

Kicked a Heading Lately? The Challenge of Establishing Headings for Buildings and Other Structures

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Introduction

Ada Louise Huxtable, architecture critic, titled her 1976 book *Kicked a Building Lately?* to express her frustration with modern American architecture. I, along with many of my cataloging colleagues, feel the same degree of frustration when establishing headings for buildings and other structures. These headings provide important access points in the catalog, particularly for patrons interested in art and architecture materials. However, the process of establishing them is frequently challenging, and at times we would just prefer to kick them into submission.

My ongoing headache over entities for buildings started in June 2004 after I attended an ARLIS/New England meeting at Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum in Bristol, Rhode Island. Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum provided a perfect example of a heading (i.e., access point) which was both ambiguous and difficult to establish. Did it belong in the *Library of Congress Subject Authority File (LCSAF)* or the *Library of Congress Name Authority File (LCNAF)*?¹ What at first seemed clear was not clear at all—it was typical of a heading which would require much research and thought before it could be established.



Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum. Photograph by Linda Cuccurullo. Reproduced with permission.

Around the same time as the ARLIS/NE meeting, I had volunteered to serve on the American Library Association's Association for Library Collections & Technical Services, Subject Analysis Committee (ALA/ALCTS/SAC) Task Force on Named

Buildings and Other Structures. As a cataloger, I had experienced my own struggles determining headings for some difficult building names and welcomed the opportunity to contribute to an analysis of and possible solution to the problems inherent in the rules. The Task Force was charged with "reviewing the issues relating to establishing headings for buildings and other structures in the subject authority file" and "determining whether it would be appropriate to move headings for buildings and other structures to the name authority file, and, if so, what changes to policy and procedures would be required." The Task Force was created because there was growing need within the ARLIS/NA cataloging community for clarification of the rules for establishing such headings.

As our group toured the early twentieth century stone mansion of Blithewold, along with a section of the thirty-three-acre estate in Bristol, I could not help but think what an interesting heading this might be. Perhaps I could submit the heading to the Task Force's online discussion. Our guide pointed out that the 1907 mansion was designed in the style of an English country manor as a private home and was filled with decorative furnishings from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries. Following the mansion tour, we strolled over gravel paths admiring the grounds designed principally by landscape architect John DeWolf.

Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum is now a historic property which is open to the public. The property was left to the Heritage Trust of Rhode Island (now Preserve Rhode Island) by its owner, Marjorie Lyon, upon her death in 1976. Preserve Rhode Island is a non-profit organization whose role is "guiding and fostering historic and heritage preservation." Management of the property is the domain of Save Blithewold, Inc.

When I returned to work the next day, I checked LC's authority files to see what, if anything, the search revealed. There was only a name authority record for "Blithewold Gardens & Arboretum." Since the mansion had always been part of the estate, I wondered why the word "mansion" was left out of the heading. I also questioned the tag of 151, since Blithewold was a corporate body and the author of the newsletter cited in the authority record. A tag of 151 is used for geographic names as subject headings and would be appropriate if Blithewold was only a garden and not capable of authorship. In addition to the problematic tag, there was a contradictory notation in the record that the heading was established according to name rules ("LC/NACO-NAME"), indicating that its corporateness and authorship had been taken into consideration. This only increased the confusion.

LC/NACO - NAME

ARN: 1918354 Entered: 19870814

010 n 86017726

040 MH †c DLC †d DLC

151 **Blithewold Gardens & Arboretum (Bristol, R.I.)**

451 Blithewold Gardens and Arboretum

670 Newsl. (Blithewold Gardens & Arboretum (Bristol, R.I.)). Newsletter, spring 1987: †b t.p. (Blithewold Gardens & Arboretum) p. 4 (Blithewold Gardens and Arboretum, Bristol, Rhode Island)

ARN: 6942032 Replaced: 20060531051954.0

010 n 2006050728

040 NNC †b eng †c NNC †d MCM

110 2 **Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum (Bristol, R.I.)**

410 2 Blithewold Mansion, Gardens and Arboretum (Bristol, R.I.)

410 2 Blithewold (Bristol, R.I.)

510 2 Blithewold Gardens & Arboretum (Bristol, R.I.) †w a

670 Newsl. (Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum (Bristol, R.I.)). Newsletter, spring 1999: †b t.p. (Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum)

670 Blithewold: Bristol, Rhode Island c.1978: †b t.p. (Blithewold)



Blithewold's newsletter, showing the evolving name of the organization. Image courtesy of Imaging Services, Harvard College Library, c2006. Reproduced with permission.

In the course of the past year, this authority record has been updated and the tag has been changed to a 110 (Corporate Author), I assume to reflect the fact that it is indeed a corporate body and author despite the fact that its name indicated that it was merely a garden, which would normally justify its establishment as a subject. The mystery was beginning to unravel, but it was obvious that the initial error was due more to the complexities of establishing such a name than to lack of attention on the part of the cataloger. More recently, as a result of a subsequent visit to Blithewold by the author of this article, the bibliographic record for the newsletter has been updated to reflect a later name for the issuing body of Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum, and authority records have been created and updated to reflect this change. There are now two authority records for the earlier and later names of the corporate body, both established as 110s, under the rules for establishment of names:

ARN: 1918354 Replaced: 20060531051953.0

010 n 86017726

040 MH †b eng †c DLC †d DLC †d OCoLC †d NNC †d MCM

110 2 **Blithewold Gardens & Arboretum (Bristol, R.I.)**

410 2 Blithewold Gardens and Arboretum (Bristol, R.I.)

510 2 Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum (Bristol, R.I.) †w b

670 Newsl. (Blithewold Gardens & Arboretum (Bristol, R.I.)). Newsletter, spring 1987: †b t.p. (Blithewold Gardens & Arboretum) p. 4 (Blithewold Gardens and Arboretum; Bristol, Rhode Island)

If you're confused, you are not alone! However, I hope that this will make a little more sense by the time you finish reading this article.

Background

Buildings and other structures are included among the "Ambiguous Headings" (MARC21 Format for Authority Data, Appendix D) that can be established in either the Library of Congress Name or Subject Authority File, depending on whether they have a corporate identity (i.e., whether they are capable of authorship). Sounds simple, right? Most building names are established as subjects using the instructions in the *Subject Cataloging Manual* (Section H1334, "Buildings and Other Structures"), and tagged as 110, 150, or 151 according to the provisions of Section H405, "Establishing Certain Entities in the Name or Subject Authority File." But even the most experienced catalogers among us are confused by the rules and by the myriad of situations that can arise due to this variation in treatment of buildings. This has led to many inconsistencies, and in fact a bias toward corporateness, because the rules for establishing names and procedures for submitting them to the Name Authority Cooperative Program (NACO)² are easier than those for the Subject Authority Cooperative Program (SACO).³ Even in the simplest circumstance, where the rules as they exist have been easily followed, there is the inherent inconsistency of one building being in the *LCNAF* (because it has a corporate identity) and another being in the *LCSAF*. In the first instance, if the name of a building is the same as the name of the corporate body that occupies it, it is established under corporate name rules and is entered directly under its name, generally without a qualifier, and with references from any variant forms of name. In the second instance, a building with no corporate identity is considered merely an object and is established using subject rules (i.e., under its name *with* geographic qualifier, references from any variant forms of name, and references from type of structure subdivided by place).

Example:

ARN: 212069 Entered: 19860128

010 sh 86000386

040 DLC †b eng †c DLC

110 2 **Graceland Mansion (Memphis, Tenn.)**

550 Dwellings †z Tennessee †w g

670 Work cat.: Brixey, K. Elvis at Graceland, 1983

In a slightly more complicated situation, if the building changes name, the one established under name rules uses a sequence of headings with *see also* references between them.

But the name established using subject rules will be entered under the *latest* form of name. Besides the inconsistency, this is a particular problem for art and architecture catalogers who may be cataloging a resource about the building under its earlier name.

Add to these circumstances the possibility of a building not only changing name, but changing function, and/or even location, and one starts to get the picture of how complicated the scenarios might become. A corporate body may only inhabit part of a building, or a building may have a well-established name that differs from the name of the corporate body. A building may reside in the *LCSAF* as long it remains a private dwelling or a place, and then be moved to the *LCNAF* when it becomes a hotel, a museum, or a guest house.

ARLIS/NA Involvement

The ARLIS/NA Cataloging Advisory Committee (CAC) has been involved for many years with trying to create policies and procedures relating to heading formation and authority file selection for buildings and other structures. The 1995 *Final Report* of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) Task Group on Name Versus Subject Authorities highlighted the difficulties catalogers experience when trying to choose between establishing a heading in the *LCNAF* or *LCSAF*, but deferred to CAC to come up with a solution. Thus CAC drafted a *Library of Congress Rule Interpretation (LCRI)* to address these cataloging concerns and presented the draft to the LC Cataloging Policy and Support Office (CPSO). CPSO reviewed the *LCRI* but did not think there was enough basis for the proposal—they wanted a stronger

rationale for introducing the rule interpretation, which led CAC (represented by Elizabeth O’Keefe) to bring the problem to SAC for further study and suggestions as to how to proceed.

Task Force Recommendations

The Task Force spent many hours over many months examining the history and complexities of establishing names for buildings such as Blithewold. We found that not only were there many peculiarities and problems, but that each type of building (e.g., castles, churches, public libraries, theaters, hospitals, stadiums, houses, forts, plazas, monuments) exhibited its own set of horrors. Ultimately, for various reasons, the Task Force did not recommend that all building names be moved to the *LCNAF*, not the least important of these reasons being the fact that the Library of Congress is reluctant to do so. LC has made exceptions in the past, and has issued complicated interpretations of many of the rules—but this is not the past, it is the future, where there will be few interpretations, and fewer exceptions. Besides, there is also the fact that buildings are *objects*, and by definition do not have corporate identity (a fact which has been corroborated by Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records).⁴

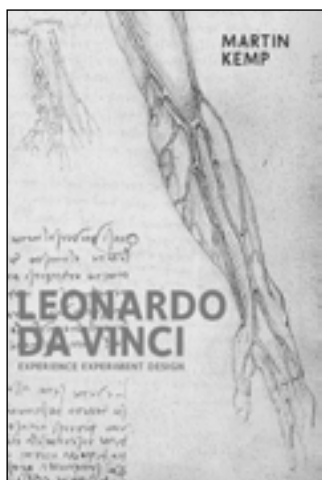
The final recommendation of the Task Force⁵ was that more information be gathered, including more input from catalogers of visual materials, a user study to ascertain how the user is affected by searches of these headings, further information on impending changes to AACR2 which might affect the formation of headings, and more systematic data collection and analysis of headings and MARC tagging for buildings and other structures. Collection and analysis of this data was deemed to be a matter of urgency since the number of such headings is likely to increase exponentially as libraries focus attention on cataloging of digital collections.

In addition, the Task Force recommended that an Art SACO Funnel (a group of libraries joined together to contribute records to the authority file) be formed to assist catalogers with the submission of building heading proposals. This group would work together with the Art NACO Funnels to resolve the ambiguity in authority file selection for building headings, collect examples of headings as data for the aforementioned study, and publish examples of particularly complex headings in the *SACO Participants’ Manual* or similar cataloging manuals. Finally, the Task Force recommended the selection of an ARLIS/NA liaison for the purpose of keeping SAC informed about developments relating to these recommendations in the art cataloging world and other art subject-related cataloging concerns. In 2005 an Art SACO Funnel was initiated and an art cataloger representative, Kay Teel, was appointed to the *SACO Participants Manual* Task Force Group. In addition, examples from Appendix A of the Task Force’s *Final Report* were submitted for consideration as helpful illustrations for catalogers in the upcoming revised edition of the *SACO Participants’ Manual*. Following the ARLIS/NA 2005 Annual Conference, the Executive Board voted to approve me as the liaison from ARLIS/NA to SAC. It is my hope, and the hope of the Task Force, that the issue as to where the headings for buildings and other structures should reside can be revisited and resolved expeditiously.

Possible Solutions

One possibility is to combine the authority files, since the borders between them are already unclear. This would help to

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keep all the headings for buildings and other structures in one place, but it does not address the problem of inconsistencies in form of entry, or references.

Another possibility is to set up all building names as subjects, coding them as appropriate for use as both subjects and names. If the name of the corporate body that inhabits a building is significantly different from the name of the building, a separate heading would be established for that body as per the current policy.

Example:

ARN: 402661 Entered: 19800328
010 n 80020283
040 DLC †b eng †c DLC †d DLC †d TNJ †d DLC †d
DLC-R
110 2 **Louvre (Paris, France)**
410 2 Palais du Louvre (Paris, France)
550 Palaces †z France †w g
680 Here are entered works on the Louvre palace. Works on the museum housed within this building are entered under the name heading Musée du Louvre.

A third possibility for resolution of at least part of the problem associated with a building sharing the same name as the corporate body that inhabits it is to establish a duplicate heading in the LCSAF with “building” appended (e.g., **Museum of Modern Art (N.Y.) : Building**). This would be analogous to LC’s recent decision to acknowledge both corporate and geographic identity for government parks. But, given the possible demise of Library of Congress subject headings⁶ any solution that involves keeping headings for buildings in the LCSAF may not be a viable option.

Adam Schiff (principal cataloger, University of Washington Libraries, and author of the SACO Participants’ Manual) has thought about the problems with the current practices for building names, and he suggests three options that might be worthy of further consideration. First, it might be possible to use *see also* references and the MARC format to link earlier and later names in the LCSAF, even though the Library of Congress does not currently support this use of the MARC format.

Example:

110 2 **Ryman Auditorium (Nashville, Tenn.)**
510 2 Tabernacle, The (Nashville, Tenn.) †w a
550 Auditoriums †z Tennessee †w g

110 2 **Tabernacle, The (Nashville, Tenn.)**
510 2 Ryman Auditorium (Nashville, Tenn.) †w b
550 Church buildings †z Tennessee †w g

Another option would be to create the same type of links between headings in the LCSAF and headings in the LCNFAF.

Example:

Name authority file
110 2 **Museo Juan Carlos Castagnino (Mar del Plata, Argentina)**
510 2 Villa Ortiz Basualdo (Mar del Plata, Argentina)
†w a
Subject authority file
110 2 **Villa Ortiz Basualdo (Mar del Plata, Argentina)**

510 2 Museo Juan Carlos Castagnino (Mar del Plata, Argentina) †w b
550 Dwellings †z Argentina †w g

A third option would be to use 7XX linking fields (instead of *see also* references) to link related headings from the LCNFAF and LCSAF. Although these linking fields were not meant for this purpose, they could potentially be redefined.

Example:

Subject authority file
110 2 **Carnegie Mansion (New York, N.Y.)**
550 Dwellings †z New York (State) †w g
710 2 Cooper-Hewitt Museum

Name authority file
110 2 **Cooper-Hewitt Museum**
510 2 Cooper Union Museum for the Arts of Decoration
†w a
710 2 Carnegie Mansion (New York, N.Y.)

The Future

I encourage you to think about and talk about these possible scenarios. What type of resolution would *you* like to see? What do you think your users want? This discussion needs to continue so that we can come up with some real solutions to a very real problem for catalogers, reference librarians, and users of the catalog.

Acknowledgements

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Notes

1. The authority files are a critical aspect of quality control in cataloging. Authorized headings, with references, are stored in one of three authority files: name, subject, and series. Names are in fact entities which are capable of authorship, and include personal, corporate, and conference authors. The name authority file also includes uniform titles and author/title headings.

2. The Name Authority Cooperative Program (NACO) is a program of the Library of Congress Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) through which “participants contribute authority records for names, uniform titles, and series to the national authority file”—<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/pcc/naco/nacopara.html> (accessed June 1, 2006).

3. The Subject Authority Cooperative Program (SACO) is a program of the Library of Congress Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) “established to provide a means for libraries to submit subject headings and classification numbers”—<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/pcc/saco/sacopara.html> (accessed June 1, 2006).

4. FRBR (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records) is “a 1998 recommendation of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) to restructure catalog databases to reflect the conceptual structure of information resources. It uses an entity-relationship model of metadata for information objects, instead of the single flat record concept underlying current cataloging standards. The FRBR model includes four levels of representation: work, expression, manifestation, and item”—<http://www.oclc.org/research/projects/frbr/> (accessed June 1, 2006).

5. Final report of the Task Force on Named Buildings and Other Structures, <http://www.ala.org/ala/alctscontent/catalogingsection/catcommittees/subjectanalysis/nbos/nbos.htm> (accessed June 1, 2006).

6. Karen Calhoun, “The Changing Nature of the Catalog and Its Integration With Other Discovery Tools,” <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/calhoun-report-final.pdf> (accessed June 1, 2006).

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