

NACO-Music Project Advisory Committee
Report to the MLA Cataloging & Metadata Committee
March 2021, Virtual Meeting

NMP Advisory Committee Members

Mary Huismann (St. Olaf College), Chair
Mark Scharff (Washington University in St. Louis), NMP Coordinator
Michi Hoban, Library of Congress Representative
Casey Mullin (Western Washington University), Member-at-large
Ann Churukian (Vassar College), Member-at-Large
Keith Knop (University of Georgia), CMC Representative

1. NMPAC membership changes

Keith Knop replaced Tracey Snyder (Cornell University) as the CMC Representative to the committee. Many thanks to Tracey for her active and insightful service.

At the risk of omission, I will mention the retirements of longtime NMP members Paul Cauthen (University of Cincinnati) and Jeannette Thompson (Tulane University), and a seismic event for NMP—the retirement of Chuck Herrold (Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh), NMP’s most prolific individual contributor and a source of high-quality authority records.

2. NMP membership—changes

Five new personal participants were accepted into the Project since the 2020 annual meeting:

- Cate Gerhart (University of Washington)
- Chelsea Hoover (Syracuse University)
- Jeff Lyon (Brigham Young University)
- Leonard Martin (University of Houston)
- Denise McGiboney (Free Library of Philadelphia)

Two new institutional members were accepted:

- Free Library of Philadelphia
- University of Washington

These are robust numbers, especially in the face of the pandemic, but may in fact reflect changing work patterns that favor authority work. I would also credit growth in BIBCO Music participation.

3. Membership summary—active

- NMP currently has 88 individual participants from 63 institutions. The comparable numbers in the 2020 report were 88 individual participants from 62 institutions. The individual member number counts several members currently unaffiliated, and

counts Morris Levy, who is serving as NMP's series reviewer though not himself contributing NMP records.

- There are 24 institutions where the NMP position is vacant (all on the internal roster)
- The number of participants who have achieved independent contributor status under RDA is as follows:
 - 46 for name records (decrease of 4 from March 2020)
 - 30 for name-title records (decrease of 1)
 - 1 for series records (no change)

4. Project statistics

	NARs		SARs		TOTAL
	New	Changed	New	Changed	
FY 2020*	8,987	12,215	41	9	21,252
FY 2019†	11,503	9,825	61	7	21,396
+/- (actual)	2,516	2,390	20	2	144
+/- (%)	21.9	19.6	32.8	22.2	.01
Cumulative‡	314,523	155,387	3,099	627	473,636

NARs = Name Authority Records

SARs = Series Authority Records

*October 1, 2019-September 30, 2020

†October 1, 2018-September 30, 2019

‡Through September 30, 2020

The decrease in new records contributed is not surprising. Some libraries had reduced or even suspended cataloging activity for much of the spring and summer. The healthy bump in updated-record numbers may also have been the result of remote projects that focused on access-point cleanup that could be done without cataloged items in hand.

One surprise has been the decrease in the number of independent contributors. Even as the pandemic may have been a trigger for new participants to join, existing contributors may have had lessened access to material to catalog during the past year. While a timeframe for implementation of the reorganized RDA Toolkit is starting to solidify, it is still not imminent. It might be time to evaluate our documentation to see if it is adequate for creating NARs for musical works and expressions using the reorganized Toolkit. One quick-and-dirty notion would be an annotated version of Chapter Z1 of the Descriptive Cataloging Manual.

Future directions

While there hasn't been much public news about it, I still think a likely source of change for NMP will be outcomes of PCC discussions seeking ways to increase involvement in authority control/identity management through programs requiring less training and rigor than NACO. The addition of identifiers to authority records (MARC field 024) is still in a pilot stage, but the moratorium on non-pilot participants adding them to authority records

has been lifted. Instructions and policies for creating authority records for expressions (e.g. arrangements, translations) and for aggregates (e.g. collective conventional titles that include *Selections*) are getting more attention in the larger library community. There is an arc bending toward greater differentiation for these sorts of access points, which would be a change of practice for music (think of all the different assemblages of works are represented in the access point [Bach, Johann Sebastian, 1685-1750. Organ music. Selections]). In those discussions, the music community will almost certainly take an active role, and we are not on the brink of drastic change just yet.

5. Acknowledgements

Two members of the NMPAC conclude their terms after this meeting—Mary Huisman and Casey Mullin. Mary took on the role of chair after serving as a member-at-large, and has managed the committee's work with efficiency and grace. Casey has brought his energy and duly-honored insights to NMPAC's work in a very positive way. They will both be missed. But not yet—I hope that they will be willing to continue until their replacements have been found. I am grateful to all the members of NMPAC for their cumulative years of devotion to the workings of NMP. I also thank the members of the NACO-Music Project for allowing me to serve them.

Respectfully submitted,

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