



Session Bits & Bricks

Cui prodest libraries authority work?

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Eleven years ago...

The logo for the 2003 International Conference on Authority Control. It features a large, stylized 'A' in blue and a 'C' in red, set against a white circular background. To the left of the circle is a small inset image of a stone tower or castle ruin in a landscape.

International Conference
Authority
Control
Definition and International Experiences
Florence, Italy, February 10-12, 2003
www.unifi.it/biblioteche/ac/



... and today?

The authority work takes time and requires specific skills  now, in the web 2.0, authority files are still useful?

What is the best way to reshape this part of cataloguer's activities?



UNIMARC Manual, Authorities Format, published in 1991 from IFLA, and in 2009 at its third edition (with the updates of 2012)

With the format it is possible create **detailed descriptions** of uniform headings for persons, corporate bodies, works and expressions that include information about the entity (e.g. for a work: kind of opera, date of publication, reference sources, etc.) and also technical data (adopted cataloguing rules, bibliographic agency creating the authority record, etc.)



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8564	e 201011120900 u http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dante_Alighieri z Cliccare qui per maggiori informazioni
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◀ Precedente Successivo ▶

Shared database: CONOR.SI - Authority file for personal and corporate names

Selected record

User	GARE	Record [1/1]
Personal name	Alighieri, Dante	
Variant names	Alighièri, Dante (other) ; Aligijeri, Dante (other) ; Dante (other) ; Dante Alighieri (other) ; Dante, Alighieri, 1265-1321 ; Allighieri, Dante ; Danthe	
Country	ita (Italy)	
Language	ita (Italian)	
ID	6182499	

CHANGE SEARCH REQUEST

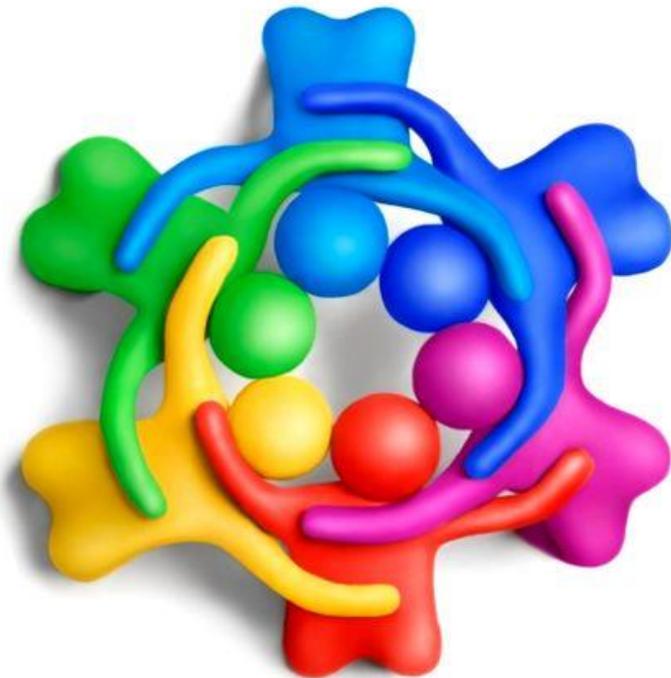
Record [1/1]

Authority file like opac: **inadequate advantages** for end users...

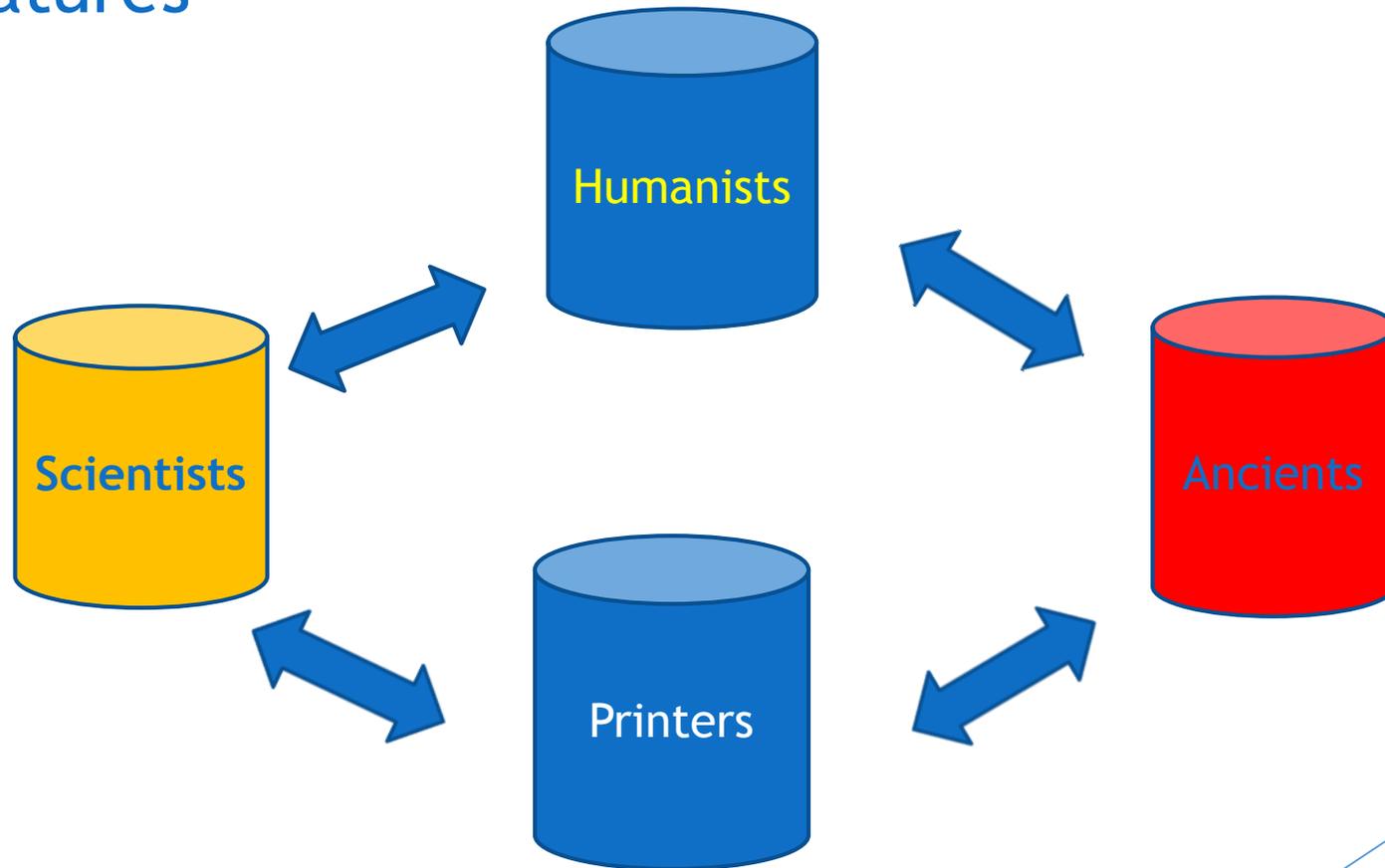
On one side we have authority data well structured in codified fields and we are not able to take advantage of these, on the other our authority files are not quite competitive in information, if we compare them with the data sources of Wikipedia and free information resources



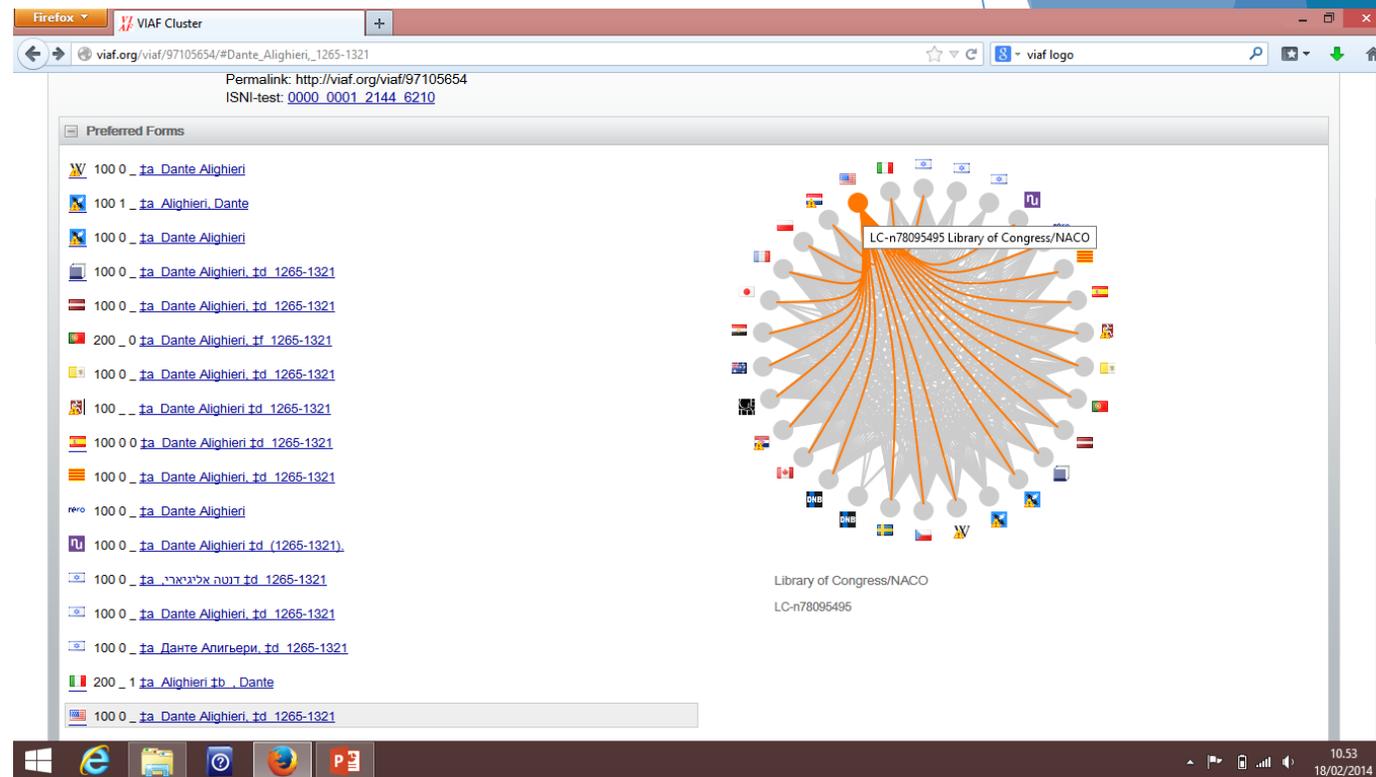
A reassertion of library authority files in the present context could be possible working with other partners, like cultural and research institutions but also publishers, local governments and other interested subjects (Wikipedia)



No longer many general stand-alone authorities within the library's universe, but a lot of **high specific “box”** containing different kind of authors, developed by different bibliographic agencies depending on their features



It's necessary a **strong synergy** between all the parties involved and a common environment of presentation as *VIAF*



... and authority control also for bibliographic databases that abound with homonymies and are devoid of authority lists!



Probably it's time for a faster, smarter and richer authority control...



«Authority control is central and vital to the activities we call cataloguing. Cataloguing - the logical assembling of bibliographic data into retrievable and usable records - is the one activity that enables the library to pursue its central missions of service and free and open access to all recorded knowledge and information. We cannot have real library service without a bibliographic architecture and we cannot have that bibliographic architecture without authority control. It is as simple and as profound as that»
(Michael Gorman)

