
North Carolina State Library NACO Project

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I'd like to begin by telling you a little about the history of the Special Cataloging Branch of the North Carolina State Library and how it relates to the NACO project. In 1980, the Services to State Agencies Branch began redefining its objectives. Prior to that time cataloging service was provided to state agencies only, then the powers that be decided to cut back on that service and consider the possibility of cataloging the State Library documents collection on OCLC. At the same time, the Library had applied to become a NACO library—to be the authority on names of North Carolina agencies. In anticipation of both of these new projects, we purchased the NC portion of the LC name authority card file (which included names prior to the Executive reorganization of 1971) and embarked upon a federally funded Name History project, which researched and recorded in card form the names of North Carolina agencies, concentrating on new names after the 1971 reorganization.



Jan Sheppard works in the Technical Services Department, Division of State Library. Her talk was a featured part of the session on the Name Authority Cooperative Project sponsored by the Resources and Technical Services Section of NCLA.

If you'll remember, 1981 was a big year for catalogers because of the implementation of AACR2. It was also a big year within our branch. For starters, we changed our name to the Special Cataloging Branch. During that year, the Name History Project was completed, and the documents class scheme revision, which progressed in conjunction with the Name History Project, was well on its way to being completed. Also, we were accepted as a NACO library. Cindy Ansell, who was the documents cataloger at the time, went to Washington for NACO training in March, 1982.

Her training was extensive. She spent two weeks at the Library of Congress working with the NACO personnel to learn how LC establishes headings. After she returned, a NACO contact person called weekly to discuss headings that she had sent in and discuss any problems that she might be having with headings, rule interpretations, the forms, and so on. Cindy left the State Library soon after she went for the training and I moved into the documents cataloging position.

Not only does NACO give extensive training, they monitor your work very carefully. For the first year, every heading that we sent in was checked. Again, we received calls weekly from a contact person. If they changed a heading, they always backed it up with one or more rule interpretations—so if you wanted to argue you needed to be prepared to justify your argument with rule interpretations and title pages from books. LC will change a heading, by the way,—it takes a real long time and a lot of convincing, but they will admit they're wrong and they will change the heading if you prove your case. About six months after I started working with NACO, I began to work toward what they call "independent status." That means that instead of checking every heading that I send, LC will pull about sixteen of them at random on a monthly basis for quality review. They graph your errors and, if you fall below a certain level, they will begin reviewing everything again, or ask that you come back for a little more training—whatever is necessary to get you back in line. I gained independent status in March 1983—one year after our project began.

I'm afraid I don't have any cost figures on NACO. The biggest expense is for my time. Otherwise, I make a few long distance telephone calls and, after the first of the year, we'll be charged for OCLC searches. NACO work is just part of my regular cataloging workflow. While cataloging, I check the heading against LC's authority file on OCLC. If the heading is not there, I check to see if there is a bibliographic record that uses the particular heading so I can try and get additional information to put on my NACO form. In case of questions or conflicts, I call the person or the agency involved. The amount of time that it takes to establish a heading depends on the heading (how complicated it is to search it in OCLC, on OCLC response time, on whether or not I can type well that day ...). When we first began the project, we established more corporate bodies; at this point, I am establishing more personal names. Also, the number of headings I establish is decreasing. I have found that the same agencies and the same people keep publishing, so more of the names I use are on line now. This should change if the state depository law is passed, because more agencies will be sending material.

There are a lot of benefits to working with LC. Margaretta Yarborough jokes about my "direct link to God." It's true. I can just pick up the phone if I have a question. I get the rule interpretations as they are published instead of waiting for the *Cataloging Service Bulletin*. Also, the rule interpretations are loose-leaf, so they are kept in

numerical order, therefore they're easier to use. I do share my "expertise" with other librarians in the state. Many times I forward questions to NACO. They'll help with subject and series questions too—well, they'll forward the question to the specialists to get an answer.

As I said, we started cataloging state documents after AACR2 had been implemented. Moreover, except for some serials, I only catalog items published from 1981 on. The nicest thing is that we closed the old documents catalog and started fresh with everything AACR2. Because of all this, I have not had to face a lot of the problems that you must deal with every day due to changes in LC's rules. The project was still new when we went for the NACO training, so we just changed our policies to meet LC's requirements.

When April called last month, she asked me to tell you what I did with regard to NACO. I simply establish the name in AACR2 form. I'm sure my procedures are not different from what you do in your library to determine the AACR2 form of name. I may do a little more work because I *have* to make the name unique, but there again, I may do less because I don't have all the other problems with name conflicts in my public catalog. Because of NACO, it takes more time to catalog a book, thus it costs more. But we get a lot in return—current LC rule interpretations, LC policy manuals, and, best of all, personal contact with someone at the Library of Congress on a regular basis.



Governor and Mrs. Martin with President Leland Park.