

## **Emerging Practices for Researcher Name Disambiguation in Institutional Repositories**

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### **Session Type**

Poster

### **Abstract**

It has been observed that name disambiguation presents a significant, ongoing challenge for institutional repositories<sup>1</sup>. The increase in digital scholarly resources has not always coincided with an increase in institutions' implementation of authority control mechanisms for researchers' names (Ibid). As institutional repository content has increased, so has the occurrence of non-unique personal names, the presence of which hinders researchers' ability to accurately and efficiently discover content. Although traditional library cataloging leverages multiple systems to disambiguate personal names, such as LC/NACO and ISNI, name authority control remains a challenging issue for institutional repositories.

As of January 2015, several pilot projects are exploring concrete, actionable solutions for implementing name authority control in institutional repositories. This poster will present a comparative analysis of these projects, illustrate the advantages and challenges institutional repositories face in adopting name disambiguation workflows and systems, and present ideas for the future development of name authority control functionality in institutional repositories.

### **Keywords**

Authority control; Name disambiguation; Name identifiers; ORCID; VIVO

### **Audience**

This poster is of interest to those responsible for disseminating and organizing repository content, specifically repository managers, metadata specialists, and catalogers. This poster is also of interest to scholars and data producers who want to increase exposure to their research output.

### **Background**

This poster supports the Open Repositories 2015 themes of **Re-using Repository Content** by illustrating the use of semantic networks such as VIVO to increase the visibility and discoverability of research output, as well as the theme of **Integrating with External Systems**

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<sup>1</sup> Salo, D. (2009). Name Authority Control in Institutional Repositories. *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*, 47(3-4), 249-261. doi: 10.1080/01639370902737232

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regarding the use of ORCID to differentiate researcher names and streamline the aggregation and accessibility of research output.

## **Presentation content**

A poster will effectively convey the breadth and scope of name identifier services and projects such as ORCID and VIVO in a succinct, aesthetically pleasing manner. This poster will use diagrams and brief textual descriptions to convey the role of key institutions, services and systems, and workflows in achieving researcher name disambiguation in institutional repositories.

This poster will include discrete sections about institutions that played key roles in the ORCID Adoption and Integration Program, the VIVO project, the UK Names Project, and other name identification services or initiatives focused on uniquely identifying the personal names of scholarly researchers. The institutions that will be examined include Cornell University, the Reactome/Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, and the University of Notre Dame, among others. The poster's primary focus will be on these institutions' workflows, the repository management systems they used or built upon to instantiate name identifier systems, and their application to other institutions. Additional institutions may be examined as more information about their involvement with name disambiguation systems and services becomes available.

## **Conclusion**

The overarching theme of this poster is that institutional repository name disambiguation is now essential; organizations have developed workable, detailed strategies to implement researcher name authority control in institutional repositories, and interested parties can learn from and build upon these strategies in their own systems, or migrate to systems that more effectively support name authority control and the retrieval of scholarly content.