

## 2021-08 VAOH Session

### Presentation summary

Popular topics gleaned from previous AskQC VAOH included brief takes on authorities by Charlene Morrison, controlling headings by Bryan Baldus, and non-Latin script in WorldCat records by Cynthia Whitacre. Also presenting was Jay Weitz who discussed Duplicate Detection and Resolution (DDR), and Shanna Griffith who covered Faceted Application of Subject Terminology (FAST). All the topics presented are from frequently asked questions received in the past.

### Resources and URLs mentioned during the presentation:

[The NACO FTP Process](#): Authority Distribution

[MARC Code Lists for Organizations](#)

[NACO Contacts and Directories](#)

[Authorities Format and Indexes: Available authority files](#)

[MARC21 Bibliographic Appendix D - Multiscript Records](#) OCLC uses [Model A](#)

[BabelStone : Unicode](#): What Unicode character is this?

[Joel Hahn's Macros for the Connexion Client](#): CvtDiacritics

["When to Input a New Record,"](#) *Bibliographic Formats and Standards* (oc.lc/bfas) Chapter 4

[Searching WorldCat Indexes](#) (oc.lc/indexes), specifically the section on ["Material Type Names and Codes](#)

[Cataloging Defensively](#) series

[Cataloging Defensively with Edition Statements](#): February 2018 [Virtual AskQC Office Hours](#)

[searchFAST](#)

### Member questions

August 10, 2021 session notes

#### **Is there a way to validate for "precomposed" characters?**

Unfortunately, validation doesn't identify a precomposed characters in authorities. So, you would have to identify them or take note of them yourself. Be careful about where you get your characters if you're copying and pasting them from somewhere. And make sure that they're decomposed by the time you finished with your authority record.

Also, [BabelStone : Unicode](#): What Unicode character is this? is an online tool that that can help identify if it's Pre composed or decomposed. Copy and paste a character into this tool and see the Unicode characters that that are being used.

And a good tool for diacritics is [Joel Hahn's Macros for the Connexion Client](#): CvtDiacritics.

**When MARC records are machine loaded are "precomposed" characters changed to "decomposed" characters?**

No, they are not. For the authority records, there's no validation, but it also doesn't automatically change them.

**In Discovery, when search terms include "precomposed" or "decomposed" characters, does the search retrieve both kinds of characters? That is, are the search terms normalized in some way?**

Normalization does take place for searching functionality and that extends to precomposed versus decomposed characters.

**I've noticed lately that [name] \$v Correspondence doesn't control automatically. I get the pop-up window that says, "Select Modify Heading for a main entry to start building new heading". The fully controlled heading doesn't seem different from my original heading, but I have to go through that extra step to get the (apparently) same end result. Any idea why this is happening?**

Correspondence is one of several special subdivisions that often have multiple possible subdivisions (Field codes) so you can have Correspondence as a subfield \$t or you could have Correspondence as a subfield \$v and with the goal of trying to be helpful, the controlling software proposes both options and lets the user choose which option is correct rather than automatically controlling to the subfield code that was entered into the record.

**Will FAST headings always be based on the LCSH that they are derived from? Is there any consideration for FAST headings deviating from the LCSH terms if the terms are offensive or just outdated?**

The fast headings will change when the LC term changes. We did consider diverging from LC for certain terms but it complicates processing to such an extent that we decided not to do that for the time being with the expectation that many of the offensive and outdated terms will change in the next few years.

**We've seen issues where Fields are not paired / linked, even though they are "Model A": so, in Connexion (client) there are two "identical" Fields in OCLC, one with vernacular + transliteration, but they aren't linked and when they are exported there are issues with the 880 not being linked correctly to the Field it is supposed to be a pair to. Is there a way to ensure that the vernacular script Fields \*are\* paired with the transliterated Field?**

The only way I know of to ensure these are paired correctly is to look at them manually and pair them manually. Our system does try to pair things up, but it doesn't always get it quite correct. But you can edit that. So, if you're working in Connexion, you can pair and repair Fields as needed to make sure that the pairings are correct. Now, not all Fields do need to be paired if there is a vernacular Field without a transliterated Field then you wouldn't pair that with anything.

**I have noticed that I can't search with mathematical operators in record manager such as the infinity symbol. I get an system error.**

[https://help.oclc.org/Librarian\\_Toolbox/Searching\\_WorldCat\\_Indexes/Get\\_started/Searching\\_WorldCat\\_indexes\\_guidelines\\_and\\_requirements#Special\\_characters\\_in\\_Latin\\_script\\_searches](https://help.oclc.org/Librarian_Toolbox/Searching_WorldCat_Indexes/Get_started/Searching_WorldCat_indexes_guidelines_and_requirements#Special_characters_in_Latin_script_searches)

### **Is there a list of thesauri that are validated in OCLC bibliographic records?**

“Validated” meaning controllable, then there's a list available:

[https://help.oclc.org/Metadata\\_Services/Authority\\_records/Authorities\\_Format\\_and\\_indexes/Get\\_started/40Available\\_authority\\_files?sl=en](https://help.oclc.org/Metadata_Services/Authority_records/Authorities_Format_and_indexes/Get_started/40Available_authority_files?sl=en)

### **When updating an LCSH term, is it preferable to update the FAST or just delete them all?**

It's preferred to just go ahead and delete them all that way, they can be regenerated in about a month or so. It's certainly not required that you delete them all, but it is preferred.

### **Is it best not to strip FAST headings out of records loaded to our ILS if we are not comfortable with using them but they may be needed in the future? We should just have them not to display in our ILS and just leave them as is in case we decide it is best to have them in for future use?**

If you're not comfortable with using them, you can remove them locally from your system, so they're not showing up in your local copy of the record.

If programming your local system to not display the FAST headings while leaving them in the records is an option for you with your own ILS, that's certainly a good to consider for FAST or any sort of Fields that you don't want to display to the public. That way, if you do decide 10 years down the road that you really wanted to have those but you've deleted them, you won't have them, but if you've kept them and just the suppressed display, you will have them for any future uses you want to make of them.

### **Has there been any consideration of not having Lawyers--fiction controlled to legal stories? Often the work has a character that is a lawyer and it is not a legal story.**

Lots of people have considered it, but it would be up to the Library of Congress to make the decision to modify their authority records to allow that.

### **Are there guidelines on how to format diacritics in bib records correctly, or should I just always use the OCLC tool when adding diacritics anywhere in a bib record to be sure it is decomposed?**

We do not have specific guidelines in place; both are allowed in bibliographic records. We prefer decomposed because they work better with the Connexion macro. Also, if you picked something up from the bibliographic record and wanted to create an authority record, since the authority record can't accept precomposed characters it's better for the bibliographic record to be decomposed. And so, yes, it's better to use the OCLC tool for adding the decomposed characters or adding diacritics using the tools that are available in the cataloging interface.

August 19, 2021 session notes

### **Will NARs validate in OCLC with precomposed chars?**

No, they will not. There's no validation check in the systems in either Connexion or Record Manager that will cause a validation error when a record has precomposed characters. That the best option would be to utilize the Connexion and Record Manager functionality in order to enter those diacritics. So, in Record Manager, there is a function to insert a diacritic and then in Connexion under the Edit menu, you can enter diacritics that way.

Other tools:

Joel Hahn's macro, CvtDiacritics <http://www.hahnlibrary.net/libraries/oml/macros/CvtDiacritics.txt>

And

To just check and verify that the characters that you're putting in are indeed, decomposed use:

[BabelStone : Unicode](#): What Unicode character is this?

**Regarding controlling subject headings, I couldn't get headings in OCLC 21969614 --Midnight's children. Islam--Relations--Hinduism--Fiction and Hinduism--Relations-Islam--Fiction refuse to control. Any idea why?**

From the quick look, I took just now Islam--Relations--Hinduism, and Hinduism—Relations--Islam appear to be validation records. Since there's no separately established subdivision Hinduism or Islam that would be controllable as subfield \$x then those subfields are uncontrolled. So, only the Islam—Relations--Fiction are controllable in that in those headings and Hinduism—Relations--Fiction. Consequently, the \$xs remain uncontrolled while the rest of the subfields are controlled.

**How long does it take for a reported incorrect merge to be looked at?**

Currently, our turnaround time is within a couple of days. Incorrect merges do take a higher priority, but keep in mind that, depending on the complexity of the merge it could take a little while to get them teased apart, but usually within a couple of days.

**Does OCLC have any opinion on whether or not it prefers transliterations to be included for non-Latin characters? Or is it completely optional? Our library is thinking about whether we want to bother with Pinyin transliterations of Chinese characters.**

It is optional. There is no requirement for you to enter transliterations, or to include the non-Latin characters. But if you are cataloguing according to certain standards you may want to follow whatever it says in those particular standards.

I know there is some thinking going on about what will happen with Bibframe, and the idea has been floated that there will be fewer Fields that would routinely be transliterated within Bibframe. "Fields" might even be the wrong term in Bibframe, it would be elements within the Bibframe structure.

There are a lot of libraries thinking about this, and what they want to do going forward. The reason of course, that transliterations were entered in such a large scale initially, when people were doing online cataloging in MARC is because the vast majority of local systems did not support non-Latin characters. The only way to enter data into your local systems, or to WorldCat was using Latin characters and transliteration. But that's changed, since OCLC supports all of Unicode now. There are a lot of options.

**We were wondering whether DDR took detailed dates in the fixed Fields (DtSt = e) into consideration when deciding whether to merge records. (We haven't been using that code and we have been supplying a devised edition statement for editions within the same year, but we were just curious about that detailed date and DDR.)**

It does not take into consideration the detailed date, and we would recommend that if there's a way to differentiate different versions of a similar document that you supply an edition statement if there isn't one that you can use. So, what you're doing is a good practice.

**Is OCLC going to fix the freezing problem with using many of the macros i.e. Add 33x or Generate Authority record It is aggravating to work on a record and then use the macro and it freezes and your only recourse is to Ctrl+Alt+Delete to get out of the record and start all over again.**

The next version of Connexion Client is in Field Test right now and these are some of the issues that they are working on getting resolved. So, hopefully, that will come out later on this year and it will solve most of these problems if not all of them.

**There were three enhancement requests on August 10 regarding Unicode. Are those enhancements for both the bib record and authority record?**

Here is one: [https://www.oclc.org/community/enhancements/user\\_forms/when-marc-records-are-machine-loaded-please-change-precomposed-unicode-characters-to-decomposed-unicode-characters.en.html](https://www.oclc.org/community/enhancements/user_forms/when-marc-records-are-machine-loaded-please-change-precomposed-unicode-characters-to-decomposed-unicode-characters.en.html)

I assume that they would be for Bib records that's what OCLC has control over. If you have concerns about the use of the precomposed versus decomposed diacritics in the authority file LC is the place to talk to about that for the LC/NACO Authority File. Because it's their system that requires the use of decomposed diacritics.

**How do you search a particular NACO participants in Connexion?**

They cannot be searched directly in Connexion but PCC maintains lists of participants on their NACO website: <https://www.loc.gov/marc/organizations/>

Also, you can search the MARC Organization Code in [MARC Code Lists for Organizations](#)

Then there is help here on searching OCLC Cataloging Products:

[https://help.oclc.org/Metadata\\_Services/Authority\\_records/Authorities\\_Format\\_and\\_indexes/Indexes\\_and\\_indexed\\_Fields/0Indexes\\_and\\_indexed\\_Fields\\_A\\_to\\_Z](https://help.oclc.org/Metadata_Services/Authority_records/Authorities_Format_and_indexes/Indexes_and_indexed_Fields/0Indexes_and_indexed_Fields_A_to_Z)