NACO-Music Project Advisory Committee
Report to the MLA Cataloging & Metadata Committee
March 2024, Virtual Meeting

NMP Advisory Committee Members

Jacob Schaub (Vanderbilt University), Chair
Mark Scharff (Washington University in St. Louis), NMP Coordinator
Michi Hoban, Library of Congress Representative
Cate Gerhart (University of Washington), Member-at-large
Janice Bunker (Brigham Young University), Member-at-Large
Keith Knop (University of Georgia), CMC Representative

1. **NMPAC membership changes**

   No changes in membership took place this year. We will have a new member at the end of the 2024 meeting, as Keith Knop completes his service as chair of the CMC Contents Subcommittee, which doubles as the CMC representation to NMPAC. The new representative will be Chelsea Hoover (Syracuse University).

2. **NMP membership—changes**

   Five new personal participants were accepted into the Project since the 2023 annual meeting:

   - Laikin Dantchenko (Indiana University)
   - Hannah Ferello (New England Conservatory)
   - Anne Lake (Indiana University)
   - Laikin Morris (Indiana University)
   - Daniela Rodriguez (University of Miami)
   - Claire Spitzer (Stanford University)

   No new institutional members joined this year.

   One institutional member resumes activity—the University of Miami.

   I'm not aware of any retirements or departures.

3. **Membership summary—active**

   - NMP currently has 89 individual participants from 63 institutions. The comparable numbers in the 2023 report were 84 individual participants from 63 institutions. The individual member number counts several members

currently unaffiliated, and counts Morris Levy, who is serving as NMP's series reviewer though not himself contributing NMP records.

- There are 27 institutions where the NMP position is vacant (all on the internal roster)
- The number of participants who have achieved independent contributor status under RDA is as follows (as of February 21):
    - 45 for name records (increase of 3 from March 2023; 2 are actually new; the 3rd is catching up to previous independence declataion)
    - 31 for name-title records (increase of 3)
    - 2 for series records (no change)

4. Project statistics

	NARs		SARs		TOTAL
	New	Changed	New	Changed	
FY 2023*	8,023	3,752	44	4	**11,823**
FY 2022†	10,826	6,782	32	7	**17,647**
+/- (actual)	2,803	3,030	12	3	**5,848**
+/- (%)	25.9	44.7	37.5	42.9	**33.1**
Cumulative ‡	343,351	174,107	3,210	668	**521,336**

NARs = Name Authority Records SARs = Series Authority Records

*October 1, 2022-September 30, 2023
†October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022
‡Through September 30, 2023

The drop in numbers for new and changed records is disappointing, but not totally unexpected given the retirement of Phyllis Jones, one of NMP's most prolific contributors. The more precipitous drop for changed records, I still believe, may reflect fewer encounters with pre-RDA records. The series numbers continue to vary wildly. A few salient points there: on the books, there are still only two independent contributors and only one active one (me). I suspect that some series activity for music may be going on through general NACO, at least activity where the AAP is a 130 title. There is also the matter of statistics being self-reported through the PCC Directory. While I contacted some institutions with goose-egg numbers in the statistical spreadsheet I generated and got some additional numbers (but not a large amount), I have no way of knowing if some of the numbers that **are** present reflect incomplete reporting

Future directions

The most immediate need is for the Coordinator to get things going on what for lack of a better term, I'll call an NMP "manual." The intent is to document practices and workflows that either currently lack documentation, or exist in out-of-the-way places. Doing this will undoubtedly identify things ripe for change; it should also provide good rationales for the things we choose to keep doing. Individuals have volunteered to work on it; I expect that CMC will charge a group with the task.

Initiatives to broaden the creation of authority data beyond NACO members are still under study. The most recent PCC Participants' online meeting (February 15) announced an initiative to launch a fifth program to join BIBCO, NACO, SACO, and CONSER—the Entity Management Cooperative (EMCO). The vision is for PCC members to create and manage records for entities in registries not managed by the Library of Congress. While still in planning, this seems the most concrete development yet in the effort to expand the pool of managed/controlled entities. The current intent is not to replace NACO; there are still questions about how the coordination would be accomplished. It didn't sound like the early work in this area would include managing identities for musical works, but it will probably just be a matter of time. The questions this development raises are many and potentially complex.

In November of 2023, Damian Iseminger of the Library of Congress posted a message to NMP-L and MOUG-L announcing that the Music Division was going to mostly ignore the exception for music that had been carved out of the PCC Policy on Compilations of Works by One Agent . That means that for partial compilations of works by a single creator that would require "Selections" in a conventional collective title, the manifestation title would be used as the preferred title for the compilation unless the manifestation did not have a collective title or its title was "generic." Damian hoped to engender some discussion from his posting; to date, that has not happened. I don't know how much longer our community as a whole will kick this can down the road; but even if all PCC libraries sign on and start following this practice, what does that mean for the authority file? And for non-PCC libraries who prefer the status quo, messy as it is?

The infrastructure is falling into place for the concept of "representative expression" that will allow catalogers to designate specific values to expression-level attributes that are commonly assumed to pertain to a work. We need to stay tuned for further developments, and this might be an opportunity for an NMP member to train colleagues on implementation.

I am embarking on my final year of service as NMP coordinator. I will be developing a list of things to tidy up before I pass the baton along, and that list will certainly be informed by the work of the aforementioned NMP "manual" group. I aspire (but don't promise) to produce a version of the reviewer training documentation from LC that is specific to music. It will unavoidably reflect my own notions of how things work, and can thus be taken or left by my successor.

5. Acknowledgements

Keith Knop rotates off the group this year. I appreciate his thoughtful and consistent contributions to the work of the group, and continue to laud Jacob Schaub for his leadership and attentiveness as Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

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