.

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00:11:55.890 --> 00:12:01.670

Anders Johnson: And... or if they could just do sort of one search and have everything consolidated under one heading.

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00:12:01.960 --> 00:12:05.580

Anders Johnson: I think most would agree that that second scenario is preferable.

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00:12:06.550 --> 00:12:16.129

Anders Johnson: So now I'm going to turn more specifically to a discussion of NACO, which is a program that has developed to help address the kinds of issues with name disambiguation that I've been talking about.

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00:12:17.410 --> 00:12:33.510

Anders Johnson: But I guess to foreground that, a little bit of history. So these kinds of issues that I'm talking about were recognized early on in the formation of library science. Charles Cutter, in fact, in his Rules for a Dictionary Catalog, tried to articulate specific rules to help disambiguate different names.

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Anders Johnson: For example, Rule 139, distinguish authors whose family name is the same by giving the fore name in full or initials.

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Anders Johnson: So, for example, here, he's saying that it's better for a catalog to give the fuller form of a person's name instead of just an

initial, because that's more descriptive and helps disambiguate between other Taylor Bs.

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Anders Johnson: Another role, he said, is distinguish authors whose family and four names are the same by the dates of their birth and death, or if these are not known, by some other label. So here he's saying that you can actually add even more information aside from just a fuller name, like dates or other kinds of information to really distinguish who this person is.

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00:13:13.820 --> 00:13:15.890

Anders Johnson: And so Cutter was, of course, writing.

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00:13:16.460 --> 00:13:27.800

Anders Johnson: you know, before OCLC or anything like that, where libraries could easily share records in real time between themselves, but the basic idea or problem that he's talking about is similar to what I've been talking about so far.

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00:13:27.940 --> 00:13:38.160

Anders Johnson: And even though the rules he's giving us may be different from what we do today, there's definitely a kind of continuity between what he's saying here and how we approach name authority control today.

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00:13:39.480 --> 00:13:55.389

Anders Johnson: So kind of moving on. So in the card catalog era, libraries did, have some sort of concept of, like, a name authority, but there's no easy way, again, to check whether another library had already settled on a different name form, so this led to inconsistencies.

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00:13:56.560 --> 00:14:06.450

Anders Johnson: And so now, turning to NACO, I'm going to really unpack 3 different terms, and so these are the acronyms, just to foreground that. NACO is the Name Authority Cooperative Program.

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Anders Johnson: NAF is the name authority file, and NARS are Name Authority Records.

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Anders Johnson: And so NACO was established in 1977,

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Anders Johnson: It's a program that is overseen by the Library of Congress and the Program for Cooperative Cataloging.

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Anders Johnson: And this program allows trainers, or trained catalogers from across the country, and even internationally, to create and contribute name authority records to the Library of Congress's name authority file, according to one shared set of standards. The records they create are then shared with libraries throughout the world.

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Anders Johnson: And so this is, kind of like a high-level overview of the history of NACO.

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Anders Johnson: So, like I said, NACA was formed in 1977, and the first, membership in that group was the Library of Congress and the Government Printing Office, and so that was the first collaboration where these two organizations decided to share their name records.

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00:15:02.660 --> 00:15:12.370

Anders Johnson: Moving on into the early 1980s, NACO began to expand and include other... other libraries, but it also expanded conceptually, because in the early 80s.

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00:15:12.670 --> 00:15:23.420

Anders Johnson: NACO decided to include retrospective names, and so what that means is NACO was not creating records just for new authors and new writers, but actual... actually for historical people, so...

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Anders Johnson: For example, Emmanuel Kant or someone like Descartes, people that were already dead, they were getting, these sort of NACO records were being created for them as well.

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Anders Johnson: And then again, in around 83 or 84, there was this kind of conceptual expansion where NACO included now the creation of series names, and so it was no longer just people, but there are other kinds of names that were being included.

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00:15:46.600 --> 00:15:47.580

Anders Johnson: And...

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00:15:47.860 --> 00:16:05.749

Anders Johnson: We also see at the same time, in addition to this kind of conceptual expansion, there's an expansion in membership. So, like I said, in 77, there were only 2 members, but by 1994, there were 55 libraries participating in ACO. In 2004, there were 395. In 2022, 718.

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00:16:05.750 --> 00:16:12.479

Anders Johnson: And, I didn't find a good number for 2026, but the trend, as you can see, is that it's been growing overall.

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00:16:13.660 --> 00:16:21.459

Anders Johnson: So the next thing I want to define is the name authority file. So if NACO is kind of the program, the name authority files

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00:16:21.610 --> 00:16:33.410

Anders Johnson: file is almost like the product, or the file itself, the database, and so the Library of Congress name authority file provides authoritative data for names of persons, organizations, events, places, and titles.

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00:16:33.700 --> 00:16:37.530

Anders Johnson: And so this database actually contains 8 million records.

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Anders Johnson: And like I've been saying, it includes the names of persons, corporate bodies, families, events, places, titles.

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00:16:44.420 --> 00:16:47.240

Anders Johnson: Disambiguated and distinguished from each other.

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Anders Johnson: On the right is a picture that I kind of ripped from the Library of Congress website, but it just kind of shows the pipeline here, where libraries that use OCLC, Sky River, and even the British Library all contribute name records to this name authority file of its Library of Congress database.

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00:17:04.980 --> 00:17:14.429

Anders Johnson: And then that gets distributed back out to those... all those libraries. So the idea is, no matter the kind of system that we're using, all these different libraries can stay in sync.

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00:17:16.400 --> 00:17:23.480

Anders Johnson: And I just wanted to point out that you don't have to be involved with NACO or even have a subscription to OCLC to look at the name authority file.

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00:17:23.849 --> 00:17:36.380

Anders Johnson: If you go to this website, authorities.loc.gov, and you use that kind of drop-down box to say name authority headings, you can search through the database to see what names are in the name authority file.

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00:17:37.920 --> 00:17:49.199

Anders Johnson: And so the last thing for this section I want to define is a name authority record. A name authority record documents the authorized form of a name, the evidence used to establish it, and the variant forms linked to it.

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Anders Johnson: And so name authority records, they are created in MARC, so they're kind of like MARC records, but instead of records for books or movies, whatever, they're for people and places and titles, etc.

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00:18:00.360 --> 00:18:17.100

Anders Johnson: And so I'm going to get a little more into the anatomy of a name authority record in a second, but for now, this is just to say that the name authority record is almost like the... it's really the basic record which goes into that name authority file, and the NACO is that overarching program that coordinates all this activity.

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00:18:20.360 --> 00:18:32.130

Anders Johnson: And then last for this section, I did want to pause for a second to talk about name authority records in relation to work at IDs, which I know is a topic that's been discussed before in this community.

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Anders Johnson: If you use recipes, probably see that a lot of researchers in there have ORCID IDs associated with them. If you help prepare research reports, you oftentimes, in the technical report documentation page, I see that researchers are assigned ORCID IDs.

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Anders Johnson: And so there's some overlap in terms of what these things are doing, so I wanted to kind of compare and contrast for a second.

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Anders Johnson: So, ORCID IDs are created by researchers themselves.

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Anders Johnson: They're not retrospective in nature, they're more of a thing of the present, and they're used to disambiguate authors and link their scholarly publications, grants, and data sets across systems.

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00:19:08.060 --> 00:19:12.420

Anders Johnson: Name authority records, by contrast, are created by librarians or catalogers.

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00:19:12.690 --> 00:19:16.869

Anders Johnson: Like I indicated, they are retrospective, so they include historical names.

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Anders Johnson: They're broader in scope, so it covers names, of course, but not just researchers, you know, illustrators, composers, etc. It also includes family names, corporate body names, series names, etc.

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00:19:29.220 --> 00:19:34.569

Anders Johnson: And ultimately, these are more for facilitating better searching and browsing in a library catalog.

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Anders Johnson: So both of these things are meant to be essentially unique identifiers for names, and they're... they both aim to reduce ambiguity across identical or similar names.

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00:19:45.230 --> 00:19:56.540

Anders Johnson: And so I wouldn't claim that one is better than the other. In fact, I think both are very important for the work that we do, and they ultimately work hand-in-hand with each other, which I'm going to show later when we look at some records.

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Anders Johnson: And so now I'm going to talk a little more specifically about name authority records.

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Anders Johnson: And this is because the name authority record is where the actual disambiguation work happens.

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Anders Johnson: And so this is a lot of information. I'm not going to dwell too much on the specifics, but I wanted to start by just saying, like.

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Anders Johnson: Like a lot of things in library science,

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Anders Johnson: there are a lot of standards and guidance and rules about how to create these sorts of records, and so RDA, if you don't know what that is, that's a metadata input standard, resource description and access, and it provides a lot of guidance on how to create these records.

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00:20:36.670 --> 00:20:47.659

Anders Johnson: And so what we're looking at here is what RDA says is the core attributes of a name authority record. So in other words, this is the minimum amount of things that need to be included in a record.

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00:20:48.470 --> 00:20:56.230

Anders Johnson: And so when you look at this list, the thing that really stands out to me is the preferred name for person, because naturally, if you don't have a name, you don't have a name authority record.

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Anders Johnson: And a lot of these other things that they say are core, they aren't actually really that applicable to transportation libraries from my experience, like...

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00:21:03.720 --> 00:21:09.279

Anders Johnson: For instance, if someone has a title of royalty, so that's not going to be super common in transportation.

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00:21:10.360 --> 00:21:26.320

Anders Johnson: Date of birth and date of death, that might happen if we're cataloging, you know, retrospective or historical names, but typically in a research report, we're not going to see that kind of information. You know, there's not too many Christian saints that I know of that are contributing to transportation research.

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00:21:26.710 --> 00:21:28.549

Anders Johnson: And then,

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00:21:28.980 --> 00:21:35.389

Anders Johnson: Profession or occupation, but it's qualified by saying when the name itself doesn't convey the idea of a person.

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Anders Johnson: So this is actually not necessary unless the name itself doesn't really sound like a name. So I was trying to think of an example of this, and if you recall, a TV show from the early 2000s called Pint My Right, there was a host of that show called Exhibit, which doesn't necessarily, to me, convey a name.

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00:21:53.530 --> 00:22:03.480

Anders Johnson: Unless you have a little context to understand who that is. So in that case, I haven't looked at his NAR, but I imagine there's some kind of qualifier to indicate... to give a little more information and indicate that this is a person.

147

00:22:05.700 --> 00:22:25.629

Anders Johnson: But going on, so RDA does say, if a preferred name is the same as or similar to a name by which another agent is known, then you have to differentiate them using as many of these elements as necessary. So in other words, if there is that sort of collision or overlapping of names, then you need to add a little more information to help really disambiguate those people.

148

00:22:26.350 --> 00:22:37.499

Anders Johnson: So, for example, using a fuller form of a name, maybe you can include a middle name or initials of a middle name. Maybe you can include information about their profession or occupation.

149

00:22:39.190 --> 00:22:44.290

Anders Johnson: And so here I'm gonna talk about, what a NAR is, and...

150

00:22:44.520 --> 00:22:52.230

Anders Johnson: Where do we get the information from for creating these? Well, RDA, again, says you have to use the title page of a work, a title sheet, title card.

151

00:22:52.710 --> 00:22:58.359

Anders Johnson: And again, a lot of details, but the key... the key thing here that it's saying is that when we're choosing a preferred name.

152

00:22:58.800 --> 00:23:11.829

Anders Johnson: it's really what occurs most often, or most commonly. So you can see most commonly found, most manifestations, most commonly known. So whatever name appears most commonly in publications, that's what we're going to lean towards for a preferred name.

153

00:23:12.500 --> 00:23:15.180

Anders Johnson: And so here's some really super basic examples.

154

00:23:16.330 --> 00:23:28.829

Anders Johnson: This is a book by our historian at NDT, John Axein, and he has a name authority record, and so his preferred name, or the preferred name that a cataloger assigned him was Axeline John, and so that's just saying that

155

00:23:29.080 --> 00:23:33.070

Anders Johnson: In the majority of his publications, that's the... that's the name that he uses.

156

00:23:34.110 --> 00:23:36.260

Anders Johnson: Here's another example, Urban Shope.

157

00:23:36.780 --> 00:23:41.610

Anders Johnson: Irvin Shope was an illustrator and artist who worked for NDT in the 50s.

158

00:23:41.810 --> 00:23:46.750

Anders Johnson: So again, Cataloger determined that that was the most common form of his name.

159

00:23:47.150 --> 00:23:53.070

Anders Johnson: And then last, Finley Carey, so this is an example of a recent research report that I catalogued.

160

00:23:53.170 --> 00:23:56.090

Anders Johnson: And so this is that researcher's name heading.

161

00:23:56.890 --> 00:24:03.970

Anders Johnson: These are kind of some... some non-transportation examples, just to highlight some... some... some quirks, if you will.

162

00:24:04.570 --> 00:24:20.650

Anders Johnson: So it's... this... I thought this was interesting, Aristotle, there's no first and last name, we just kind of know him by one name, so his heading is just Aristotle. Here's an example where, actually those birth and death dates were available, so they were included to help disambiguate who this person is.

163

00:24:21.350 --> 00:24:23.030

Anders Johnson: Here's an example.

164

00:24:23.170 --> 00:24:28.649

Anders Johnson: Where the birth and death dates were included, and the fuller form of the name, Emil.

165

00:24:29.330 --> 00:24:42.349

Anders Johnson: So basically what it's saying is the cataloger determined that EM Turan, that's the most common form, but potentially that could overlap with another person because of... it's just initial, so they included that fuller form of the name to help disambiguate.

166

00:24:43.370 --> 00:24:58.660

Anders Johnson: And then here, of course, another John Williams, and this one just says physical anthropologist. So to me, what that indicates is the catalog are kind of determined a birth and death date, so they kind of chose the next best thing, which is their occupation, a physical anthropologist.

167

00:25:01.300 --> 00:25:04.339

Anders Johnson: And so next, I'm going to talk about variant... variant names.

168

00:25:04.510 --> 00:25:11.140

Anders Johnson: If you're familiar with the TRT, in a way, these are almost kind of, like, non-preferred terms that you might see there.

169

00:25:11.980 --> 00:25:17.319

Anders Johnson: RDA says that these are not... these are not core, they're not essentially required, but they are helpful.

170

00:25:17.570 --> 00:25:19.849

Anders Johnson: With retrieval and disambiguation.

171

00:25:20.220 --> 00:25:37.640

Anders Johnson: So to give some examples from our MGT names, so John Axeline has a variant name, Jonathan Allison... Jonathan Allen Axeline. And so what that's saying is somewhere out there, there's a publication or a book where that name is used, it just was determined that that's not the most commonly or preferred name.

172

00:25:38.220 --> 00:25:40.789

Anders Johnson: And then, interestingly, Erwin Shope,

173

00:25:41.650 --> 00:25:50.839

Anders Johnson: may be wondering why it says Shorty Shope. Well, Urban actually had a nickname that he commonly went by, which is Shorty Shope, and so that appears somewhere out there in some publications as well.

174

00:25:51.450 --> 00:25:59.780

Anders Johnson: And then to turn to our non-transportation examples, Aristotle has a lot of different variants in other languages. You can imagine, like, here's the French variant.

175

00:26:00.450 --> 00:26:12.729

Anders Johnson: And then that author, Walter Benjamin, he actually got a pseudonym, and so if you look at his record, his pseudonym is listed as a name variant. And so the idea is when you... if you were to do a search for a deadly... deadly Holtz.

176

00:26:13.010 --> 00:26:23.509

Anders Johnson: It would return... if this authorized name is being used, then it would help return, everything by Walter Benjamin as well, so they would all be kind of grouped together and consolidated.

177

00:26:26.000 --> 00:26:29.409

Anders Johnson: And there are many other fields that one can use that are really more optional.

178

00:26:29.730 --> 00:26:45.670

Anders Johnson: But some of them, I think, are helpful for disambiguation, and so these are some of the most common ones that I've used and that I see. So you can include information about the place with which a person or whatever it is you're creating record for is associated, the field of activity.

179

00:26:46.060 --> 00:26:47.729

Anders Johnson: an associated group.

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00:26:48.250 --> 00:26:53.259

Anders Johnson: An occupation, and even a language, if perhaps they publish in different languages.

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00:26:53.890 --> 00:26:57.169

Anders Johnson: And so here's my Findlay Carey example from earlier.

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00:26:57.290 --> 00:27:00.090

Anders Johnson: And so when you look at this record, we can see that

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00:27:01.280 --> 00:27:07.280

Anders Johnson: This person is associated with Bozeman, Montana, which is where the Montana State University is.

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00:27:07.980 --> 00:27:12.439

Anders Johnson: Their field of activity is transportation research and traffic safety.

185

00:27:13.160 --> 00:27:21.089

Anders Johnson: their associated groups, again, at Montana State University and the Center for Health and Safety Culture, and then their occupation, scientists.

186

00:27:22.050 --> 00:27:31.449

Anders Johnson: Now, I wanted to point out, too, when you look at this, kind of record or mock-up of a record, you'll see the little dollar signs, and then an acronym, like \$2NEF.

187

00:27:32.070 --> 00:27:47.299

Anders Johnson: And so that stands for Name Authority Record. And so what that is saying is that is the controlled vocabulary from which these terms are being taken. So if we look at this record, we see that Bozeman, Montana, that's actually another record in the name authority file that's being referred to here.

188

00:27:47.480 --> 00:27:56.859

Anders Johnson: And then if you look below that at the 372, it says LCSH, Library of Congress Subject Headings, so those terms are all being pulled from the Library of Congress subject headings.

189

00:27:57.080 --> 00:28:09.560

Anders Johnson: And then, last 374, you see LCDJT, that's the Library of Congress demographic group terms, which is kind of like a controlled vocabulary for occupations, I guess. And so it's interesting,

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00:28:09.560 --> 00:28:18.279

Anders Johnson: Then to see is just how all these different controlled vocabularies are all working in conjunction with each other to help really enhance and enrich this record.

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00:28:19.570 --> 00:28:24.789

Anders Johnson: Last, for this part, and I think what's really important is that

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00:28:24.900 --> 00:28:39.860

Anders Johnson: Every name authority record needs to cite its sources, so this information that we've been looking at, it's not something that we just kind of make up as catalogers or librarians, but you really need to

actually cite it inside the record, and so that's what this last field kind of does.

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00:28:40.800 --> 00:28:50.639

Anders Johnson: And so, that record for Carrie Finley, all of that information was really taken from two sources. It's taken from the research report that she helped publish or helped write.

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00:28:50.970 --> 00:28:57.060

Anders Johnson: And then you can see below that, it's... the rest is actually taken from our ORCID ID, and so this is kind of what I was alluding to earlier.

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00:28:57.270 --> 00:29:04.350

Anders Johnson: The ORCID IDs can actually be a great source of information, or a great source of truth when you're creating these name authority records.

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00:29:07.090 --> 00:29:13.559

Anders Johnson: And here's... here's an example of what it looks like all put together. We already kind of went over this in the different fields.

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00:29:14.680 --> 00:29:26.130

Anders Johnson: And I just wanted to end on this section by saying that, like I've been saying, you know, NARS are more than just people. So here's an example of a corporate body example, like the National Cooperative Highway Research Program.

198

00:29:27.910 --> 00:29:32.240

Anders Johnson: And a lot of these fields look similar. You can see, like, a variant name, NCHRP,

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00:29:32.360 --> 00:29:37.239

Anders Johnson: National Cooperative Highway Usage Program. You can see there's a source, a 670.

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00:29:38.200 --> 00:29:45.750

Anders Johnson: There's also a series name examples, so here's NCHRP Research Report, which is pretty similar in terms of the fields.

201

00:29:46.110 --> 00:29:50.259

Anders Johnson: And then here's a place name example, the Beartooth Highway, Montana and Wyoming.

202

00:29:53.110 --> 00:30:01.930

Anders Johnson: So last, I'm going to now turn to a showcase, I guess, of some projects at the MDT library that have somehow engaged with NACO and name authority control.

203

00:30:02.610 --> 00:30:04.580

Anders Johnson: So, just a little background.

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00:30:05.390 --> 00:30:09.109

Anders Johnson: The MTT Library is part of something called the Montana NACO Funnel.

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00:30:09.260 --> 00:30:18.449

Anders Johnson: And the Library of Congress defines a NACO funnel as a group of libraries that have joined together to contribute name authority records to the national authority file.

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00:30:19.120 --> 00:30:27.210

Anders Johnson: Frequently, funnel members create records in modest numbers and consolidate their efforts to make a more significant contribution in terms of quality.

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00:30:27.360 --> 00:30:28.490

Anders Johnson: And so...

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00:30:29.230 --> 00:30:42.689

Anders Johnson: Since I'm just a solo librarian by myself, I'm not really producing these records at the same quantity as, like, a large university, so it makes sense to join this NACO funnel, where multiple libraries all contribute their records together.

209

00:30:43.190 --> 00:30:57.719

Anders Johnson: And right now, this NACO funnel includes our library, MDT library, the University of Montana Library, a few public libraries, and then soon I hear, University of Montana, or not Montana State, rather, is going to be joining as well.

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00:30:58.510 --> 00:30:59.690

Anders Johnson: And so...

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00:30:59.900 --> 00:31:06.240

Anders Johnson: I asked the librarian who helps coordinate this, and she said that it was... she didn't have an exact start date, but she said it was started...

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00:31:06.430 --> 00:31:13.229

Anders Johnson: before RDA, so we can guess that at some point before 2013, the Montana NACO funnel was created.

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00:31:13.820 --> 00:31:18.270

Anders Johnson: In 2024, I took a NACO training with the Library of Congress.

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00:31:19.270 --> 00:31:24.400

Anders Johnson: And at that point, I then joined the Montana Naka Funnel and started creating these name authority records.

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00:31:24.940 --> 00:31:30.389

Anders Johnson: And then, in 2025, due to various, kind of, retirements or people leaving their positions, I got

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00:31:30.590 --> 00:31:43.250

Anders Johnson: kind of promoted, if you will, to make a reviewer, and so what that means is when... when the other libraries in the funnel create these records, they send them to me first, and I review them just to make sure they look good, and then they get submitted to that name authority file.

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00:31:45.900 --> 00:31:48.319

Anders Johnson: And so now I'm gonna turn to some projects.

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00:31:49.520 --> 00:31:52.899

Anders Johnson: And so this first project was the Researcher Games project.

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00:31:53.390 --> 00:32:02.579

Anders Johnson: And so for this project, I reviewed MDT research reports and the authors that contributed to them against that National Name Authority file.

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00:32:02.880 --> 00:32:07.029

Anders Johnson: And I created new name authority records for uncontrolled researcher names.

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00:32:07.590 --> 00:32:16.980

Anders Johnson: Why? Well, not many institutions in Montana are creating name authority records for Montana-based authors and researchers, especially for grade literature like EOT research reports.

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00:32:17.430 --> 00:32:30.490

Anders Johnson: Controlling these names makes retrieval in our catalog more consistent, like I've been talking about. And then last, sharing these consistent headings with other institutional repositories that have mark-based catalogs and periods retrieval in those catalogs as well.

223

00:32:31.850 --> 00:32:50.180

Anders Johnson: So, for example, all of our research reports are stored also in the Montana State Library's digital archive. So, by creating these name authority records, it enhances the MDT catalog, but also the State Library's catalog, and any other library that is going to catalog these resources.

224

00:32:50.960 --> 00:32:54.019

Anders Johnson: And so the workflow for this, this actually started last year.

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00:32:54.240 --> 00:33:10.859

Anders Johnson: When I had a summer intern, Allie Christensen, and her and I went through the collection of research reports, and we locked the names into an Excel database, the intern then checked each name against the name authority file to see if it existed, if it didn't exist, or if it was kind of ambiguous or difficult to determine who they were.

226

00:33:11.160 --> 00:33:16.450

Anders Johnson: Then we... I then created new name authority records using the database as a reference.

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00:33:16.930 --> 00:33:31.240

Anders Johnson: In 2026, I had another Summit intern, Quinn Doyle, and so her and I, I updated that database for 2026, and then, in this case, I actually trained the intern on RDA elements and OCL bibliographic formats.

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00:33:31.380 --> 00:33:37.490

Anders Johnson: And I had her... I sort of created a template, which she then copied over and helped create a lot of these in ours.

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00:33:38.150 --> 00:33:43.880

Anders Johnson: And so the intern saved those to OCLC online save file, then I reviewed them, we submitted.

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00:33:45.110 --> 00:33:47.330

Anders Johnson: And we submitted them to the name authority file.

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00:33:47.620 --> 00:33:58.149

Anders Johnson: And so this is an ongoing project. Once a month, our ALS pushes through authority updates automatically, applying the new name authority records to control previously uncontrolled names in our catalog.

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00:33:58.370 --> 00:34:01.359

Anders Johnson: Some names still remain and need to be created.

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00:34:02.060 --> 00:34:11.840

Anders Johnson: And I won't spend too much time on these, because they look pretty similar to that Carrie Finley example from earlier, but just... here's a few example... examples of some of the records we've been creating.

234

00:34:12.239 --> 00:34:16.269

Anders Johnson: So again, you can see the ORCID ID was a good reference in this case.

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00:34:18.350 --> 00:34:29.390

Anders Johnson: This one's maybe interesting, because here I actually had to look at this person's LinkedIn, to get some of this information, which they posted publicly, like their, you know, educational history and their occupation.

236

00:34:30.860 --> 00:34:42.500

Anders Johnson: And this is maybe another good example, because in this case, I looked at the ORCID ID, but also their, kind of profile on the... on their professor profile on the university's website.

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00:34:44.679 --> 00:34:45.760

Anders Johnson: And...

238

00:34:46.000 --> 00:35:01.299

Anders Johnson: admittedly, I didn't have the foresight to do, like, a before picture here, but we can see, you know, Finley Carey, it's all consolidated. There's 12 results, and they're all consolidated around that same author heading, so all of that... that name, Finley Carey, is now controlled.

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00:35:02.250 --> 00:35:07.540

Anders Johnson: And so, just to show some stats, 225 reports were reviewed.

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00:35:07.750 --> 00:35:18.899

Anders Johnson: 84 of those reports, we found had 198 uncontrolled or potentially uncontrolled researcher names. So, in other words, some of them we weren't quite sure about and had to do additional research.

241

00:35:19.160 --> 00:35:23.060

Anders Johnson: So once we did that research, we found that 54 already had an R.

242

00:35:23.170 --> 00:35:26.990

Anders Johnson: We created 83 new NARs, and then 61 still to go.

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00:35:28.610 --> 00:35:33.239

Anders Johnson: The next project I'm going to highlight is our... was my, kind of, research report series.

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00:35:35.710 --> 00:35:43.839

Anders Johnson: And so what this is, I wanted to establish a controlled series heading for MDT's own research reports, so it's kind of related to the same collection I've been talking about.

245

00:35:44.170 --> 00:36:00.619

Anders Johnson: Why? Reports like these often lack a formally printed series title, so it's easy for the way it's recorded to drift between catalogers and institutions over time. A controlled heading keeps every report in the series consistently retrievable together in our catalog and in any other repository that holds the same reports.

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00:36:01.950 --> 00:36:07.929

Anders Johnson: And so the scope, it's really one record that I'm creating, but it applies to those 220-plus research reports.

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00:36:08.700 --> 00:36:12.669

Anders Johnson: Here's an example of what the record looks like.

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00:36:12.910 --> 00:36:14.479

Anders Johnson: For that series name.

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00:36:15.210 --> 00:36:20.869

Anders Johnson: Even though it's just one record, the work was actually a little more involved. This goes back to 2024.

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00:36:20.980 --> 00:36:38.309

Anders Johnson: Because when I started at NDT, there was nothing like a comprehensive list of every research report that, has been produced by NDT. So what I needed to do first is compile a comprehensive list of NDT research reports previously scattered across several discovery points with no single comprehensive source.

251

00:36:38.600 --> 00:36:42.780

Anders Johnson: And so the sources that I looked through, of course, were our own catalog and physical collection.

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00:36:43.060 --> 00:36:52.320

Anders Johnson: I looked at MDT's website, but unfortunately, they only keep up the last 5 years of research projects, so that didn't give me much insight into historical projects.

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00:36:52.550 --> 00:36:58.030

Anders Johnson: I also used the Internet Wayback Machine to look at earlier website versions and find older reports.

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00:36:58.140 --> 00:37:09.859

Anders Johnson: But that really only goes back to 2004. So then I also looked at Rosa P, and especially the Montana State Library's web archive, to find those kind of outliers and really old reports that had been digitized.

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00:37:11.950 --> 00:37:22.379

Anders Johnson: And so after doing this, we created... I created that series name authority record that I showed on the previous slide, and then I updated all of the reports to have the same

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00:37:22.780 --> 00:37:33.539

Anders Johnson: the same series in their... in their mark records. So you can see in this picture, I guess it's... it's pretty small, so I apologize for that, but if you look at the three results here, each one has the same series name.

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00:37:33.540 --> 00:37:47.840

Anders Johnson: And there's actually 227 of them now, and so they're all consolidated around that, that series heading, and so that really helps with retrieval to just have sort of one... one link that someone can click and retrieve all of these and not have any false positives.

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00:37:50.000 --> 00:37:54.430

Anders Johnson: And then the third and last project I'll highlight is our, kind of, historical names project.

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00:37:55.960 --> 00:38:04.330

Anders Johnson: And so, this year, I've been trying to build a new archival collection for our library. It's called the Promotional and Tourism Materials Archive.

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00:38:04.660 --> 00:38:13.259

Anders Johnson: And these materials are coming from MGT's historian, who's retiring, unfortunately for us, but fortunately for him.

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00:38:13.950 --> 00:38:23.959

Anders Johnson: And so, along the way, and along with creating this archive, we're trying to create new authority records for those reoccurring, kind of retrospective names that we are discovering in the collection.

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00:38:24.310 --> 00:38:30.980

Anders Johnson: And why we're doing this is because archival material is oftentimes more unique. It's the kind of source,

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00:38:31.250 --> 00:38:38.530

Anders Johnson: It's the kind of source that authority control can miss, and... because it doesn't often appear in standard published literature.

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00:38:39.500 --> 00:38:50.460

Anders Johnson: And so doing this also, of course, like everything, it aids retrieval and links related materials together, and it helps preserve institutional memory, of course, especially as people with decades of knowledge are about to retire.

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00:38:51.150 --> 00:38:52.789

Anders Johnson: And here is actually...

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00:38:52.900 --> 00:38:57.749

Anders Johnson: I'll highlight this. This is a... it was actually an envelope, so this is kind of like some ephemera.

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00:38:58.350 --> 00:39:02.739

Anders Johnson: And it was illustrated by Urban Shope, who's that guy I mentioned earlier.

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00:39:05.460 --> 00:39:22.239

Anders Johnson: And so the workflow for this, it's more than just creating NARS, of course, but... so we retrieved the donated materials from the historian, we established this archival collection, we created a

finding aid detailing all the materials, but in doing that, we also noted various names and contributors.

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00:39:22.640 --> 00:39:31.519

Anders Johnson: We arranged the archival collection. We sent many of the items to the Transportation Research and Connectivity Pool Fund to be digitized in Internet Archive.

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00:39:31.720 --> 00:39:37.499

Anders Johnson: And then while processing these materials and writing the finding aid, we identified those names to create an RS4.

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00:39:38.450 --> 00:39:53.900

Anders Johnson: And so we created NARS for many notable figures, so they're discoverable in the catalog with all the materials by them, or that it contributed to easily grouped together. And on the right is just a team's conversation with my intern. We were trying to find some people that would be good to create these records for.

272

00:39:56.170 --> 00:40:01.250

Anders Johnson: And here in practice is one that we created for Lewis M. Chittum.

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00:40:01.660 --> 00:40:09.759

Anders Johnson: throughout a few publications that we've encountered, and I guess back in the day, he was really a known quantity. He was a highway engineer at NDT, and

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00:40:09.760 --> 00:40:22.360

Anders Johnson: Interestingly, after he retired, he... he lived in Vietnam for a while, and according to some... a source I read, he helped establish the Department of Transportation in Vietnam. So he had kind of an international influence, if you will.

275

00:40:23.370 --> 00:40:32.469

Anders Johnson: And again, if you look at the 670s, I found a finding aid from the Montana Historical Society that gave a lot of good biographical information.

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00:40:32.470 --> 00:40:44.370

Anders Johnson: So an implication here is that, in addition to helping my catalog, this would also help the Historical Society's catalog, because they could use this, now this authorized name, to kind of group their materials together in their catalog, too.

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00:40:45.610 --> 00:40:53.529

Anders Johnson: And so, in conclusion, name authority work is important for catalogs and databases in terms of enhancing the discoverability of resources.

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00:40:54.110 --> 00:41:04.160

Anders Johnson: I tried to show that the issues that arise from uncontrolled names has been broadly recognized in library science for some time. It's not a new problem. But with NACO emerging as a cooperative program.

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00:41:04.560 --> 00:41:12.350

Anders Johnson: This is... or NACO has emerged as a cooperative program to respond to these issues on a large scale, and in a coordinated way.

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00:41:12.760 --> 00:41:25.070

Anders Johnson: And I wanted to show to you that really any project that involves names in a broad sense, potentially touches or engages with name authority work, from cataloging research reports or archiving historical materials to cataloging places, events, etc.

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00:41:25.900 --> 00:41:32.660

Anders Johnson: I also wanted to point out that if you're interested in kind of contributing to this effort, there's various levels of involvement.

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00:41:32.830 --> 00:41:48.919

Anders Johnson: even if you're not a librarian, maybe you're just a research program manager or a project manager, ensuring that all of your researchers have ORCID IDs is helpful to this effort, because it can... those can serve as a good reference or source of truth when librarians create these records, like I showed a few examples of that.

283

00:41:50.320 --> 00:41:59.520

Anders Johnson: like I pointed out earlier, anyone can access that name authority file, so if you do have a catalog that you manage, you can use those name authority records to help better control the names in your catalog.

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00:41:59.870 --> 00:42:07.879

Anders Johnson: And then last, if you're really interested, there's a training with the Library of Congress you can take, to help create... to begin creating these NARs and potentially

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00:42:08.090 --> 00:42:14.639

Anders Johnson: You know, every state's different, but you could look into if your state has some kind of funnel, like the Montana NACA funnel, that you could potentially join.

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00:42:15.760 --> 00:42:20.520

Anders Johnson: And so, in conclusion, I want to give just some words of wisdom from our friend Charles Cutter.

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00:42:20.870 --> 00:42:26.329

Anders Johnson: The condition of the librarian whose library is uncataloged is indeed pitiable.

288

00:42:26.590 --> 00:42:28.210

Anders Johnson: So I like that quote a lot.

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00:42:29.360 --> 00:42:30.889

Anders Johnson: That's my presentation.

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00:42:33.070 --> 00:42:42.909

Bob Cullen: Excellent, Anders. Thank you so much, and I love that Charles A. Cutter quote there. Very on target, even well over a century later.

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00:42:44.070 --> 00:42:53.380

Bob Cullen: But, we do have time for, questions and comments, for Anders, and so if, if you want to just do the,

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00:42:53.590 --> 00:43:09.270

Bob Cullen: the electronic show of hands, if you have anything you want to, share with all of us and Anders, or ask any questions for Anders, please, go ahead and... go ahead and do that.

293

00:43:09.310 --> 00:43:16.479

Bob Cullen: Well, we're, we're waiting there, Anders. just a, just a wonderful,

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00:43:16.920 --> 00:43:29.210

Bob Cullen: Just a wonderful presentation, a very user-friendly presentation in terms of the way you very effectively, mapped out the whole issues here, and...

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00:43:29.210 --> 00:43:38.549

Bob Cullen: and what's what, and how things originated, so I greatly appreciate that. I'm gonna go ahead and ask Jessica Farmlot to go ahead and,

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00:43:38.640 --> 00:43:41.380

Bob Cullen: You have the microphone, Jessica.

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00:43:41.380 --> 00:43:45.670

Jessica Fomalont: I know. Thank you very much. So, Anderson, I really,

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00:43:46.050 --> 00:44:01.690

Jessica Fomalont: enjoyed your talk. I actually, I am one of the, well, technical service librarians at, the GPO, Federal Depository Library Program, so we do a lot of authority, a lot of authority work.

299

00:44:01.690 --> 00:44:12.289

Jessica Fomalont: And, so it's a good overview. So, I mean, I definitely was interested in how you used, you know, the projects you were doing, and I just was kind of curious, because the last part, the historical names project.

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00:44:12.590 --> 00:44:16.420

Jessica Fomalont: That one struck me that,

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00:44:16.540 --> 00:44:20.890

Jessica Fomalont: It appeared to me that in that case, it was less about

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00:44:20.890 --> 00:44:36.599

Jessica Fomalont: using the names as an author, but perhaps using, like, the example you gave, as somebody that would be used as a subject heading, maybe? Is that kind of the point? And also, as a lot of people know, I used to work at TRB, so, you know, kind of know the transportation community that way.

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00:44:37.000 --> 00:44:56.289

Anders Johnson: Yeah, exactly. Yeah, that's a great question. Yeah, so a lot of these records, they're not necessarily... they don't necessarily have to be authors. I want to say that example of Chittum, he did author something in that collection. In other cases, they were... he was kind of credited as, like, a contributor, and so his exact relationship was unclear.

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00:44:57.320 --> 00:45:13.640

Anders Johnson: And then, of course, I talked to, like, Shorty Shope, who's another historical name. He's more of an illustrator, he didn't really author things, so it's really any kind of, contributor to a resource or bibliographic resource, I think, could be, enhanced by adding these and creating these kinds of names.

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00:45:14.950 --> 00:45:17.100

Anders Johnson: Does that kind of help answer your question?

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00:45:17.680 --> 00:45:22.319

Jessica Fomalont: Yeah, yes, it does. Thank you very much. That's a very good presentation.

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00:45:22.530 --> 00:45:23.400

Anders Johnson: Thank you.

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00:45:24.170 --> 00:45:32.770

Bob Cullen: Thank you, Jessica. Any other questions or comments for Andros? Just, again, just let us know. Go ahead, Don Reinhardt. Floor's all yours.

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00:45:34.440 --> 00:45:41.789

Dawn Reinhardt: Hi, hi Anders, I also really enjoyed the presentation. I was curious, because you said you're a solo librarian.

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00:45:41.800 --> 00:45:56.229

Dawn Reinhardt: Basically, how much time do you think, percentage-wise, you're spending on this name authority work, and was there kind of any pushback from your management on the amount of time you were spending on it, or is it something you've just kind of been able to fit in around everything else?

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00:45:56.910 --> 00:46:07.429

Anders Johnson: Yeah, that's a great question. I should actually back up to say, it is a time investment, and even doing the training, that was a time investment. I did have to get my supervisor's approval.

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00:46:07.530 --> 00:46:21.419

Anders Johnson: Because I think it was kind of self-paced, but I want to say it totals around 40 hours worth of training. In the days before, you know, Zoom or whatever, I guess the Library of Congress would actually go out to libraries, and then you would have to go to a one-week

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00:46:21.640 --> 00:46:27.119

Anders Johnson: kind of intensive 40 an hour... 40-hour class. So that was a time investment.

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00:46:27.970 --> 00:46:37.430

Anders Johnson: I think getting started, it was more of a time investment, because I was still familiarizing myself with the rules. Now that I'm more familiar with them, I can turn them out, like, a lot faster.

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00:46:37.690 --> 00:46:46.060

Anders Johnson: Also, again, I would recognize that kind of interns that helped me. I had some great summer interns that were interested in this, and so working together really helped.

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00:46:46.450 --> 00:46:51.330

Anders Johnson: Another thing I didn't mention is when you're creating these records, the amount of time you put into them

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00:46:51.970 --> 00:47:11.970

Anders Johnson: it doesn't really have to be that much, because you're not ultimately, you know, we're not trying to create, like, a biography of this person. It's really about just trying to provide enough information to disambiguate them from another person. So really just, like, you know, two or three things that you can find to help really disambiguate them, and then the record is good.

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00:47:12.240 --> 00:47:20.960

Anders Johnson: And I'd say also, with a lot of the materials that I catalog, you know, because it's so specialized, there is a lot of repetition, like, research reports, they all have a similar format.

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00:47:21.070 --> 00:47:26.720

Anders Johnson: So that helps too, that I can look at pre-existing ones I've submitted and kind of use those as templates.

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00:47:27.070 --> 00:47:32.280

Anders Johnson: As... in terms of my, kind of, supervisor buy-in, I did have to...

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00:47:32.530 --> 00:47:38.170

Anders Johnson: I don't know, almost give, like, a mini version of this presentation, just to explain why it was important to spend time on this, and...

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00:47:38.270 --> 00:47:54.449

Anders Johnson: You know, ultimately, it's maybe secondary to just cataloging items, because I do want to get the items in the catalog and people able to access them, but I think it's a good sort of added value, kind of practice that, at least for now, my supervisors have been supportive of it, so...

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00:47:57.210 --> 00:47:59.540

Dawn Reinhardt: Thank you very much, that was helpful. Okay.

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00:47:59.540 --> 00:48:00.099

Anders Johnson: You're welcome.

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00:48:00.100 --> 00:48:04.539

Bob Cullen: Great. Thank you very much, Don. Kara Marcus, go ahead.

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00:48:08.770 --> 00:48:22.060

Cara Marcus: This is a great presentation, Andrus, thank you. I have one question I'm just curious about. If an author changes their name due to marriage or some other reason.

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00:48:22.060 --> 00:48:30.750

Cara Marcus: And they choose to write under their new name, how would NACO, capture that?

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00:48:31.140 --> 00:48:42.149

Anders Johnson: Yeah, that's a great question. There are, there are rules that... about all these things. In fact, so the Library of Congress, they publish a document and keep it updated called the DCMZ1.

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00:48:42.770 --> 00:48:56.479

Anders Johnson: I'm gonna forget what that stands for, but that's what it's called, and they really go over these kinds of questions, like, what if a person's name changes? And, these records, they aren't, they aren't totally... they can be updated, additional information can be added.

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00:48:58.650 --> 00:49:03.630

Anders Johnson: I guess maybe someone else, if someone else contributes to these, you can correct me, but I'm not sure...

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00:49:04.040 --> 00:49:06.169

Anders Johnson: If you would necessarily...

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00:49:07.290 --> 00:49:20.519

Anders Johnson: change that 100 authorized entry, unless it became, again, that was the most commonly formed used name, then you could create another record, and then you could link back to that older record and

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00:49:20.520 --> 00:49:28.680

Anders Johnson: use that older record instead becomes sort of a variant name, or a non-preferred name. So yeah, you can update them, I guess, essentially.

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00:49:28.680 --> 00:49:30.559

Cara Marcus: Yeah, so you could link to both.

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00:49:30.670 --> 00:49:34.870

Cara Marcus: Alright, that's a good idea, and

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00:49:35.010 --> 00:49:42.230

Cara Marcus: Also, similarly, some authors write under multiple names, is... would that be captured in the same way?

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00:49:42.610 --> 00:49:56.230

Anders Johnson: Yeah, exactly, that's a good question. So I showed an example of someone who had a pseudonym, and so the pseudonym was kind of... that was included as a non-preferred name or a variant name under that kind of authorized title. Yeah.

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00:49:56.520 --> 00:50:07.870

Anders Johnson: Like, another good example I know people refer to a lot is Stephen King, because he had some pseudonyms, so if you look at his name authority records, you'll see those kind of pseudonyms are all kind of listed there as kind of non-preferred names.

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00:50:08.670 --> 00:50:15.049

Anders Johnson: So that's the idea, is that even if they use different names, they can all be sort of consolidated and linked together under that one heading.

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00:50:15.600 --> 00:50:16.749

Cara Marcus: Thank you.

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00:50:16.750 --> 00:50:17.819

Anders Johnson: Yeah, you're welcome.

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00:50:17.970 --> 00:50:24.980

Bob Cullen: Thank you, Kara. Jessica, I see your hand still raised. Did you have another question or comment, or was that from before?

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00:50:25.090 --> 00:50:26.289

Bob Cullen: Guess it was from before.

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00:50:26.290 --> 00:50:27.170

Jessica Fomalont: before a pandemic.

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00:50:27.450 --> 00:50:37.519

Bob Cullen: Okay, thank you. Any other questions or, comments? I'll go ahead and call on, Mary, Mary Lee to what? Go ahead, Mary Lee.

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00:50:40.070 --> 00:50:42.350

Bob Cullen: I think we had you there for a sec. There you go.

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00:50:42.350 --> 00:50:49.319

Marilee R Tuite: Yeah, sorry, yeah, Anders, this was really great information, and my question is just about,

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00:50:49.980 --> 00:50:54.570

Marilee R Tuite: With the... are you kind of involved in the...

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00:50:54.680 --> 00:51:06.500

Marilee R Tuite: publication process for the research reports, and I'm specifically thinking of, like, the TechDoc page, you know, box 7 that has the author names. So, for instance, do you...

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00:51:08.090 --> 00:51:26.710

Marilee R Tuite: do you have any input in, you know, please always include the middle initial, or, you know, or if the person only does, like, first name, last name, you know, be consistent with that, because that's something I've noticed, like, a lot of inconsistency... Yeah. ...where I'm at, where some, like.

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00:51:26.850 --> 00:51:41.830

Marilee R Tuite: And I'm kind of inspired to talk to our research team and say, you know, if we could kind of standardize this, like, always include their middle initial, because I know that they do on some reports, and they don't on others. So I'm just curious if you're involved in that.

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00:51:42.150 --> 00:51:50.629

Anders Johnson: No, it's a great question, that's an interesting idea. I don't think on the... I am involved with helping prepare the tech report documentation page.

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00:51:51.210 --> 00:52:02.789

Anders Johnson: making sure the citation and the keywords, and making sure everyone has ORCID IDs assigned to them, and then I usually do a

final check when the project manager gives it to me, just to make sure everything looks accurate.

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00:52:03.750 --> 00:52:21.910

Anders Johnson: On the... on the tech report page, I guess I don't use NARS themselves when I'm writing the author's name. I'd rather... I transcribe them as they appear on the... on the document, like, on the title page, and then it's more so in the... in the record when I catalog it. That's where I'm going to use those, the name authority records, if that makes sense.

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00:52:21.910 --> 00:52:22.520

Marilee R Tuite: Okay.

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00:52:22.770 --> 00:52:23.680

Marilee R Tuite: Thank you.

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00:52:24.190 --> 00:52:29.199

Anders Johnson: It's an interesting idea, though. I don't know, I wonder if I could... should start using them there.

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00:52:30.170 --> 00:52:30.730

Bob Cullen: Sweet.

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00:52:31.250 --> 00:52:43.520

Bob Cullen: Thank you, Mary Lee. According to my clock, we have maybe another, actually about another 5 minutes or so. Anders, you timed the presentation very well here. Another 5 minutes or so if anybody else has any...

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00:52:43.640 --> 00:52:48.540

Bob Cullen: Any, questions or comments? I...

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00:52:48.740 --> 00:52:57.789

Bob Cullen: I join, everyone else, particularly the people who, who've just been, participating in this Q&A session, that,

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00:52:57.790 --> 00:53:17.619

Bob Cullen: You certainly did a very effective job and a very helpful job. Again, what you showed in our presentation here, addressing the various points there, and for that matter, addressing the needed clarifications and questions that have been put forth to you within the past 10 minutes or so.

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00:53:18.670 --> 00:53:26.509

Bob Cullen: I guess, I guess if there's one thing I just wanted to highlight, because this is kind of,

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00:53:26.690 --> 00:53:41.900

Bob Cullen: It's kind of what I've been going, through in terms of the, and I wrote down the phrase here, name disambiguation, just, just really trying to identify, the most precise names or references.

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00:53:41.900 --> 00:53:59.800

Bob Cullen: possible. My own experience has been it involves going down a few rabbit holes and that kind of thing, just trying to make sure, because there is, let's face it, there's no... there's no margin of error, as it were. You really do have to make sure you've got,

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00:53:59.800 --> 00:54:12.639

Bob Cullen: those identifiers correct, make sure you have the precise... particularly, make sure you have the precise person. I mean, you very helpfully laid out, you know, all these people here in our world who go by John Williams and everything.

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00:54:12.640 --> 00:54:13.200

Anders Johnson: Alright.

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00:54:13.200 --> 00:54:29.869

Bob Cullen: And just the challenge there, long story short, I ended up doing a search as part of my job. It was an inquiry from our business department to track down a one-time AASHTO employee from quite a few years ago, just... this was with respect to the

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00:54:29.960 --> 00:54:38.220

Bob Cullen: The checks he was supposed to be getting as part of the pension plan that was in effect by the time he left here back in the late 1990s.

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00:54:38.220 --> 00:54:54.560

Bob Cullen: And it was definitely going down a few rabbit holes, just trying to figure it out, because inevitably, there were more than one person with his name and everything. And ultimately, I was kind of hoping for a happy ending here. Ultimately, it turned out he did indeed pass away a couple years ago, which explains why

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00:54:55.080 --> 00:55:09.749

Bob Cullen: those checks weren't going anywhere at the time. But it was just a lot of digging around for me, and a lot of it turned out to be essentially a genealogical re... research thing, but that was... that was the thing.

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00:55:09.750 --> 00:55:15.940

Bob Cullen: just, and I use the phrase rabbit hole, but I felt at one point, I really was...

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00:55:16.100 --> 00:55:33.349

Bob Cullen: searching far and wide. Fortunately, it was on... it was part of my job to do this search, but have you encountered anything like that? For instance, the John Williams, that must have been a truly uphill battle for you, just in terms of sorting the John Williams out and that kind of thing.

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00:55:33.690 --> 00:55:39.260

Bob Cullen: What kind of experiences have you encountered that have proven to be memorable?

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00:55:40.470 --> 00:55:59.600

Anders Johnson: Well, actually, I know in the MBT catalog, one... one thing when I started that was really ambiguous was actually the series titles, all the different reports and those names, because none of those were really controlled at all, so it seemed like the cataloger, or previous librarians or catalogers were... you know, there's a lot of drifting between different names, and

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00:55:59.620 --> 00:56:11.799

Anders Johnson: that created an issue where it was hard to kind of unite or consolidate all those reports around the same heading and find them all in a single search. So that's definitely something I've been trying to work on as,

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00:56:12.320 --> 00:56:13.620

Anders Johnson: Kinda, yeah.

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00:56:13.770 --> 00:56:16.759

Anders Johnson: Controlling all those series names is a big one, and then...

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00:56:17.020 --> 00:56:33.440

Anders Johnson: like I highlighted, the research reports was the really... a really big one, just because people want to look at those and kind of see the history of everything that MGT has researched, so putting that together into one easy collection, I think, was... was an impactful project for our stakeholders.

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00:56:34.330 --> 00:56:54.210

Bob Cullen: Great. Thank you, and again, you know, whether or not you appreciate an address, you deserve a world of credit just for this... just for all the work you've been doing in this area, and definitely to use the phrase you just used.

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00:56:54.320 --> 00:57:07.679

Bob Cullen: a few seconds ago, it's truly been impactful, too, and I think in a lot of ways that you have certainly set a standard for the rest of us to pursue as far as this goes, so...

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00:57:08.020 --> 00:57:22.520

Bob Cullen: appreciate that. We are coming close to the end of the hour. Unless somebody does have a question or comment they'd like to set, you know, bring up here, I'll just try to wrap things up a little here, Anders, just asking, going back to your

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00:57:22.520 --> 00:57:37.569

Bob Cullen: to your bio, quite a background there, and of course, as I indicated while sharing your bio with everyone, I was especially impressed by the diversity of libraries you've been at, an art library, media library, and a law library.

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00:57:38.930 --> 00:57:48.720

Bob Cullen: And now you're at a transportation library. I won't put you on the side and ask you which of those professions you prefer, or anything like... like that, but

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00:57:49.900 --> 00:58:09.830

Bob Cullen: Did you ever... I guess my best way of phrasing this is, did you ever really expect to be, I don't want to really say hopscotch, but going from one profession to another as a librarian, or was it an intentional kind of thing, in a way, or is that just how things have unfolded?

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00:58:10.250 --> 00:58:10.630

Anders Johnson: Yeah, you're.

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00:58:10.630 --> 00:58:13.059

Bob Cullen: yourself at a DOT library.

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00:58:13.350 --> 00:58:24.919

Anders Johnson: Yeah, that's an interesting question. I guess it's a little more, like, biographical. I've actually kind of oscillated between libraries and, kind of, like, teaching. Like I said in my bio, I have a lot of experience teaching as well.

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00:58:25.160 --> 00:58:29.900

Anders Johnson: So I don't know, yeah, I've kind of oscillated back and forth, and...

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00:58:30.020 --> 00:58:39.560

Anders Johnson: I've, yeah, worked in different libraries. One of them, unfortunately, the art library was shut down. I liked working in that one, but that one was shut down, so that kind of prompted me to move elsewhere, and...

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00:58:40.760 --> 00:58:50.300

Anders Johnson: I don't know, but I think there's... despite the different subject matter, they all are kind of what I would characterize as special libraries in one form or another, so I think there's a continuity there, perhaps, and...

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00:58:51.410 --> 00:58:57.820

Anders Johnson: Yeah, and... I guess I'm glad now to be working in a transportation special library. It's been interesting, so...

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00:58:57.820 --> 00:58:58.380

Bob Cullen: Okay.

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00:58:58.560 --> 00:59:17.639

Bob Cullen: Well, we're glad you're a part of our community, needless to say. We're very fortunate to have you, and glad that so far, it seems to be... you seem to be liking it, so that's great. So, and thank you again, once, you know, once more, thank you for taking the time to share your knowledge and

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00:59:17.640 --> 00:59:20.470

Bob Cullen: And, and your obvious enthusiasm,

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00:59:20.470 --> 00:59:40.019

Bob Cullen: throughout this hour. I very much appreciate it. So, all good things must come to an end, and so this wraps up this month's, TLR. Stay tuned for information on the upcoming TLRs, including the one for next month on October 9th. That'll be Andy Everett from Washington State DOT, and maybe another

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00:59:40.350 --> 00:59:52.779

Bob Cullen: a couple of people just give it... providing an update on, the, TR... the transportation resource, the SARS TRT Advisory Group, which Anders is a part of that as well.

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00:59:52.780 --> 01:00:07.880

Bob Cullen: So, keep on the lookout for additional information on that. In the meantime, I hope that all of you have a great rest of the day and great rest of the week. And on behalf of Rosalyn and myself, I do want to, again, extend thanks to all of you for being here today.

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01:00:07.920 --> 01:00:08.930

Bob Cullen: Take care.