NACO after 25 Years: The Yeshiva University Experience
Marlene Schiffman

Description: In 1999, Marlene authored a presentation entitled "NACO after Five Years: The Experience of Yeshiva University" (*Proceedings of the 34th Annual Convention of the Association of Jewish Libraries,* AJL: 2000, pp. 106-113). It is time to reevaluate our experience with a paper entitled "NACO after 25 Years." There have been many changes in cataloging in general, and in the establishment of names in particular, that have both benefited the NACO community and have complicated the process. This paper will provide examples of name authorities that have been proposed or altered according to the newest rules and the effects of later standards and methods such as RDA and electronic resources (Wikipedia, Facebook, E-mail, pop-up template, etc.) in the process of entering NARs (name authority records) in the NACO Hebraica Funnel.

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(SLIDE 1)

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I often ask non-librarian friends of mine, "What do you think is the most time-consuming part of cataloging a book?" Of all the answers I get, no one ever says, "determining who the author is." When I state that the author's name is indeed the most challenging task, friends usually reply, "But isn't it written right there on the title page?" We catalogers know better….

What is the NACO Hebraica Funnel? In 1994 Joan Biella of Library of Congress trained a number of us from various Judaica libraries to be part of NACO, the Name Authority Cooperative Project at LC. NACO required a member library to enter at least 400 names per year into it. While none of our libraries could produce that many individually, collectively we were able to. So we became a funnel of about a dozen libraries, headed by Rosalie Katchen, of blessed memory. Our present Hebraica NACO coordinator is Heidi Lerner of Stanford University. Heidi reviews all the original records that contain Hebrew, Yiddish, or Ladino characters before they are entered into their more permanent form in the database of LC's Name Authority File. (I say "more permanent" because, luckily, they can always be altered 48 hours after processing.) Most of our headings are generated in the course of everyday work, often from Hebrew originals.

What was it like 25 years ago? Several articles appeared in the Proceedings of the 34th Annual Convention of AJL in 1999, describing the first five years of NACO work by several funnel members (Marcia Goldberg, A"H [Gratz College], myself [at YU], and Caroline Holt [UCLA]). We

all concluded that it was worth our while to remain in the NACO program because of the cooperative aspect of not having to repeat work that others had already done in establishing headings. While there was some detective work involved, the records usually consisted of two or three lines: a name, a cross-reference, and the source (work cataloged).

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Things changed abruptly in August 2012. Since the beginning of that year, YU produced approximately 33 names per month, with a high of 53. In August, Heidi announced that henceforth, all names were to be done under RDA. Between September and December 2012, we produced a total of 4 names. The slowdown resulted from the abrupt change to RDA. Now the average is between 10-15 per month. Nevertheless, there is much more work to do in the course of inputting an RDA name, and all Hebraica names have first to be reviewed by Heidi. The upside is that the increase in information in each record allows a much more definite identification of an entity, be it personal or corporate name, helping to eliminate former ambiguities under AACR2 that used to be grouped under "undifferentiated name."

PERSNAME:
RDA attempts to eliminate undifferentiated names—there are many fewer now. We subscribe to PERSNAME, a listserv that alerts other libraries of new name authorities, especially ones that were formerly on undifferentiated records that now have their own identities. Some correspondents are also systematically adding death dates to personal name headings, and, if the author is in our catalog, we update the authority accordingly.

Electronic aids:
A boon to catalogers establishing name authorities is the many electronic aids we can now make use of. Electronic resources are now valid for citing sources of information about the authors. We use Wikipedia (both English and Hebrew and sometimes other languages), Academia.edu, Facebook, and occasionally email the author. The author will often provide us with middle initial, birth date or a list of other books he/she has authored. Additional resources include: Cataloger's Desktop and the RDA Toolkit, Library of Congress online catalog, online version of Hebraica Cataloging updated in 2014 by Joan Biella, Benjamin Fryser, and Heidi Lerner, and HebCal that I use to convert Hebrew dates to Gregorian dates and can also be used in more creative ways such as looking up a "date" given by the *parashah*.

Pop-up Template:
Work has been simplified by use of OCLC's pop-up template for creating authorities. The cataloger places the cursor on a 100 or 700 in the bib record, and the macro begins the authority record with the 100 field and a 670 that it copies directly from the bib record.

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The cataloger simply fills in known information in the fields, and this information automatically is added to the record. When most of the fields are filled in, the cataloger can click on "Exit to Workform," eliminating the automatic aspect and manually completing the record.

AJL Resources
The RASWiki, maintained by Jasmin Shinohara at University of Pennsylvania, expands the list of romanizations that we need to aid us in formulating names. The list supplements the original list created by Rachel Simon (Princeton University) and Joan Biella (retired from LC) and is frequently updated, often from RAS Cataloging Committee decisions taken at AJL Conference meetings.

Another new development is that Yiddish and Ladino transliteration rules have been promulgated since 1994. For example, LC now has a list of 147 Yiddish first names (with input by Zachary Baker) that was distributed in 2002. Here we see such names as Yehudit, originally romanized the same in Yiddish and Hebrew. Now we recognize that Yiddish personal names, even of Hebrew derivation, should be romanized differently in a Yiddish context, so Yehudit should be Yudes. Yo'el=Yoyel, Barukh would be Borekh. No'omi is now Noyme. The Yiddish form of Mikha'el is Mikhl.

Web Research
The inclusion of URLs in 670 fields is another perk of the electronic age. This is especially helpful in preparation of the record itself--to toggle back and forth from the name to the information on the Web. And the biography of an author can often be copied directly into the NAR from the Wikipedia entry. Of course, it is a useful resource once the record is completed so that other catalogers may view the exact page that the original cataloger used in constructing the name.

Noting the author's email address in 371 ǂm provides a further identification point just one click away. We also have places of residence in 370 ǂe and mailing address in 371.

Along with the electronic reference works, we have often utilized our email connections to various entities at LC: the RDA trainers, the Policy office, and the Israel/Hebraica section. They have usually responded promptly to our queries.

Scenarios:
Here are a few scenarios—with examples—that we routinely encounter.

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Updates: Occasionally a record is so sparse in AACR2 that we upgrade it to RDA. If the book at hand provides more complete description, I usually put in the additional information and upgrade the record with LOC/REP, although, as per RDA, I do not alter the 100 field—even if my source supplies additional dates—unless necessary to break a conflict. I add fields such as male/female, profession, language of in which the author writes, etc. This information comes from short bios on "Contributors" or "About the author" pages.

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Never established: AACR2 was largely limited to authors or subjects. RDA encourages names that were formerly untraced such as illustrators, calligraphers, printers, donors, former owners, scribes, or issuing bodies. So we produce names that formerly were not even on the bib records.

Two "people:" We find names that were originally thought of as two people but, with a little research, proved to be one person.

One "person: There are names that were constructed as one person that we separated out into two identities. This scenario is common with rebbes because the rebbe and his grandson both write on similar topics and have the same name. While the original NAR had them as one person, we find that the books were written 100 years apart.

Wrong name: Then we find the wrong name on a bib record alluding to an author with the same name but who did not write the book. In that case, we distinguish between the authors and be sure to create a 667 field "Not same as" to alert catalogers to the existence of different identities.

I will show some examples of our authority records, many of which are quite extensive, but here will be abbreviated for clarity (and so that they will fit on a slide!).

Never established: printer:
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One example of RDA inclusion of printers is Anton von Schmid, Christian printer of Hebrew books from Austria. He was responsible for typesetting in many languages--Hebrew imprints, Arabic imprints, Persian imprints, and Jewish religious literature and was important in the Haskalah. All these terms are LC Subject Headings. Syriac imprints [second 372] appears on a line of its own because it was not found in LCSH.

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This 18th century name in was found in both the 1906 Jewish Encyclopedia (now online) and the Encyclopaedia Judaica (online). The first source explains how he came to print Hebrew books, and the second explains his importance to Hebrew book history.

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Here we learn that he reprinted the books of Wolf Heidenheim, and, as he became prosperous, he enlarged his establishment to include Arabic, Persian, and Syriac books. His most significant Hebrew works were the Bible with German translation, the Talmud, the Hebrew periodical Bikkure ha-Ittim, the works of Maimonides and Judah Löb ben-Zeeb, and Jewish prayer books and catechisms.

Never established: artists:
Two artists, Louis Terr and Joseph Keller, illustrated Yiddish music scores in our collection. Although they signed their artwork, they had never been represented on a bib record. When we attempted to trace them, we had to dig quite extensively to find any information about them. While we were doing this work, we attended the 2015 AJL Conference in Washington, D.C. One of the tours was to the LC Music collection. The librarian wanted to show us some items from the collection of Jewish interest and pulled out two Yiddish music scores with illustrations by Terr and Keller. I asked if LC had bothered to identify the artists who prepared the covers. The answer was,"No." But we created the records. Here is the one for Terr:

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This NAR shows his connection to the illustrations found on Yiddish sheet music and to Yiddish theater, using the technology of chromolithography. Here are also cited several companies he worked for.

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We identify him in the categories of Artists, Cartoonists, Illustrators, Printmakers, Lithographers, Engravers, Etchers, and Jewish printers--all LCSH terms-- and as a Chromolithographer, not an LC term. He was quite prominent as we learn that Terr and Joseph Keller dominated the field even before 1910.

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The next two slides show the unconventional resources we found to establish this name: websites of Florida Atlantic University Libraries, Mayrent Institute for Yiddish Culture. For both we put in the URLs. We found Terr in the Kestenbaum Auction Catalog, Geni website, and Kol Hamevasser, a Yeshiva University student newspaper. He was not in any encyclopedia or Wikipedia.

Thought to be two persons:
Schoenberg, E. Randol, ‡d d 1966- . LC had identified him as two separate people because his first book was about the music of his grandfather, Arnold Schoenberg. On that book he is E. Randol. Later he published on the Holocaust under the name Randy. He is also involved in Jewish genealogy and appears as Randol. But his most famous work is as a lawyer. He sued the state of Austria on behalf of his client to recover paintings by Gustav Klimt that had been confiscated by the Nazis. His NAR is about 5 screens long.

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In this abbreviated version, we can see his date of birth, place of birth, and use of his personal website as a source.

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Here are some of his many interests: Complex litigation, National socialism and art, Cultural property—Repatriation, Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945), Jewish property—Europe, Music--18th century, Music--19th century, Jews--Austria—Genealogy, Jews--Czech Republic--Genealogy, Jews--Germany—Genealogy, Tennis, and many other leisure activities too numerous to mention here.

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These are his professional associations.

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Here are his Jewish associations.

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Universities attended, cross references to "other" identity where he had been cited as Randy and Randol. A feature of RDA is the ability to cite associations such as universities or organizations with which the author is identified and give start and end dates for such associations. We can cite the author's interests, academic as well as leisure, that might have a bearing on his/her identity.

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His name is established according to author's preference, E. Randol Schoenberg.

Thought to be one person:

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An example where an author was identified as one person, now recognized as two people is Stephan M. Wilson and Stephen M. Wilson. It's obvious how the confusion arose. For the one we created, we have a note 667 indicating that it was a formerly undifferentiated name.

667 **Formerly on name record n 90670457.**

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On this one, we added 667 "Not same as" note.

1001 Wilson, Stephan M.
667 Not same as: Wilson, Stephen M.

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The next example concerns the "Rebbe problem." This is the original bib record we found as we cataloged *Zikhron kadosh*.

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Here are the problems with this record: Spelling of author's name, spelling of Amshinov, Romanization of likatti, and 600.

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The first Rebbe to take the name of Amshinov was Yaʻaḳov David, me-Amshinov, 1814-1878. The bib record of the book in hand gives his name as found in the NAF. Note that his father's name is Isaac.

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But the title page cites a rebbe named Yaʻaḳov David whose father is Yosef.

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Furthermore, this picture of the Rebbe found in *Zikhron kadosh* is awfully suspicious if taken in 1844, the year the Amshinov rebbe on the record would have been in his 30s. In addition to the picture's being a candid shot (photos in the 1840s had to be staged with the subjects staring, immobile at the camera for a long time), the right side of the picture one can faintly discern a car. It was apparent that this rebbe was not Yaʻaḳov David, me-Amshinov, 1814-1878 and that his name had never been established at LC. In the course of our work, we saw that we had information on all the rebbes of the dynasty and could also update other records that were tagged, "Cannot be used under RDA."

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Here is the new record: (Mszczonów (Poland) is Amshinov) Kalish, Yaakov Dovid, ‡b II, ‡d 1906-1942. He was the 4th generation Rebbe of Amshinov, and his great grandfather was Yaakov Dovid Kalish, 1814-1878, the first rebbe of Amshinov.

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This 670 from Wikipedia clarifies the dynasty verbally. It also features a genealogical table not reproduced here.

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Here is where we get "II" in his name from Hebrew Wikipedia using this rule:

If we have a Romanized form in Wikipedia then we use it: *If the name is found in a romanized form in a widely-known and easily-consulted free online source, use this form, especially where a person who writes or is written about primarily in the Hebrew script provides a preferred romanized form of the name in that source (e.g., Facebook , Linkedin) or, failing such a source, a general source (e.g., Wikipedia).*

Wrong name:

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The book to be cataloged was: Sharon, Nadav. Judea under Roman domination, 2017. Page 4 of the cover identifies him as Nadav Sharon, PhD, Hebrew University, 2013, currently postdoctoral fellow at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His field of research is Jewish history of the Second Temple period, and he has published papers on Josephus, Jewish-Roman relations, and the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The name of the author was controlled, so we looked up the authority, and we found:

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Sharon, Nadav, author of Hiśardut, c1993.

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Looking up this book, we find Hiśardut is about Survival and Self-defense. Can this be the same author?

(SLIDE 32)

We looked further. We found another book by Nadav Sharon, born in 1978, Ph.D. from Hebrew University in 2012, but he writes on an entirely different topic—human embryonic stem cells.

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I emailed the author who confirmed that he did <u>not</u> write on Self-defense <u>nor</u> Human embryonic stem cells although he was born in 1978, and received a Ph.D. from Hebrew University. I had to email him again to get his exact date of birth (and wish him happy birthday), resulting in the following record.

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The confusion will be reduced by the 667 fields, indicating that he is not to be identified with the other two namesakes.

RDA changes:
In addition to name authorities, NACO members have access to SACO, where there is an online form to propose subject headings. We recently proposed Asmodeus (Jewish mythology) as a subject. As much detective work as it takes to establish a name, a subject heading is even more intensive. The reason is that the heading must be justified as the most commonly understood form, usually through a lot of research, and the format has to accord with existing LC protocols. We suggest far fewer subject headings than names.

After we submitted Asmodeus, and it was tentatively approved, we got a notice (much later and after inquiry) that it had been rejected because now under RDA, Asmodeus is a name, not a subject. We looked for a pattern, another name that would help us establish Asmodeus. We found Lilith (Semitic mythology), but our contact at LC told us that all the subjects like Lilith, were now going to be changed to names: 100 field, not 150. Since many of them are still under subjects, we had to search for the latest input dates. We found some with the new LC pattern: Michael ‡c (Archangel) ; Zeus ‡c (Greek deity). Here is the resulting authority (with 26 cross references in English, Greek, and Hebrew):

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This is the beginning of the record with lots of cross-refs.

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Note the sources are from online encyclopedias mainly, Britannica Academic Online, Encyclopaedia Judaica Online, JewishEncyclopedia.com, and Wikipedia. And field 952 indicates the LC pattern we followed.

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In the last example, we note that RDA allows a 100 field to be generated from a romanized form of the name not only on the title page, or title page verso, but anywhere on the resource. We recently cataloged a book, entirely in Hebrew, where the Romanized form of the author's name was mentioned only in an approbation, *haskamah*. According to the rules, we established it that way. The Hebrew form is Menasheh, Daṿid, but the approbation gives us Ménaché, David.

Conclusion:
Twenty years ago, when our panel discussed their NACO experiences, we focused on the training sessions in which we participated, and on the question, "Is this a worthwhile enterprise for our library?" Now it is a moot point whether or not we should contribute to the NACO

Hebraica Funnel, and we are well over the trauma of training. But things have not remained stagnant in the last 20 years.

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 1) RDA has caused us to relearn some of our most basic tasks by introducing new rules and
 new fields in authority records.
 2) Some records require days of research to disentangle names that were formerly
 undifferentiated or wrongly attributed to a work.
 3) Thankfully, online resources are now just a click away to help us formulate names. These
 include both general online resources and those created by AJL members that deal more
 specifically with Hebrew, Yiddish or Ladino names.
 4) We have grown closer as a cataloging community by relying on one another to produce
 names and to answer each others' questions. Often questions are submitted through the HEB-
 NACO listserv or are discussed in RAS sessions. Such resources are recognized as valuable
 assets.
 5) RDA is preparing for the future. We are told that fields that are not actually searchable now
 will someday prove useful, and each entity will have its persistent URL. RDA is international in
 scope and doesn't limit itself to the English-speaking world. Our work will have ramifications
 in Linked Data.

With the implementation of RDA, we have discovered that as elusive as author's names are, we must also keep up with the latest rules and resources for the ever-changing task of creating Hebrew/Judaic name authorities.