Abstract

National Strategy for Shareable Local Name Authorities

Cornell University Library, in partnership with the Library of Congress, OCLC, the Program for Cooperative Cataloging, the ORCID organization, the Coalition for Networked Information, the Social Networks and Archival Context Cooperative, the BIBFLOW project, Stanford University Library and Harvard Library request $98,484 to hold a national forum on issues concerning local authorities in library metadata, with a focus on person and organization entities.

Libraries create local authorities to serve a variety of purposes, usually within an institutional context; but these authorities have significant potential for reuse at other cultural heritage organizations and beyond. The April 2015 IMLS National Digital Platform Forum report emphasized the importance of enabling technologies (e.g. interoperability via linked data) and radical collaborations in supporting the mission of the cultural heritage sector. By facilitating a national forum, we plan to identify solutions for facilitating the creation of more shareable authorities. This is a critical area in which a highly collaborative effort can promote interoperable metadata and linked data readiness.

The issues surrounding shareable local authorities are multifaceted and the full range of issues at stake still needs to be explored. The communities involved are our target audience for this forum and include practitioners working with researcher profile systems, entity aggregation and reconciliation services, metadata management systems, and a range of research and development projects in the libraries, archives and museums (LAM) sector. We believe the various stakeholders have much to gain from closer coordination of community discussion making and infrastructure development.

To begin addressing this need, Cornell University Library (CUL) proposes to create a national forum to organize around the issue of local authorities. The forum will bring together key stakeholders to discuss issues around further making local authorities shareable. Its deliverables will include an inventory of current work in this sphere, a white paper and draft reference model, a work plan for proposed further action, and public communication through a project blog or wiki. The project will proceed through five stages, beginning with scoping of the issues and identification of additional participants, proceeding to the forum itself, and then production of the main project outputs, further outreach, and future planning. The period of performance will be May 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017.

Narrative

National Strategy for Shareable Local Name Authorities

Statement of Need

The range of players engaged in what is variously known as authority control or identity management includes practitioners working with researcher profile systems, entity aggregation and reconciliation services, metadata management systems, and a range of research and development projects in the libraries, archives and museums (LAM) sector. They are at a juncture where their efforts in identity management are increasingly seen as critical to their missions, but the limitations of legacy methods are becoming evident. These communities are the primary audience for this project, and key stakeholders drawn from those communities are represented in the group of project partners we have enlisted for this project.

Linked data offers the promise of unified discovery of knowledge relating to persons and organizations in place of the current fragmented user experience. The provision of stable identifiers for these entities - in the form of dereferenceable URIs that can be reused by libraries and other non-library organizations alike - represents one of the clearest areas of need and opportunity for libraries on the Semantic Web. Library authority control is a good fit for addressing this problem, providing as it does rich data that uniquely identify entities in a wide range of fields and contexts. However, the web presents the need to provide for much larger sets of identities even than those represented in the traditional library catalog, particularly if looking beyond traditional library-focused use cases.

Libraries have traditionally undertaken a twoy tiered approach to authority creation: shared authority files and local authorities. Shared authority work for mainstream library collections has centered on national or domain authority files, which have a high threshold for data creation. But these traditional methods do not scale well. Many communities, including libraries themselves, create authority data to describe individuals outside historically sanctioned library authority files. Among other reasons, this practice derives from (1) the relatively high bar for contributing to shared library authorities, (2) the need to expand the knowledge given about an entity described in a shared authority file and (3) the community's reliance on proprietary platforms that may be unable to leverage shared authority files. In other words, local authorities raise issues of capacity, extensibility and interoperability.

The landscape for shared authorities is complex and likely to remain so.[1] The existing infrastructure supporting person and organization entities includes central authority files with a shared contribution model, e.g. national authority files, and institutional name registries and collaboration networks such as Stanford's Community Academic Profiles (CAP), Harvard's Profiles, and the various implementations of VIVO. It also includes general linked data sources such as Wikidata and subject domain sources such as MusicBrainz, which have not yet been widely sanctioned for library use but contain substantial amounts of data relating to library resources and can greatly extend both the breadth and depth of knowledge that library systems can leverage.

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[1] See, for example, the OCLC report on Registering Researchers in Authority Files, http://www.oclc.org/research/themes/research-collections/registering-researchers.html

While many institutions produce internal records for entities associated with their institutions, these practices are often based on administrative needs within the institution rather than being optimized for wider exposure of scholarly content and collaboration. Typically the data are inaccessible to other applications that may need to reference the same entity. These and other local authority activities often remain outside published or shareable databases, limiting their utility beyond their original context. Products like VIVO have the technical capability to support sharing, but their potential in this area has yet to be fully exploited.

Local authorities also raise crucial questions concerning issues such as persistence and reconciliation. When assessing authority data for reuse, questions arise around institutional commitment to supporting the data on a persistent basis. In a linked data context, dereferencing URIs is essential for obtaining entity data; having a sense of institutional commitment is key to confidence that the URI will dereference. This is unfamiliar ground for many in the library community, and it is not yet well understood what commitment to persistence will entail institutionally. And while some large-scale efforts for reconciling authority data are gaining traction in the library community, the most visible of these - notably the Virtual International Authority File (VIAF)[2] and the OCLC entity registry[3] - are drawn chiefly from data in existing shared files. Some progress has been made aggregating authority content from sources that include local authorities, notable examples being the International Standard Name Identifier (ISNI),[4] the Social Network and Archival Context (SNAC) project,[5] and the VIVO-based CTSASearch project.[6] These projects all represent solutions to the problem of disparate authorities. Projects like ORCID[7] allow researchers to self-identify, thus crowdsourcing authority creation. However, pathways for institutions to shift from local to shared authority creation and maintenance are still unclear. How these projects integrate with other authority creation workflows remains to be explored fully, and what is needed in particular is a process that engages stakeholders actively to develop a plan of action.

Success in addressing these issues will have widespread ramifications. It will aid cross-platform discovery and support research information management goals such as the tracking of scholarly output including publications, preprints, presentations, grants, and teaching activity. Name registries interact with a wide range of services throughout the scholarly ecosystem, including the following:
- Discovery platforms
- Research information management systems
- Researcher profile systems
- Campus profile systems
- Metadata management and creation systems
- Publishing platforms
- Entity aggregation services
- Content aggregation services
- Reconciliation and enrichment services

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[2] https://viaf.org
[3] http://infodocket.com/2015/09/11/oclc-and-seven-libraries-launching-linked-data-pilot-program/
[4] http://www.isni.org
[5] http://socialarchive.iath.virginia.edu
[6] http://research.icts.uiowa.edu/polyglot/ctsaSearch.jsp
[7] http://orcid.org

Stakeholders who stand to benefit include the LAM community, vendors of integrated library systems (ILS) and research information management services, authority vendors, content providers, academic administrators, and the communities they serve.

Impact

The problem of making local authorities shareable is one to which each stakeholder brings a distinctive history, operational process, and set of priorities, but coalesces around the core set of problems outlined above. While the general issues surrounding the sharing of authorities are widely recognized, a common understanding of the problem space that embraces the differing perspectives of the various stakeholders has thus far been lacking. The goals of the forum are firstly to develop this shared understanding and document it in the form of a reference model and associated white paper, and secondly to identify and characterize a set of larger objectives around which interested stakeholders can convene to plan further action.

In the present context, the purpose of the reference model is not to prescribe a specific set of practices, but to facilitate collaborative work on issues that affect multiple communities of interest. The development of reference models to advance these objectives has precedents in the libraries, archives and museums (LAM) sector and related areas. Examples include the Federal Enterprise Architecture Program's Data Reference Model[8] and the recommended practice document for the Open Archives Information System (OAIS). The latter defines a reference model as follows: "A framework for understanding significant relationships among the entities of some environment, and for the development of consistent standards or specifications supporting that environment." A reference model serves the following purposes among others:[9]

- provides a framework, including terminology and concepts, for describing and comparing architectures and operations of different systems and the strategies they implement
- provides a basis for comparing data models and for discussing how data models and the underlying information may change over time
- expands consensus on the available elements and processes, and provides a framework that may be expanded by other efforts
- guides the identification and production of further standards and best practices

The development of a shared view of the problem space and a common vocabulary for describing it will facilitate substantive exploration of potential solutions. The forum will address issues related to infrastructure, such as how to support publishing and hosting of vocabularies, and requirements for editing platforms, including their ability to handle extensions. Discussions will also include policy and governance issues, such as those surrounding persistence, licensing and conditions of reuse as well as applicable business models. The forum will further serve to initiate development of best practices that address barriers to participation and optimization for reuse.

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[8] https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/egov_docs/DRM_2_0_Final.pdf
[9] Adapted from: Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems (CCDS). "Reference Model for an Open Archival Information System (OAIS): Recommended Practice CCSDS 650.0-M-2". June 2012: http://public.ccsds.org/publications/archive/650x0m2.pdf, accessed December 5, 2015

While not prescriptive or final, the following objectives provide an indication of directions that are likely to emerge from the forum:

- Specify minimum requirements for creating and publishing local authorities: As discussed in the Statement of Need, issues around technical infrastructure and governance models loom large in preventing institutions from publishing their local authorities. By creating a framework that addresses these issues, the community will build a base knowledge to guide the sharing of local authorities.
- Work with standards bodies to develop best practices for linked data authorities. In the library community practice is governed by bodies such as the Program for Cooperative Cataloging. Engaging with these bodies will help ensure that the community's use cases are addressed on an ongoing basis. Among the issues to be addressed is the modeling of persons and organizations in traditional authorities, which is problematical from a linked data standpoint.
- Identify opportunities to experiment with peer-to-peer sharing of local authorities. Given the intent to make local authorities shareable on the wider semantic web, one clear use case will be one institution using local authority data from another institution, for instance Cornell directly referring to another library's local authority.
- Identify interested parties to work more closely on entity/vocabulary reconciliation. While some players in this space are well known, such as OCLC, there are projects such as CTSASearch that are investigating other options for storing, tracking, and publishing sameAs assertions. The forum will provide a venue for the parties involved to convene and compare strategies.
- Explore issues surrounding workflow, governance, and business models. The move to linked data is likely to change the roles of the various players in the metadata ecosystem, and necessitate the development of partnerships and business models that can sustain the new processes. This will be an essential problem to solve and will need to be addressed multilaterally. Many of the key stakeholders will be represented at the forum.

This proposal focuses on person and organization authorities as an area of interest to a clearly defined set of stakeholders in their efforts to address a common set of challenges, including identity management, tracking of scholarly outputs, and cross-platform discovery. Many of the outcomes of this project will be transferable to other areas where LAM institutions routinely create local authorities, such as those for works, subjects, events and genres. Although the specific logic of certain problems and the stakeholders may differ, these authorities raise many of the same technology and governance issues that person and organization authorities do. The reference model developed by the National Strategy for Shareable Local Authorities forum will lend itself to adaptation to these areas.

Project design

The National Strategy for Shareable Local Authorities forum will have the following deliverables:
- Disseminated meeting agendas, discussion papers, project findings and reports
- Public blog or wiki posts providing forum updates and other content on topics of interest throughout the project
- Environmental scan of current projects and tools, outlining existing practices and the actors in this sphere
- A draft reference model giving a high-level schematic view of the workflows, agents and functions involved in the sharing of authority data

- A draft set of proposals for a work plan surrounding the tasks identified by the forum for further action (see "Project Goals" above)
- A white paper that will serve as a public discussion document drawing together the findings and outcomes of the forum, and outlining key issues and recommendations for joint action

The forum will progress through five phases; timeframes for the phases are included in the Schedule of Completion.

Phase 1: Chew Chiat Naun (Principal Investigator) and Jason Kovari (Project Manager) - henceforth referred to as the Project Leads - will convene a Planning Group drawn from the core participants named in the proposal. In a series of virtual meetings, the Planning Group will perform the following tasks:
- compile an initial inventory of work being done on shared local authorities
- identify a core set of issues for initial investigation, and frame them as a set of problem statements
- nominate key additional participants to join the project

Phase 2: The Planning Group will post the problem statements, along with a description of the project and the inventory of current work, on the project wiki and announce them on appropriate listservs and forums. Interested parties will be asked to identify themselves, comment on the problem statements, and contribute their own problem statements. A series of open virtual meetings will be held during this period to engage interested communities in the discussion. The Planning Group will then review the problem statements and responses and compile them into a set of working documents. They will announce a two-day forum to be held at Cornell University (Ithaca, NY) during fall 2016 and will decide by vote on topics to be discussed at the forum. Attendance will be open to project participants nominated in the grant proposal and during Phase 1, and by invitation and application to others. The Planning Group will solicit speakers and facilitators for the forum. The Project Leads will be responsible for meeting logistics. Attendance will be capped at 40. Travel funding will be available for nominated project participants, including the core group, and for a small number of additional invited attendees. Places will be available to additional participants, although they will need to fund their travel from other sources.

Phase 3: The forum on a National Strategy for Shareable Local Authorities will be held in Ithaca, NY; the target date will be during fall 2016. The forum will begin and end with plenary sessions, the first framing the issues and the second summarizing the outcomes of discussions at the forum. These plenary sessions will bookend facilitated breakout sessions on the topics selected for discussion. The breakout sessions will use the working documents developed in Phase 2 as the basis for more detailed analysis. Expected outputs are model workflows and proposals for further action. If necessary, breakout groups will continue their work virtually after the forum, with a target completion date to be set.

Phase 4: The Project Leads will post the model workflows and proposals developed in Phase 3 to the project wiki. With the assistance of volunteers drawn from the forum attendees, they will then synthesize the findings of the first forum and subsequent breakout group meetings into a draft reference model and white paper. These will also be posted to the project wiki for community discussion and feedback. Project participants will promote discussion within their constituencies based on forum outcomes, with the objective of building support for the proposed actions, elaborating the proposals, and identifying additional key participants to take the plans forward. The specific processes for taking these steps will be an internal matter for the communities in question. The Project Leads will,

however, commit to submitting a proposal to speak at an American Library Association conference (no funding requested) as part of this outreach process.

Phase 5: A second forum will be held in Ithaca during Spring 2017. Attendance will be limited to members of the Planning Group, who will be eligible for travel funding. The objective of this meeting will be to finalize the remaining project outputs, including the completion and publication of the reference model and white paper, and to develop a coherent plan for action following the period of the grant.

The organizations and projects named as partners in this proposal were approached for their support on the basis of their activity and expertise in domains involving local authorities. Please see the list of project participants for the specific skills and backgrounds of their nominated representatives.

Project Resources: Personnel, Time and Budget

Key Personnel / Project Leads

Chew Chiat Naun (Principal Investigator) is Director of Cataloging and Metadata Services at Cornell University Library. He co-chairs the Program for Cooperative Cataloging's Standing Committee on Standards, where his agenda includes introducing authority practices that will support linked data objectives. Chew will devote 5% of his time to the National Strategy for Shareable Local Name Authorities.

Jason Kovari (Project Manager) is Head of Metadata Services at Cornell University Library (CUL), directing the unit and provides consultation on a wide range of metadata issues, including authority control. He collaborates on guiding linked data efforts in CUL's technical services. Kovari has also served as part of an on-going effort to migrate the vocabularies to linked open data. He will manage the daily operations of the project, devoting 20% of his time to the National Strategy for Shareable Local Name Authorities.

As Project Leads, Chew and Kovari will be responsible for overall project management, planning and organizing virtual discussions and in-person meetings, updating the project blog or wiki, posting project documents, and drafting and completion of the white paper and reference model.

Core Participants

In addition to the Project Leads, this proposal has identified a core group of stakeholder representatives that will participate in the forum; this group will expand based on invitees and applicants as discussed in the project design section.

Michelle Durocher (Harvard representative) is Head of Metadata Management and Metadata Creation for the Harvard Library. Her current projects include working toward more effective metadata exchange between publishers and libraries, and fostering greater integration between libraries and non-library expert communities. Michelle is a member of the Policy Committee of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging.

Carol Jean Godby (OCLC representative) is a Senior Research Scientist at OCLC, where she has been responsible for directing projects with a focus on semantic analysis and data architecture. She is a

member of an OCLC team whose charter is to design a next-generation data architecture based on the principles of linked data. She has a Ph.D. in Linguistics from Ohio State University.

Dean B. Krafft* (LD4L Labs representative) is Chief Technology Strategist and Director of Information Technology for the Cornell University Library. Dr. Krafft is part of the Library's senior management team, and is the head of its IT division. He is principal investigator on the Linked Data for Libraries project.

Nancy Lorimer (LD4P/Stanford representative) is Head of the Metadata Department at Stanford University. She is a member of the Linked Data for Libraries Project, and the forthcoming Linked Data for Production project, which aims to begin the move Technical Services workflow into a linked data environment. In PCC she is a consultant to the PCC URI Task Force, acts as the SACO Music Coordinator, and has been a trainer in BIBCO sound recordings.

Clifford Lynch* (CNI representative) has led the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI) since 1997, working in digital preservation, data intensive scholarship, teaching, learning and technology, and infrastructure and standards development. His work has been recognized by the American Library Association's Lippincott Award, the EDUCAUSE Leadership Award in Public Policy and Practice, and the American Society for Engineering Education's Homer Bernhardt Award.

Sally McCallum* (LC representative) is Chief of the Network Development and MARC Standards Office at the Library of Congress, which has spearheaded the development of the Bibliographic Framework Initiative (BIBFRAME), is engaged in MARCXML, MODS, MADS, PREMIS, and develops services such as ID.loc.gov. She has received professional awards such as the LITA/Gaylord Award for Achievement in Library and Information Technology and the Melvil Dewey Medal.

Daniel Pitti (SNAC representative) is Associate Director of the Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities at the University of Virginia. Pitti is chair of the International Council on Archives Expert Group on Archival Description and is project director of Social Networks and Archival Context (SNAC). At IATH, Pitti collaborates with faculty on a range of digital humanities projects.

Isabel Quintana (PCC representative) is Technical Services Manager for East Asian Resources at Harvard Library. At Harvard she has served on task groups on RDA instruction, cataloging policy, and technical services innovations. She is an active member of BIBCO, SACO, and NACO.

Carl G Stahmer, PhD (BIBFLOW/UC Davis representative) is the Director of Digital Scholarship at the Shields Library, University of California, Davis. He serves as the Project Lead for the IMLS funded BIBFLOW project, as the lead developer for the Mellon funded initiative to redesign the English Short Title Catalogue as a linked data native catalogue (http://estc.bl.uk), as Associate Director of the English Broadside Ballad Archive (http://ebba.english.ucsb.edu, and as the Technical Director for the Advanced Research Consortium (http://idhmc.tamu.edu/arcgrant/).

Simeon Warner* (ORCID representative) is director of the Repositories Group within Cornell University Library Information Technology and has responsibility for a number of repository systems including the arXiv e-print archive. He was one of the authors of the OAI-PMH, OAI-ORE and ResourceSync specifications. He serves on the ORCID Board of Directors and chairs a working group exploring how ORCID will record, manage and use multiple assertions from different sources.

*Participants noted with an asterisk will not receive funding under this grant. These include Cornell employees (Chew, Kovari, Krafft and Warner), a Federal Government employee (McCallum) and the CNI representative (Lynch), who has offered his services without need of travel reimbursement.

Time

The forum will take place over a twelve-month period, during which the project leads and core participants will engage in two in-person meetings as well as virtual planning meetings. Details for project activities, divided into five phases, are available in the Project Design section. Details concerning granular timeframes for project activities are available in the Schedule of Completion.

Budget

The main activity for which the project seeks support is travel by participants to the two in-person meetings proposed for the forum. The core group of participants at this meeting will include the twelve representatives identified in this proposal; we seek travel funding for six of these participants. In addition, we request travel funding for an additional 20 attendees yet to be identified for the first forum.

In addition to travel, the grant budget will cover .2 FTE for the Project Manager and .05 FTE for the Principal Investigator. This level-of-staffing is needed to guarantee our deliverables, including oversight of the program activities and production of the deliverables: in-person and virtual meetings, reference model, program activity reports and the white paper. The National Strategy for Shareable Local Name Authorities forum aligns strongly with priorities for CUL and fit well within the portfolios of the project leads.

Communications Plan

The Project Design outlined above will promote engagement with stakeholder communities through the participation of their representatives in planning activities, discussions, and in-person meetings. Participants will also be encouraged to engage their constituencies on issues and proposals arising from the forum.

Two of the key deliverables of the forum are intended to frame a broader ongoing discussion beyond the forum's immediate participants. The white paper and reference model will outline the considered view of the issues and recommended strategies that emerges from the forum. These documents will provide a focus for outreach and discussion for the larger community.

Audience engagement will be empirically measured by total attendance and range of communities represented at the virtual meetings and forum in Phases 2 and 3 of the project; by downloads of project output documents; and by references to the forum and its outputs in the literature and social media. Forum outcomes will be assessed by the number and scope of proposed actions arising from Phases 4 and 5 of the project.

All outputs from the forum will be publicly available on a dedicated website without access restrictions. Meeting agendas, discussion papers, reports and project findings will be publicly posted on a blog or wiki and periodically announced via professional listservs and other forums throughout the project life

cycle. Papers, reports and findings produced as part of this effort will be deposited in eCommons,[10] the Cornell University Institutional Repository, which has policies to ensure persistent access to this material.[11]
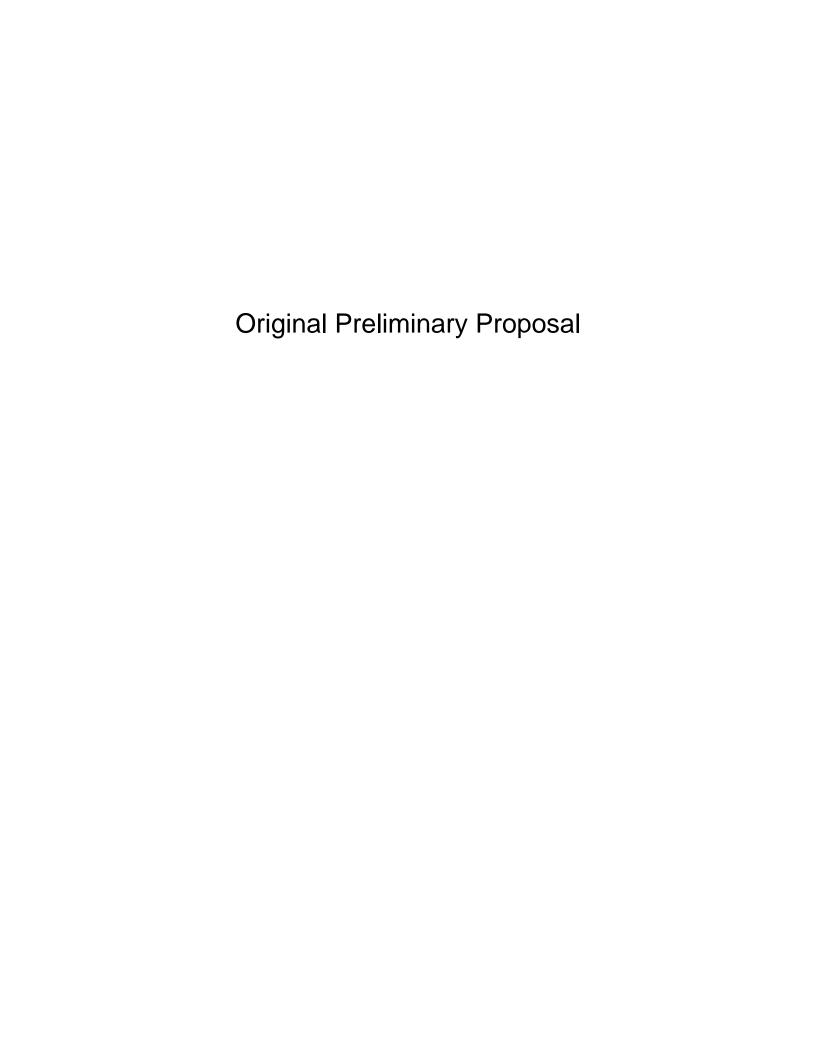
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[10] https://ecommons.cornell.edu
[11] https://ecommons.cornell.edu/page/policy

Schedule of Completion

National Strategy for Shareable Local Name Authorities

Activity	05/16	06/16	07/16	08/16	09/16	10/16	11/16	12/16	01/17	02/17	03/17	04/17
Phase 1												
Inventory of work on shared local authorities	X											
Nominate additional key participants to join project	X											
Identify a core set of issues for initial investigation		X	X									
Phase 2												
Open discussion of core issues (as problem statements)				X	X							
Meeting speaker solicitation				X								
Meeting topic voting					X							
Meeting registration				X	X							

Phase 3										
In-person meeting at Cornell University					X					
Phase 4										
Synthesize meeting findings					X					
Breakout group virtual meetings					X	X				
Draft reference model							X	X		
Draft white paper								X	X	
Phase 5										
Second in-person meeting									X	
Finalize white paper and reference model									X	X
Publish white paper										X

Original Preliminary Proposal

National Strategy for Shareable Local Authorities

Objective:
Cornell University Library, in partnership with the Library of Congress, OCLC, the Program for Cooperative Cataloging and Harvard University Library request $98,094.74 to hold a national forum on issues concerning local authorities in library metadata, with a focus on name identities. The project also hopes to engage the the VIVO community. Libraries create local authorities to serve a variety of purposes, usually within an institutional context; but these authorities have significant potential for reuse at other cultural heritage organizations and beyond. The April 2015 IMLS National Digital Platform Forum report emphasized the importance of enabling technologies (e.g. interoperability via linked data) and radical collaborations in supporting the mission of the cultural heritage sector.[1] By facilitating a national forum, we plan to identify solutions for facilitating the creation of more shareable authorities. This is a critical area in which a highly collaborative effort can promote interoperable metadata and linked data readiness.

Statement of Need:
Linked data offers the promise of unified discovery of knowledge relating to persons and organizations in place of the fragmented user experience we have until now been accustomed to. The provision of stable identifiers for these entities - in the form of dereferenceable URIs - therefore represents one of the clearest areas of need and opportunity for libraries on the Semantic Web. Conceptually library authority control is a good fit for addressing this problem, but the web presents the need to cater for much larger sets of identities than those covered by the traditional library catalog.

In the MARC era libraries undertook a two-tiered approach to authority creation: shared authority files and local authorities. Shared authority work for mainstream library collections has centered on national or domain authority files, which have a high threshold for data creation. But these traditional methods do not scale well.

Meanwhile, many communities are creating data to describe individuals outside historically sanctioned library authority files. At the institutional level, products like VIVO produce data identifying local researchers. But these and other local authority activities often remain outside published or shareable databases, limiting their utility outside their original context. Local authorities also raise significant issues concerning permanence and reconciliation.

Progress has been made building shareable authority databases or aggregating authority content from many sources, notable examples being the Virtual International Authority File (VIAF) and International Standard Name Identifier (ISNI). However, pathways for institutions to shift from local to shared authority creation and maintenance are still unclear. Projects like ORCID are international solutions to register identities, but how they integrate with other authority creation workflows remains to be explored fully.

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[1] https://www.imls.gov/sites/default/files/publications/documents/2015imlsfocusndpreport.pdf

Forum Scope:
The issues surrounding shareable local authorities are multifaceted and the full range of issues at stake still needs to be explored. We believe the various stakeholders have much to gain from closer coordination of community discussion and infrastructure development. To begin addressing this need, Cornell University Library (CUL) proposes to create a national forum to organize around the issue of local authorities. The forum will bring together key stakeholders to discuss issues around further making local authorities shareable.

Impact:
The impact of the National Strategy for Shareable Local Authorities forum will be twofold. First, many libraries are creating and supporting local authorities for entities also described in other local authorities or that have relationships to entities in other local authorities. Maintenance of local authority files increases overhead for institutions, and often leads to multiple entity references that need to be reconciled downstream. Second, and perhaps more importantly, local authorities usually lack dereferenceable URIs, which hinders their reuse in a linked data context. The forum will establish a path for moving away from local authorities that will both allow libraries to reuse other institutions' locally created authorities but also allow the library community to better address our linked data readiness. These efforts are in the spirit of the shared and cooperative cataloging efforts that libraries have developed over the past half-century.

Output:
The National Strategy for Shareable Local Authorities forum will have the following publicly available output:
- Meeting agendas and reports
- Identification and planning of next steps
- White paper addressing issues and recommendations for community approach moving forward

Meeting Frequency:
The forum would entail two in-person meetings over the course of the year. In addition, Cornell will facilitate monthly calls with participants as well as any necessary additional remote meetings.

Budget:
Cornell University Library requests $98,094.74 to facilitate the National Strategy for Shareable Local Authorities forum.