As we enter in the next phase for the Western Name Authority File Project, we'd appreciate feedback from the advisory board on the progress that we've made so far. Included below are a project summary and outline of the next phase of work. Please send in any comments and suggestions by January 31, 2017. Thanks very much, we appreciate your feedback!

Project Update, May 2016 - October 2016

The first phase of the project centered on building out infrastructure, setting up regular meetings for project participants, getting feedback from the advisory board, collecting metadata from project participants, and exploring standards and reporting out at regional and national conferences. In addition, Jeremy and Anna were invited to take part in the IMLS Shareable Authorities Forum to be held at Cornell University, and have been participating in working groups and the planning committee associated with that project.

Primary activities for investigation phase were:

Kick off virtual meeting with project personnel and partner institutions	This has been completed, with meetings held to discuss the project in the summer and fall, as well as regular communication by e-mail. Meeting minutes are posted on the WNAF web site.
Advisory board meeting for investigation phase	We had some scheduling difficulties getting everyone together in the summer, so we provided the board with a document for comment, and solicited feedback that way.
Collect and evaluate baseline data from fields with controlled vocabularies from partner institutions	This is completed, refer to report from project partner meeting in October for specifics: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Eh-XoJRAhnTnfo93mTamKMTg_OkmfjvfBf56B2kN4Rg/edit
Explore using EAC-CPF, OWL, and SKOS standards to create and represent relationships between entities within the controlled vocabulary	Project partners have discussed this extensively and chosen EAC-CPF as a model that best represents the type of relationships we want to represent in this pilot

Virtual meetings with partners to evaluate standards	
Summarize and communicate findings from first phase of work	- Project updates and meeting minutes posted on website - Jeremy Myntti presented on the project at the MWDL Spring Digitization Committee meeting. As part of this presentation, and informal survey was administered to solicit additional use cases. - Jeremy Myntti and Anna Neatrour presented on the project at ALA Annual in Orlando in June 2016. This presentation also included the survey to gather use cases. - Participation in the Cornell IMLS Shareable Authorities Forum - Project findings discussed at panel at Digital Library Federation Forum in Milwaukee in November 2016

Additional updates:

Current site technical infrastructure
- Google site for broad communication about project has been developed and in active use.
- We created a shared google drive for project participants to upload data
- Google documents backed up in an Open Science Framework site

Here are the activities that were highlighted in the grant for the period between Nov 2016-April 2017:

- Develop a scoring model and evaluation criteria for open source software that supports LOD vocabulary creation and maintenance
- Evaluate open source software that can be used to create, maintain, and make available the data contained in a compiled regional controlled vocabulary
- Virtual meetings with partners to evaluate software
- Develop plan for pilot and full evaluation of selected software

Work done during November and December in support of these activities:

- Scoring matrix for software developed: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CKgJusH5XmHnfZYXgaW74VvdM2sM-T0wxwfEYXZOJwI/edit#gid=0
- The next phase is going to center on testing our dataset with a variety of software for managing controlled vocabularies. To that end, we've combined the data that project participants sent, deduplicated, and are currently reconciling it against the LC Name Authorities.
- IT team currently working on installing software on test server
- Meetings scheduled with IT support and project partners to start the process of testing software
- Currently we are also capturing baseline analytics for names by checking variants and preferred form of names in DPLA and MWDL.