



# OCLC Connexion Client Training Q&A Series, Session 5: Authority Control

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# What is Authority Control?

- Authority Control: The procedures by which consistency of form is maintained in the headings (names, uniform titles, series titles, and subjects) used in a library catalog or file of bibliographic records through the application of an authoritative list (called an authority file) to new items as they are added to the collection. Authority control is available from commercial service providers.  
-- ODLIS
- Purpose: Collocation and Disambiguation

# Cutter's Objects & Means

From: Rules for a Printed Dictionary Catalog (1876)

- Objects
  1. To enable a person to find a book of which either is known:
    - (A) the author
    - (B) the title
    - (C) the subject
  2. To show what the library has:
    - (D) by a given author
    - (E) on a given subject
    - (F) in a given kind of literature.
  3. To assist in the choice of a book:
    - (G) as to its edition (bibliographically)
    - (H) as to its character (literary or topical)

# Examples of Collocation and Disambiguation Issues

- Cantaloupe vs. Muskmelon
- Michelle Williams vs. Michelle Williams
- Saint Petersburg vs. Leningrad
- Cologne vs. Köln
- London, Cambridge, Rockford
- Symphony no. 3
- Song of Solomon vs. Song of Songs
- Python vs. Python

# Authority Control Outside of Libraries: Collocation

- Cross-references (“see” and “see also” references) in dictionaries, encyclopedias, etc.
- Example failure: RVC employee directory (cannot search by preferred name)

# Collocation Outside the Library: Wikipedia

## James Stewart

83 languages

Article Talk

Read Edit View history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia


(Redirected from [Jimmy Stewart](#))

*"Jimmy Stewart" and "Jimmy Stuart" redirect here. For other uses, see [Jimmy Stewart \(disambiguation\)](#), [Jimmy Stuart \(disambiguation\)](#), and [James Stewart \(disambiguation\)](#).*

**James Maitland "Jimmy" Stewart** (May 20, 1908 – July 2, 1997) was an American actor. Known for his distinctive [drawl](#) and everyman screen persona, Stewart's film career spanned 80 films from 1935 to 1991. With the strong morality he portrayed both on and off the screen, he epitomized the "American ideal" in the mid-twentieth century. In 1999, the [American Film Institute](#) (AFI) ranked him third on its list of the [greatest American male actors](#).<sup>[1]</sup> He received numerous honors including the [Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award](#) in 1968, the [AFI Life Achievement Award](#) in 1980, the [Kennedy Center Honor](#) in 1983, as well as the [Academy Honorary Award](#), and [Presidential Medal of Freedom](#), both in 1985.

Born and raised in [Indiana, Pennsylvania](#), Stewart started acting while at [Princeton University](#). After graduating in 1932, he began a career as a stage actor, appearing on [Broadway](#) and in [summer stock](#) productions. He landed his first supporting role in *The Murder Man* (1935), and had his breakthrough in [Frank Capra](#)'s ensemble comedy *You Can't Take It with You* (1938).

James Stewart




# Authority Control Outside of Libraries: Disambiguation

- Identification numbers: Social Security, Driver's License, Student ID, Employee ID
- Medical offices: date of birth
- Rockford, Illinois

# Disambiguation Outside of Libraries: Wikipedia

## Robin Williams (disambiguation)

 7 languages 

[Article](#) [Talk](#)

[Read](#) [Edit](#) [View history](#)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Robin Williams** (1951–2014) was an American actor and stand-up comedian.

**Robin Williams** may also refer to:

### People [\[ edit \]](#)

- [Robin Murphy Williams](#) (1914–2006), American sociology professor at Cornell University
- [Robin Williams \(academic\)](#) (born 1952), British professor at University of Edinburgh
- [Robin Williams \(canoeist\)](#), British slalom canoeist
- [Robin Williams \(rowing coach\)](#) (born 1959), British rowing coach
- [Robin Williams \(folk musician\)](#) (born 1947), American folk musician
- [Robin Williams \(physicist\)](#) (born 1941), Welsh physicist and academic
- [Robin Williams \(writer\)](#) (born 1953), computers and graphic design
- [Robin Williams \(mathematician\)](#) (1919–2013), New Zealand mathematician, university administrator and public servant
- [Robin L. Williams](#) (born 1961), member of the Georgia House of Representatives
- [Robin F. Williams](#) (born 1984), American painter

# Disambiguation Outside of Libraries: Imdb.com

	<b>Robin Williams</b> Actor, Mrs. Doubtfire (1993)
	<b>Robin Williams</b> Soundtrack, Mississippi Grind (2015)
	<b>Robin Williams</b>
	<b>Robin Williams</b> Additional Crew, Star Trek (2009)
	<b>Robin Williams</b> Editor, Stiffs (2011– )
	<b>Robin Williams</b> Stunts, Kingsman: The Golden Circle (2017)
	<b>Robin Blair</b> Actress, I Don't Feel at Home in This World Anymore (2017)
	<b>Robin Williamson</b> Music Department, The Dragon Has Two Tongues: A History of the Welsh (1985)
	<b>Robin Williams</b>
	<b>Robin Williams</b> Additional Crew, In Darkness (2011)

# Disambiguation Outside of Libraries: Imdb.com

**Robin Williams** (VI)

Actor · Soundtrack

Robin Williams is known for [Mississippi Grind](#) (2015), [A Prairie Home Companion](#) (2006) and [500 Fireflies](#).

# Disambiguation Outside of Libraries: The Screen Actors Guild

## What You Need to Know About Signing Up for SAG

**4. The name game.** You cannot have the same name as another SAG actor. When registering, you must come up with three names for yourself that you would be okay with using as your "professional name" in case someone registered with SAG is already using your name. Good examples would be "Jessica Gardner, Jessica H. Gardner, or Jessica Helene Gardner." However, don't try putting "Jessica, Jess, or Jessi Gardner." "We do not go by spelling; we go by derivatives and phonetics," explains membership clerk Janeen Kazarian-Dinkel. "Meaning, Jess and Jessi are derivatives of Jessica. If we had a Jessica Gardner as a member, and then we had someone who comes in and wants to join but she wants to use Jess Gardner, sorry, the name's not available." However, if Jess Gardner is your legal name and you are adamant about using it, the guild cannot deny you the use of your legal name. Whatever name you choose professionally, the guild advises that you use it consistently. "That includes your credits, applications, contracts, headshots, résumés, signature-everything between you and the guild."

# Authority Control in the Library World: Means of Collocation

- Choose one form for preferred term (“authorized form”)
- Add cross references (see-from and see-also-from references) from other forms (non-preferred terms)

# Authority Control in the Library World: Means of Disambiguation

## Add qualification

- Places: Name of larger jurisdiction or type of place
- Titles: Name of author or publisher or place or type of work
- Corporate names: Type of entity or indirect entry
- Personal names: dates or fuller form of name or (RDA) other description (occupation, etc.)
- Undifferentiated name authority records (relic of AACR2)

# Types of authority records

- NACO
  - Names (personal, corporate, conference, geographic)
  - Titles (or works) (uniform titles, series titles)
- SACO
  - Subjects (topical)
  - Subject subdivisions (topical, chronological, form, geographic?)
  - Genres

# MARC format for Authority Records

<https://www.loc.gov/marc/authority>

- Fixed fields: coded information
- 0XX fields: control numbers, codes
- 1XX field: authorized form of heading
- 3XX fields: attributes of entity
- 4XX fields: see from references
- 5XX fields: see also from references
- 6XX fields: notes
- 7XX fields: heading linking entries

# Authority tags and bibliographic tags where headings are controlled

Heading	Authority Tag	Bibliographic Tags
Personal Name	100	100, 600, 700, 800
Corporate Name	110	110, 610, 710, 810
Conference Name	111	111, 611, 711, 811
Uniform Title	130	130, 440, 630, 730, 830
Chronological Term	148	648
Topical Subject	150	650
Geographic Subject	151	651
Genre / Form Subject	155	655
Topical Subdivision	180	6xx \$x
Geographic Subdivision	181	6xx \$z
Chronological Subdivision	182	6xx \$y
Form Subdivision	185	6xx \$v

# Searching in the LC/NACO Authority File

- Search
  - More search options (LCCN and OCLC ARN available only in search)
  - Command line search
  - More complicated to use
- Browse
  - Fewer search options
  - Less complicated, easier to use

# Controlling Headings

- Links headings in bib records to authority records
- Controlled headings in bib records update automatically if authorized heading changes
- Control all or individually
- Unqualified personal name headings can only be controlled individually
- Make sure you are controlling to correct authority record
- “Replace record” to save controlling on master record
- There won’t always be an authority record for every heading

# VIAF (Virtual International Authority File)

- The Virtual International Authority File service provides libraries and library users with convenient access to the world's major name authority files. VIAF Contributors regularly supply authority data that VIAF matches, links, and groups. All descriptions for a given entity are merged into a cluster that brings together the different names for that entity. This service allows researchers to identify names, locations, works, and expressions while preserving regional preferences for language, spelling, and script.
- <https://www.oclc.org/en/viaf.html>

# Authority Control in Alma

- Do not export authority records from OCLC to Alma
- LC/NACO and many other authority files are in CZ and updated regularly by ExLibris
- Local authority records are possible
- Link BIB Headings and Preferred Term Correction jobs (problems!)
- “Binoculars” and “half-binoculars”
- Authority records used in Primo VE?