

## CONFRONTING HISTORY AND FACING REALITY: THE ROLE OF LIFELONG LEARNING IN DECOLONIZING CATALOGUING AND NAME AUTHORITY CONTROL

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Academic librarianship can be aptly described by two words: change and challenge and, while both of these words can certainly apply to a myriad of areas of librarianship that have been transformed due to how librarians provide information and how library users perform scholarly research, the most significant challenges and changes taking place in academic librarianship are in the area of cataloguing. Cataloguers have the important responsibility of providing labels and descriptions for people, places, and events, which provide the structure or backbone upon which librarians and researchers rely to both locate subject material and appropriately and accurately describe what is in the source material. Since cataloguers are providing identity through the use of name authority control, it is crucial for cataloguers to be committed to lifelong learning in both the (technological) methods implemented in their work and the changes in identity (especially those who have been marginalized due to historical and contemporary injustices).

In the anthology *Ethical Questions in Name Authority Control* (Jane Sandberg, editor), the past, present, and future practices used for name authority control look at the identity management model and address the need to also include the consideration of, and the reflection upon, the past and the present in terms of the methods employed for this work and their ethical treatment by cataloguers due to their powerful position. The changes and challenges are evident in the frequency of technological development but lifelong learning, for cataloguers, must also involve the awareness of and the reflection upon the history of those people affected by historical and contemporary injustices and, as societal conditions continue to change with time, so will their identity, based on their culture, ethnicity, and historical identity. As more members of the global society demand not only a voice in how their government makes decisions for its citizens, but also fight to be recognized (based on culture, ethnicity, and gender), the study of and reflection on history, as well as facing the reality of the current circumstances resulting from past injustice, will be increasingly important for cataloguers in their role as naming authority. Cataloguers must remain aware of, and consider, cultural, ethnic, and gender identity through the study of, and the reflection upon, the history of the marginalization of these groups to work toward decolonizing cataloguing and classification.