

MnPALS Authorities Task Force Final Report
MnPALS User Group Meeting April 21 and 22, 2006
Submitted March 31, 2006 by Anne Levin, Chair

MnPALS Authorities Task Force Membership
*As of 3/31/2006

MnPALS Libraries Members:

Anne Levin – (Chair) – Minnesota Historical Society
Deb Faulhaber – Minneapolis Community & Technical College
Steve Krause – Minnesota Historical Society
Dustin Larmore – Dakota State University/SDLN
Julie Rustad – College of St. Scholastica/Duluth
Edward Swanson – Minitex Contract Catalogers
Linda Swanson – Concordia College/Moorhead

PALS Staff:

Deb Domek – Technical Staff
Mary Ann Greenwald – Support Staff

MnPALS Authorities Task Force Charge

The MnPALS Cataloging User Group establishes the Authorities Task Force to examine authorities functionality in the MnPALS implementation of the Aleph System, both in the current version 15.5.2 and in version 17.01. The task force shall look at linkages between bibliographic records and authority records, display of authority information, authority field tag terminology, and other issues related to authorities. It shall also review the database for authority records that were rejected during loading (SYS 19). The examination shall incorporate as appropriate the MnLINK acceptance testing scripts that already have been developed for authority issues.

The Task Force may co-opt members from other groups as appropriate to complete its work. It shall submit its final report to the Cataloging User Group no later than the Spring 2006 User Group meeting. Any recommendations in the final report that are adopted by the Cataloging User Group shall be forwarded to the MnPALS User Council.

Meetings

Since its last report, the Authority TF has met October 7, 2005, November 4, 2005, December 2, 2005, December 16, 2005, February 17, 2006, and March 3, 2006. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for April 7 and May 5, 2006.

Our minutes are posted to the Authorities Task Force WebBoard at:

<http://boards.pals.msus.edu/fusetalk/forum/categories.cfm?catid=67> *There are problems with the webboards and not everything is displaying as it should. We hope this will be resolved soon.

Proposal for Authorities Task Force to continue its charge:

As this is our final report as designated in the original charge, the Authorities Task Force proposes continuing its work following the Spring 2006 User Group meeting. By Spring 2006 we'll have addressed the issues in the charge as they relate to version 15.

Continuing our charge would allow us to work with PALS staff on authorities issues as needed and review upcoming versions 17 (summer/fall 2006) and 18 (implementation date unknown) in the context of the issues we've looked at for version 15. We would call meetings as needed which would complement our members' busy workloads, summer and winter breaks, and let us focus our energies as issues arise.

Work completed:

1) Changes implemented on Harp (these were noted at Oct. 2005 meeting, but had only been implemented on Lute at that time):

- *sys10/tab/edit_field.eng* (display of subfields in various fields and spacing for authority information as seen in Web OPAC LC Authority Record links and GUI client)
- *sys01/tab/edit_doc_999-aut-sys10.eng* (680 note displays in authority record link in OPAC)

2) New field labels have been designated for several fields seen in authority record links in the OPAC. These changes to *sys01/tab/edit_doc_999-aut-sys10.eng* have been implemented on Lute for review and they are posted to the Completed Work section of the WebBoard.

3) Hyphens have been added between subfields in the subject browse lists as seen in the OPAC. Pals staff determined how to do this and posted the information to the Completed Work section of the WebBoard. This change has been implemented in Harp.

4) The problem of seen from/4XX terms with \$w nne that do not display in the OPAC subject browse lists has been identified and discussed with Pals staff. There does not seem to be a solution at this time.

5) Review of SYS19 – The Task Force and PALS staff reviewed a sample of the approximately 5000 rejected records in the SYS 19 database. It appears that many records that have been deleted from the LC Authorities are being rejected into SYS19 instead of being completely deleted from Aleph and many of these records are duplicated in SYS19 as well. PALS staff will examine how to resolve this issue and the expectation is that once it is fixed the SYS19 database should be considerably smaller. Also in the sample we reviewed were a small set of that appeared to be rejected on the basis of a subfield not being taken into account or because of the COR field. The Task Force and PALS will continue to work on identifying what records are being rejected and why.

Ex Libris Regional User Group Meeting

Members of the Authorities Task Force and Pals staff attended the Ex Libris meeting held in St. Paul, March 7 and 8. At the Question Authority session Anne Levin as chair of the MnPALS Authorities Task Force spoke about the work and challenges of the Authorities

Task Force as a part of the MnPALS consortium. Also in the Question Authority session was a presentation by Stephen Hearn of the University of Minnesota and the Ex Libris Authorities Enhancement committee on the upcoming authorities enhancements in version 18. More information about these enhancements also came from Ex Libris in their own presentation of version 18. It sounds like 18 offers great improvements. Also of note from Ex Libris is their new Primo interface to be launched in Summer 2006 which poses questions of how authorities information will be presented/used in the future and how/whether Primo will be implemented for MnPALS.

Future Issues

- Review of versions 17 and 18 for issues identified in review of 15. At this point the Authorities Task Force will not pursue developing any version 20 enhancements for authorities. Without using and reviewing the intervening versions we are not in a position to know what needs to be improved. Will Primo and other Ex Libris products add any new factors that affect authorities?
- With the migration of MnPALS libraries to Aleph almost complete and the upcoming version changes to 17 and later to 18, do MnPALS libraries need more information about how the authority system works in Aleph (public and client sides), whether it is reliable, and what changes are coming and when?