

# Uniform Title Authority; When You Automate, Some Reasons to Think About It

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## From the ALA Glossary...

Uniform title. 1. The particular title by which a work that has appeared under varying titles is to be identified for cataloguing purposes. 2. A conventional collective title used to collocate publications of an author, composer, or corporate body containing several works or extracts, etc., from several works, e.g., complete works, several works in a particular literary or musical form. Synonymous with conventional title, filing title, standard title.<sup>1</sup>

to use uniform titles in a particular instance on;

- a.) how well the work is known
- b.) how many manifestations of the work are involved
- c.) whether the main entry is under title (21.1C)
- d.) whether the work was originally in another language
- e.) the extent to which the catalogue is used for research purposes.<sup>2</sup>

## Introduction

## From AACR2 . . .

### Use of Uniform Titles

Uniform titles provide the means for bringing together all the catalogue entries for a work when various manifestations (e.g., editions, translations) of it have appeared under various titles. A uniform title also provides identification for a work when the title by which it is known differs from the title proper of the item being catalogued. The need to use uniform titles varies from one catalogue to another and varies within one catalogue. Base the decision whether

to use uniform titles in a particular instance on; since many non-catalog librarians can put in years on the job and at no time face the complexities of a uniform title, the first part of this article will attempt to be informational and instructive about the uses and nature of uniform titles.

The second part of the article contains some examples of how uniform titles and subject uniform title entries, that is subject headings constructed from uniform titles, provide useful if not essential access points in an automated environment as they traditionally have in a manual card catalog.

The third part of the article describes features of an integrated automated online system, i.e. an automated system in which cataloging, the public catalog and other subsystems are interactive, that would increase the effectiveness of uniform titles and subject uniform titles in an automated library environment.

### The Nature of Uniform Titles

Library collections generate uniform title entries in differing proportions. Law, theology, music, rare book and specialized literary collections are some types of collections in which uniform titles are a major factor in the cataloging process. Uniform titles become subject headings when a work is written about a work for which a uniform title is used, i.e. "Bible. - O.T. - Introductions", "Talmud - History and criticism", etc.

Some specific types of materials for which uniform titles are used are:

1. Sacred scripture (Bible, Book of Mormon, Talmud, Tripitaka, Vedas, Koran)
2. Liturgical works (Siddur, Haggadah, Missal, Breviary)
3. Legal materials (California-Agricultural Code, United Kingdom-Field Monuments Act, Universal Copyright Convention)
4. Treaties (Treaty of Versailles 1919, Treaty of Paris)
5. Anonymous Classics (Beowulf, Mother Goose, Chanson de Roland, Book of the Dead)
6. Manuscripts, Incanabula (Codex Brucianus)
7. Translations from another language (Caesar [De bello Gallico], Plato [Republic], Dumas [Trois mousquetaires], Kant [Kritik der reinen Vernunft])
8. Music (Mozart, Wolfgang

Amadeus, 1756-1791 - Deutsche Tanze; Bach, Johann Sebastian, 1685-1750 - Praeudium und fuge; Rogers, Richard, 1902- Flower Drum Song. Selections.; arr.; Klughardt, August Friedrich Martin, 1847-1902. Quintets, woodwinds, horn, op. 79.)

Several of the categories overlap. Some uniform titles are obvious, such as the translation uniform titles, listed in number 7 above. Other uniform title entries, such as *Book of the Dead*, *Mother Goose*, and *Dead Sea Scrolls* may not be so obvious as uses of a uniform title.

When cataloging an item which needs a uniform title entry, there are some questions which need to be asked. When was the work written? Is the item in hand a translation? Has the work in hand appeared with other titles? Is the item a collection of individual works or a selection from a larger work? Is it or is its subject matter about a law, treaty, sacred scripture, liturgical work, papal communication or musical composition?

Do not take this process for granted. Most North Americans would recognize the content of a work variously titled *Alice in Wonderland*, *Through the Looking Glass* and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* as parts of one work or the same work by Lewis Carroll. Here is a case of a work being so widely known that non-librarians could easily identify many variations of its title(s).

The exercise below is to test your skill at matching title proper (the title as it appears on the page of an item) with the uniform title appropriate for it.

### Access Points Provided by Uniform Titles

Since a cataloger cannot predict what knowledge a patron or a reference librarian will bring to a search, it is not known whether she/he will know that *The Gates of Understanding* is a Jewish prayer book of the Reform Jewish tradition or that she/he is looking for a siddur, a Jewish prayer-book.

Librarians have seldom considered it the duty of the user to know correct forms for searches. Public catalogs have traditionally included cross-references, scope notes and/or external information, such as access to *Library of Congress Subject Headings*, *Sears*, etc. to assist a patron and reference librarian in finding items relevant to a patron's needs.

Although some automated OPACs allow for key word searching in the title, subtitle and notes, it would be unwise to assume that this information necessarily duplicates the information supplied by the uniform titles for a given item.<sup>3</sup>

The MARC format allows for a wealth of information to be given in the uniform title and indexed in sub-fields. An example of this is the music uniform title; "Hlobil, Emil, 1901-Sonatas, trombone, piano, op 86."

Music uniform titles are packed with information such as musical form "sonata", instrumentation "trombone, piano", original key, and number, i.e., opus number "86", etc., among other things.

Similarly, information commonly found in uniform titles of sacred works and literary works is as follows:

1. The part of the work such

as, "Genesis" in the uniform title "Bible. O.T. Genesis;"

2. The language/s in which that work appears in a given piece "Bible. O.T. Genesis. English & Hebrew;"

3. Version (often translator) of the work "Bible. O.T. Genesis. English. Zlotowitz;"

4. Form in which the work appears; "Bible. O.T. Genesis. English. Selections;"

5. Date of this manifestation of the work "Bible. English. Revised Standard Version. 1956;" and

6. Standard Romanization for titles not originally written in the Roman alphabet. (Bedny lidudi=Poor Folk; Teleutaios peirasmos = Last Temptation of Christ.

Providing the Romanization of a title or the title in the original language can also be a time saver for the reference staff and patron. Are Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* and *Critique of Pure Logic* the same work? If the cataloging includes the original German title *Kritik der reinen Vernunft* as a uniform title, the librarian and patron will know at once that they are.

Uniform titles for translations of a work also group together translations of works into various languages:

Trois mousquetaires. English (The Three musketeers),

Trois mousquetaires. Spanish (Los tres mosqueteros).

The rules for uniform titles stipulate that works created after 1500 are entered as the title or form of title in the original language by which such a work has become known through use in manifestations of the work or in reference sources, i.e., *Trois mousquetaires*, *Kritik der reinen Vernunft*, *Teleutaios peirasmos*.

For Classical and Byzantine Greek works "Use a well-established English title for a work originally written in classical Greek, or a work of a Greek church father or other Byzantine writer before 1453. If there is no such English title use the Latin title. If there is neither a well-established English title nor a Latin title, use the Greek title. Aristophanes [Birds]; Apollonius, Rhodius [Argonautica] Latin; Meander, of Athens [Perikeiromene] Romanized Greek.<sup>4</sup>

Figure 2 illustrates four entries that a patron with accurate but incomplete knowledge would miss in her/his search if the subject uniform title, "Bible.-N.T.-Revelation.-Commentaries" were not properly constructed, tagged and included in the bibliographic record in an OPAC.

The patron's search is for books about or interpretations, i.e., commentaries, of the *Revelation of St. John the Divine*. Very few if any automated systems would lead the patron to any of the entries in Figure 2 with this accurate but insufficient title information. Only a system in which subject uniform titles are required and maintained accurately would allow the four bibliographic records in Figure 2 to be found by the patron.

If the fields of the subject uniform title are not searchable then the term "Revelation" is of no assistance to the patron. Unless there is a cross reference in the system to "Bible.-N.T.-Revelation" from *Revelation of St. John the Divine*, this patron would not be aware of the four items in Figure 2.

Many users of the system might not recognize that "Bible.-N.T.-Revelation" is the *Revelation of St. John the Divine*.

## Important Features of an Online System for the Efficient Use of Uniform Titles

### 1. System Generated Reports on User Searches

Do librarians know how their patrons look for information and what influences them to search by certain terms? Many librarians will answer that they have very little information about the search strategies of their patrons in the public catalog, automated or not.

Would a patron look for the *Gospel of Thomas* as "Thomas Gospel", "Coptic Gospel of Thomas" or *Evangelium Thomae Copticum*?

The advent of OPACs with the capabilities to report information about patron searches, such as the rate of their successes and failures and what terms are being input by patrons, will permit librarians to study the effectiveness of current subject headings and uniform titles and their cross-references, in relation to user search strategies.

In the very few studies which have been attempted recently on the way in which catalogs are used, the old idea that the more highly educated a library clientele is the less likely they are to employ subject searches has been challenged. It has been found that even PhD's in science and engineering will make use of subject searching when they undertake cross-disciplinary studies, especially in an automated catalog.<sup>5</sup>

### 2. Subject and Title Browsing

To browse a file means that a user of an automated system can see entries on the OPAC screen, such as, author, title, subject, call number, in

alphabetical or some other order. The user may select a record from this list to view in full. In a manual system the user may flip through all of the "Gospel of Thomas-Commentaries" entries looking for the one written after 1980. In an automated system the browse search would necessitate that uniform title authority be maintained so that all the commentaries on the *Gospel of Thomas*, for example, would be displayed together in a "browse" search.

### 3. Global Entry Change Capability

A global change is the capability within an automated system to enter a series of symbols and letters representing a subject heading, name, etc. "Bible. N.T. Apocryphal Books. Coptic Gospel of Thomas," and then command the system to look for all occurrences of that series of letters/characters in certain fields or lines of a bibliographic record. When that series of characters is found it can be automatically changed to match the currently established phrase, title, etc. "Gospel of Thomas".

Unfortunately, this capability is not available in many automated systems even though many word processing systems have it. Word processing programs often refer to the process of making global changes as "Search and Replace" or "Find and Replace".

For example, the alternative method of updating this uniform title entry is to call up manually each bibliographic record which has the outdated uniform title entry "Bible. N.T. Apocryphal Books. Coptic Gospel of Thomas," delete it and replace it with "Gospel of Thomas", the updated heading.

4. Generations of Authority Cross-References and Scope Notes Displayed in the OPAC and Cataloging Sub-systems.

If a user is looking for *Evangelium Thomae Copticum* and is not led to *Gospel of Thomas* by cross-references then the authority work has been counter-productive for that user. Cross-references and notes have the potential of making automated system users much more successful than users of non-automated systems. At the same time an automated system which is not able to generate cross-references from authority records is less effective than a well maintained manual file.

5. Incorporation of Authority Records into an Automated System.

At a minimum an automated system should allow for the manual entry of authority records into a system in order to produce cross-references and scope notes in the cataloging and OPAC sub-systems. (Figure 3)

A more complex system would allow formatted and tagged authority records on tape or other input media to be loaded into the automated system when it is started up.

The ideal system will allow for the continual upgrading of authority records by downloading from a vendor, such as OCLC, the loading of purchased authority records for upgrading the system and the input of local additions or changes in standard LC or other authority records.

Automation demands that librarians re-evaluate cataloging practices. *AACR2*, rev. ed., makes it clear that the use of uniform titles will vary from library to library and from

item to item. Those libraries which have not automated need to analyze the demands that their particular collection will make as to uniform title authority control.

Libraries with automated systems should stay alert to the interaction of their authority policies and the ways in which their on-line catalog is being used.

### References

<sup>1</sup> Heartsill Young, et al., eds., *The ALA Glossary of Library and Information Science* (Chicago: ALA, 1983), p.235.

<sup>2</sup> Michael Gorman and Paul W. Winkler, eds., *Anglo-American Cataloging Rules*, 2nd ed., (Chicago: ALA, 1988), p.484.

<sup>3</sup> Alexis J. Jamieson, "Keyword Searching Versus Authority Control in an On-Line Catalog," *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 12 (November 1986), p.277.

<sup>4</sup> Gorman and Winkler, *AACR2*, p. 488.

<sup>5</sup> Carolyn O. Frost, "Faculty Use of Subject Searching in Card and Online Catalogs," *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 13 (May 1987), p.8.

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#### Title Proper

- \_\_\_1. Inferno
- \_\_\_2. Gates of Understanding
- \_\_\_3. On the Nature of the Gods
- \_\_\_4. Qumran Cave 4, I (4Q158-4Q186)
- \_\_\_5. The Krt Text in the Literature of Ras Shamara
- \_\_\_6. Catechism of the Council of Trent
- \_\_\_7. Transformations of Lucius
- \_\_\_8. Awakening Osiris
- \_\_\_9. Crisis and Catharsis
- \_\_\_10. War Commentaries of Caesar

#### Uniform Title

- a. Dead Sea Scrolls
- b. De Bellico Gallico
- c. The Golden Ass
- d. Catholic Church. Catechismus Romanus
- e. Book of the Dead
- f. Keret Epic
- g. Siddur (Reform, Central Conference of American Rabbis)
- h. Bible.N.T.Revelation-Commentaries
- i. De natura deorum
- j. Divina Commedia

Answers at end of article

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FIGURE 1

Collins, Adela Yarbro  
 Crisis and Catharsis : the power of the  
 Apocalypse / by Adela Yarbro Collins.  
 --1st ed.-- Philadelphia :  
 Westminster Press, c1984.  
 179 p. ; 23 cm.  
 Includes bibliographical references  
 and index.

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Neall, Beatrice S.  
 The concept of character in the Apocalypse, with  
 implications for character education / Beatrice  
 S. Neall.  
 Washington, D.C. : University Press of America,  
 1983.  
 xii, 224 p. ; 22 cm.  
 Bibliography: p. 208-223.

#### 1. Character-Biblical Teaching

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Collins, Adela Yarbro  
 The Apocalypse / Adela Yarbro Collins.  
 Wilmington, Delaware : M. Glazier, 1979.  
 xiv, 155 p. ; 21 cm. New Testament message ; v.  
 22  
 "For further reading" : p. 154-155.

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Edwards, Jonathan, 1703-1758  
 Notes on the apocalypse  
 Apocalyptic writings / Jonathan Edwards ; Edited  
 by Stephen J. Stein. New Haven : Yale University  
 Press, 1977.  
 x, 501 p. ; 24 cm The works of Jonathan Edwards  
 ; v. 5  
 Includes bibliographical references and indexes.  
 notes on the apocalypse. \_\_An Humble attempt.

FIGURE 2

SAMPLE AUTHORITY RECORD  
Manual system

Gospel of Thomas

see from

Bible.N.T. Apocryphal books.Coptic Gospel of Thomas  
Evangelium Thomae Copticum  
Thomas, Gospel of Local  
Coptic Gospel of Thomas Local

see also (BT)  
Apocryphal Books (New Testament) Local

Note: Not the same as Gospel of Thomas (Infancy Gospel)  
ARN: 888164  
LC Authority # : 82240484

FIGURE 3

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ANSWERS TO FIGURE ONE

- |     |     |     |      |
|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 1.j | 4.a | 7.c | 10.b |
| 2.g | 5.f | 8.e |      |
| 3.i | 6.d | 9.h |      |