

## KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE WORKING GROUP ON AUTHORITY FILES

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A Knowledge Exchange (KE)<sup>1</sup> working group has recently published a report on the use of authority files in the information landscape. Authority files – or controlled lists of data elements – are already widely used in information systems, and as information becomes more global, the need for quality controlled data also increases.

Repositories are an area where authority files can be used extensively. In essence, a repository could be seen as (potentially) being “nothing but” an aggregation of several authority files, if they were available. Authority files need to be quality controlled, maintained, and (technically) be enabled for sharing, so they can be used by repositories.

The KE report investigates a number of areas in which authority files exist and could be of use, or are being developed. At the journal/book level well known examples of authority files are ISSN's and ISBN's, and at the article level the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is widespread for the unique identification of scholarly articles. Going yet one level down, the ORCID<sup>2</sup> is the new kid on the block. It is a system being put into operation for the unique identification of individual authors of scholarly publications. The ORCID system is tied into the wider ISNI<sup>3</sup> – International Standard Name Identifier - system, which is used for the identification of not only scholarly authors, but also inventors, artists, performers etc.



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Steps are also underway to provide the means of uniquely identifying organisations, as organisations are also important (legal) entities in the global workflow. ISNI's are also used to uniquely identify the organisations involved in, for example, scholarly publishing.

Quite likely, repositories will also be using local authority files. For example the repositories of Danish universities all use a local journal database, where journal data is enriched by data used, for example, by the local Danish Bibliometric Indicator. This ensures a dataset which is used in a uniform way across all universities: updates are made centrally and distributed to all universities. There is also a local Danish researcher database available for Danish universities.

The use of journals is another area where authority files are important. The Sherpa/Romeo database can be used in the area of data regarding self-archiving of an authors articles. With the increased focus on Open Access, both internationally and in several countries also locally, data regarding Open Access publication channels is an area which could be further developed. The Knowledge Exchange report can be found here: <http://www.knowledge-exchange.info/Admin/Public/DWSDownload.aspx?File=%2fFiles%2fFiler%2fdownloads%2fAuthority+Files%2fKE+AF.pdf>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.knowledge-exchange.info/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.orcid.org/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.isni.org/>