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**139 SI - Classification and Indexing with Cataloguing**

#### **Authority control in a multilanguage catalogue: Russian experience**

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Before speaking about authority control in a multilingual environment, it is necessary to describe briefly the context in which this control is carried out.

The electronic catalogue of the Russian State Library (RSL) contains more than 3 million records. Cataloguing with the use of the Aleph software and MARC 21 has been carried out for this database since 2003. Other bibliographic records included in the electronic catalogue are received as a result of converting (1) bibliographic records from card catalogues, and (2) the bibliographic records created by RSL and other organizations with the use of other software and other formats.

Up to 2003 the electronic catalogue included only records in Russian and in European languages. In 2003 we started cataloguing books and serials in the languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation and former union republics of the USSR. This year we are preparing for the description of documents in oriental languages.

This "motley world" demands ordering and normalization of access points. Until 2003, two authority files were maintained in the RSL: the foreign and international organizations file and a

file of “authors of special categories.” Authority records were created in a format based on USMARC.

In 2003 the authority control group was reorganized and its function widened. Now we are supposed to carry out the authority control of headings (controlled access points) in new bibliographic records by formation of authority records for these categories:

- Names of persons, creators or objects of the work translated to Russian from other languages when in the document there is an original form of the name
- Names of persons in which the forms of the names on the document differ from the form established for the system of catalogues at RSL
- Such names of persons, as “authors of special categories”
- Names of corporate bodies, Russian, foreign or international (creators or objects of the work), occurring in the system for the first time
- Names of the corporate bodies, Russian, foreign or international reflected in authority records (machine-readable and traditional) if the form of the name on the document differs from the form established for the system of catalogues at RSL
- The uniform titles of the Bible and its parts, anonymous classical works

In order to satisfy the search interests of electronic catalogue users, the following techniques for control and connection of headings are used. (The creation of multiple records assumes all forms can be determined.)

### **Names of Persons**

Russian authors (persons)

One authority record for the accepted form of a name in Russian in a Cyrillic font is created; all forms in other languages are reflected in the same record as direct “see” references. If two or more headings in Russian are accepted for one person, two or more authority records are created and linked by “see also” references. All forms of the name in other languages are reflected in corresponding records as direct “see” references.

Authors (persons) writing in the languages of the Russian Federation nationalities

Two authority records linked by “see also” references are created: one in the national language of the author and one in Russian.

Foreign authors (persons): European languages.

Two authority records, linked by “see also” references are created: one in the language of the country of the citizenship or the nationality of the author and one in Russian.

Foreign authors (persons): Oriental languages.

Three authority records, linked by “see also” references are created: one in one of the foreign European languages, one in the language of the original, and one in Russian.

The foreign authors (persons) translated to languages of peoples of the Russian Federation: European languages.

Two authority records, linked by “see also” references, are created: one in the language of the original and one in Russian. If the Russian form of the author’s name couldn’t be determined, one is created in the language of the original and one in the language of the Russian Federation nationality.

### **Names of Corporate Bodies**

Russian organizations

One authority record for the form of the name in Russian is created; all other forms of the name, including forms in other languages, are reflected in the same record as “see” references.

If the corporate body has used two or more names in Russian, two or more authority records are created and linked by “see also” references. All forms of the name in other languages are reflected in the corresponding records as the “see” references.

Russian organizations: Other languages of peoples of the Russian Federation

Two authority records, linked by “see also” references, are created: one in the national language of the organization and one in Russian.

If the name of the organization exists in several historical forms in Russian or in a national language, an authority record is created for each of the historical forms; “see also” references link to the other forms of the name of the organization in corresponding language(s).

Foreign organizations: European languages

Two authority records, linked by “see also” references, are created: one in the national language of the organization and one in Russian. All forms of the name of the organization in other languages are reflected in a corresponding record as “see” references.

If the name of the organization exists in several historical forms in Russian or in foreign language(s), an authority record is created for each of the historical forms; “see also” references link to the other forms of the name of the organization in corresponding language(s).

International organizations

Two authority records, linked by “see also” references, are created: one in Russian and one in the official language of the organization.

If the name of the organization exists in several historical forms in Russian or in foreign languages, an authority record is created for each of the historical forms; “see also” references link to the other forms of the name of the organization in corresponding language(s).

## **Uniform Titles**

The Bible and its parts in Russian or in foreign European language

Two authority records are created: one in Russian and one in Latin, in the form accepted in authorized sources; “see also” references link the records.

The Russian anonymous classical works

One authority record in Russian is created. All other forms of heading in Russian or in foreign languages are reflected in the record as “see” references.

Anonymous classical works in foreign European languages

Two authority records, linked by “see also” references, are created: one in the national language of the work and one in Russian.

Anonymous classical works in languages of peoples of the Russian Federation

Two authority records, linked by “see also” references, are created: one in the national language of the work and one in Russian.

In RSL not all the types of documents are catalogued in a centralized unit. The Oriental Center catalogues documents in Oriental languages. Music, maps, graphics, and manuscripts are described by the specialized departments.

And so, for authority files, we suggested sharing responsibilities. For example, the Oriental Center has the right of casting a vote concerning authors from the countries of Asia and Africa. The Department of Maps is responsible for the headings containing the names of geographical objects.

The authority control group uses the opportunities made available by the modern information environment. The OPACs of national libraries, accessible on the Internet, are searched to find the name of the author or corporate body in the form accepted by the national bibliography of the corresponding country. If the form of heading does not correspond to our rules and techniques, we put that “rejected” form of heading in a 7XX field with an indication of the source of the data.

Now the first steps in the creation of a national authority file are being made. The project foresees the distribution of responsibility between the two Russian national libraries. The Russian State Library will be the head organization supporting the national authority file of names of persons and the Machine-readable Library Bibliographic Classification. The National Library of Russia will be the head organization responsible for corporate bodies and subject files. Because the two national libraries use two different formats (MARC 21 and RUSMARC) and different software, we will need to continue converting records from format to format and maintaining national authority file forms in two variants.