

SCS Task Group on Privacy in Name Authority Records

Background

On July 12, 2023, The PCC Policy Committee (PoCo) approved the [PCC Position Statement on Personal Data in Name Authority Records](#), authored by the PCC Advisory Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ACDEI). This position statement articulates broad ethical considerations for personal information in LC/NACO Authority Records (NARs), informed by the context of an increasingly international and open linked data environment, varying jurisdictional and cultural understandings of privacy, and the potential disparate impact of privacy violations on individuals from marginalized communities.

While approving this statement, PoCo also expressed a desire for more specific best practices, including guidance on a field-by-field basis, such as what currently exists for authority fields 371 (Do not record physical addresses for living persons) and 375 (do not record gender), and further building on the work of the ACDEI and the PCC Task Groups on Gender.

Charge

The SCS Task Group on Privacy in Name Authority Records is Charged to:

- Identify guiding principles for privacy of information relating to persons and families in NARs and for critical evaluation of sources of information, building on the *PCC Position Statement on Personal Data in Name Authority Records*
- Develop and compile best practices based on these principles, on a general or field-by-field basis, regarding potentially private or personally identifying information relating to persons and families, including elements of access points (1XX, 4XX, 5XX), separate elements (046 and 3XX fields), and source citations and notes (e.g. 670, 678, etc.).
 - These principles and practices may consider factors such as: living vs. nonliving status; notability or anonymity of the entity; recency, reliability, intent, and publication status of the reference source; the entity's wishes or intent; the relationship of the entity to the reference source; need for differentiation; and the impact of recording relationships between NARs and to external sources such as Wikidata
- Propose or recommend revisions to LC/PCC Documentation (LC PCC PSs, MGDs, DCM Z1, NACO Participants' Manual, LC Guidelines, etc.) as needed to support these best practices
- Recommend guidelines or strategies for editing or removing potentially private data from existing NARs
- Consult with the Standing Committee on Training (SCT) to draft or update examples, FAQs, or other resources to assist with cataloger and author/creator

understanding and implementation of the guidelines and best practices, such as the "[Authority Control FAQs for Catalogers Contacting Creators/Contributors](#)" and "[Authority Control FAQs for Authors and Creators](#)"

PCC Strategic Directions (2023-):

The work of this task group supports and aligns with PCC strategic directions:

- SD 6.5: Build a knowledge base of metadata practices that have been or should be evaluated and possibly identified for harm-reducing remediation efforts (sometimes referred to as “critical cataloging,” “reparative cataloging” or “reparative description”)
- SD 2.1.1: Ensure documentation includes sufficient instruction to facilitate the implementation of policies and practices in both MARC and non-MARC environments
- SD 1.2.1: Facilitate collaborations with non-GLAM metadata communities whose goals are aligned with the PCC (such as open-access digital humanities ventures); actively seek participation by representatives from these communities in PCC groups and pilot projects

Time Frame:

Date charged: November 1, 2023

Date preliminary report due: March 5, 2024

Date final report due: June 3, 2024

Reports to:

SCS

Roster:

Ben Abrahamse, MIT Libraries (SCT Representative, Co-Chair)

Kathleen Burlingame, University of Pennsylvania (LD4 Ethics in Linked Data Affinity Group Representative)

Keno Catabay, University of Colorado Boulder (ACDEI representative)

Laura Daniels, Cornell University Library

Michelle Gibeault, Smith College Libraries (ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee, Privacy Subcommittee representative)

Junghae Lee, University of Washington (SCS Representative, Co-Chair)

Tricia Mackenzie, Library of Congress (LC representative)

Alexandra Provo, New York University (LD4 Ethics in Linked Data Affinity Group Representative)

Jerry Simmons, National Archives and Records Administration

Michael Stewart, University of Delaware (PCC TG on Gender representative)

Anne Washington, OCLC (OCLC Representative, IMAC Liaison)

Thomas Whittaker, Indiana University Libraries



Final Report Transmittal & Tracking Sheet:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RtM2s9pwSWWVbr2_tuQLrLK9G2xPkVIJ/edit