Forming the Oklahoma "Tornado" NACO Funnel

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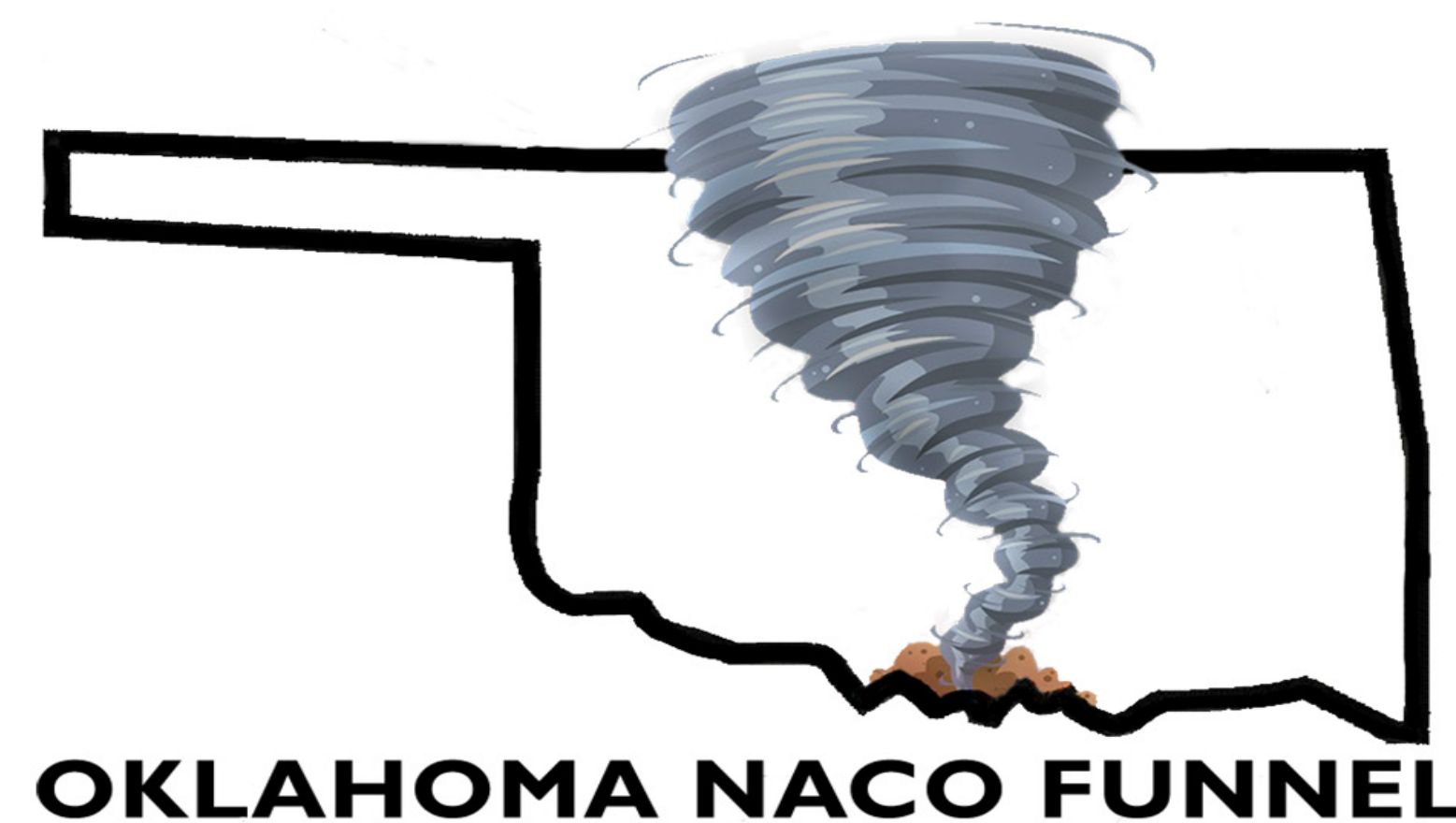Associate Professor of Bibliography
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What is NACO?

The **N**ame **A**uthority **Co**operative (**NACO**), which is overseen by the **Library of Congress (LC)**, is comprised of libraries whose catalogers participate in contributing **name authority records (NAR)** for names of persons, corporate bodies, jurisdictions, and uniform titles to LC's **Name Authority File (NAF).**

Participants can either join NACO independently with the agreement to contribute at least 100 NARs per year or join as a funnel, in which libraries join as a group and have no minimum requirement for record contribution. Forming a funnel has allowed Oklahoma catalogers the opportunity to improve resource discovery by establishing verified forms of names and disambiguating entities with same or similar names.

Participating Institutions

University of Oklahoma*   University of Central Oklahoma
National Weather Center   Tulsa City-County Library System
Oklahoma Historical Society   Tulsa Community College

Funnel coordinator
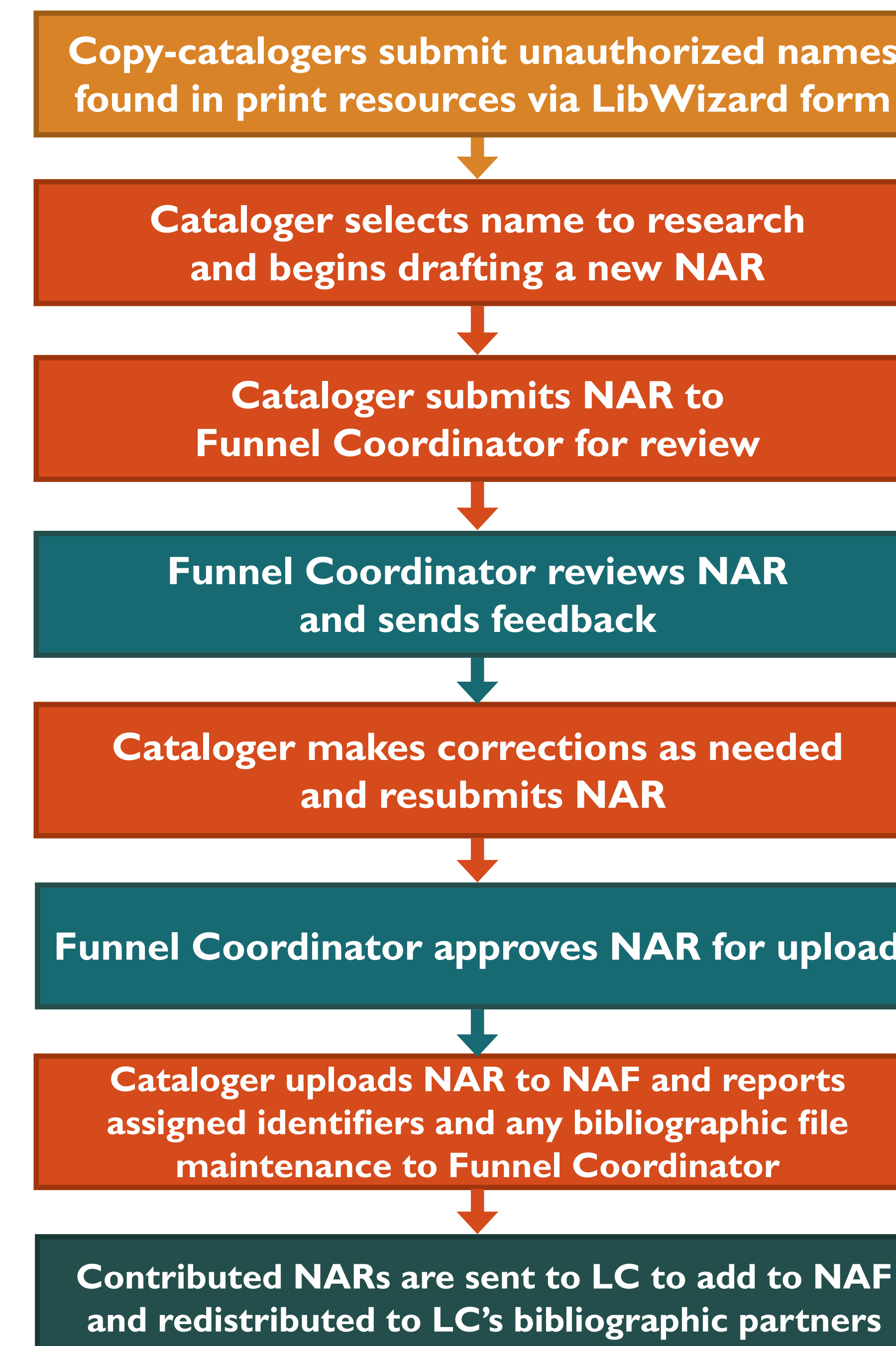

OKLAHOMA NACO FUNNEL

Training

Becoming a NACO participant is a time investment with the full training session consisting of thirty-one hours covering eight modules: Foundations, Persons, Families, Corporate Bodies, Places, Works, Making Changes, and Administrative Information. LC provides all of the standard training material for non-LC staff to use locally.

Funnel members may be trained at their convenience by the Funnel Coordinator or they may wait until LC holds an online workshop. When the Oklahoma "Tornado" NACO Funnel formed in 2017, catalogers from participating institutions attended training sessions led by OU either in-person at their Library Service Center or virtually.

Establishing a NAR

Catalogers must determine if there is an existing name when creating a new NAR—if there is not, catalogers may establish the name as-is; however, finding disambiguating information is mandatory if there is an existing name. Establishing or disambiguating a name in the NAF requires time and research. Although it is not the cataloger's job to create a mini-biography of the person or entity, it is important for catalogers to find information, such as birth or death dates for people, that will disambiguate one person or entity from another with a similar name. NARs can contain "see also" references, such as pseudonyms or memberships for persons, or preceding or succeeding names for corporate entities.

University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) catalogers developed a process to ensure that unauthorized names were identified in the copy-cataloging workflow and added to a queue for catalogers to establish and contribute new NARs:

- Copy-catalogers submit unauthorized names found in print resources via LibWizard form
- Cataloger selects name to research and begins drafting a new NAR
- Cataloger submits NAR to Funnel Coordinator for review
- Funnel Coordinator reviews NAR and sends feedback
- Cataloger makes corrections as needed and resubmits NAR
- Funnel Coordinator approves NAR for upload
- Cataloger uploads NAR to NAF and reports assigned identifiers and any bibliographic file maintenance to Funnel Coordinator
- Contributed NARs are sent to LC to add to NAF and redistributed to LC's bibliographic partners

Creating a process for notifying catalogers of unauthorized names has allowed UCO to consistently contribute names to the NAF.

OK Funnel Contributions (Selected)

Arnett, Kristen N.
Brown, Jason, 1968-
Cameron, Alex (Musician)
Carlstone, Darry S.
  Alternate identity: Stone, Scott (Mystery writer)
Central Oklahoma Humane Society
Central State College (Edmond, Okla.)
Herland Bookstore
  Successor: Herland Sister Resources
Hudson, John Frederick
Hustin, A. (Arthur), 1850-1924
Jackson College of Graduate Studies
  Predecessor: Jackson College of Graduate Studies & Research
    Predecessor: University of Central Oklahoma. Graduate College
Lee, Jane
Lee, Jane (Art historian)
Lee, Jane (Eleanor Jane)
Neil-Sherwood, Michele
New Plains Student Publishing
Rodriguez, Gustavo A. (Bird watcher)
Stoermer, Mark, 1977-
  Member of: Killers (Rock Group : 2001-)
Thomas, Todd (Steven Todd)
  Member of: Sensual Harassment

Benefits for the User

Name authority control provides points of uniform access in the form of **clearly identified creators.** The use of uniform names across bibliographic records **increases precision and recall in searches** within a discovery interface. Authorized names ensure that **users can successfully identify a work by a particular creator**.

Use of authorized names by multiple institutions also ensures that users can retrieve **accurate results** when searching across these institutions' collections and in WorldCat. NARs also enable further **discovery via collocation** of all of the library's holdings by a particular author or creator without confusing them with works by and about namesakes.