Cataloging Gender
and RDA Instruction 9.7

#ALCTSCE
Agenda

What is gender?
What is Queer Theory?
Queer theory and recording gender in name authority records
Changing international cataloging Instructions
Implementing policy and best-practice
What’s gender anyway?

• Socially constructed
  *We make our ideas about gender and sexuality together.*

• Contingent
  *We understand gender and sexuality relationally.*

• Contested and negotiated
  *We struggle with and against each other about the meaning of gender and sexuality.*

• Social and public
  *We name ourselves to find each other.*
How do we catalog and classify it?

What do we fix when we fix the unfixable?
In our work

We make categories for a living
Categories are political
Why encode gender at all?
So if we are going to encode gender, then it needs to be humane
Name authority records used to

Identify
Disambiguate
Collocate
Now we aspire to FRAD user tasks

Find
Identify
Contextualize
Justify
Cataloging Gender: Background

  Codes for the representation of human sexes
FRAD (2009)
  Cites IFLA’s GARR, UNIMARC Manual,
  ISAARR(CPF)
RDA Instruction 9.7 (2011)
LC/PCC/NACO interpretation and training
  (2013)
9.7 Gender

9.7.1 Basic Instructions on Recording Gender

9.7.1.1 Scope

*Gender* is the gender with which a person identifies.

9.7.1.2 Sources of Information

Take information on gender from any source.

9.7.1.3 Recording Gender

Record the gender of the person using an appropriate term from the list below.

- female
- male
- not known

If none of the terms listed is appropriate or sufficiently specific, record an appropriate term or phrase.

- intersex
- transsexual woman

Indicate the source from which the information on the gender of the person was derived applying the instructions given under 8.12.

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RDA Instruction 9.7 in 2011
Gender, RDA style

- literally embodied
- easily defined
- visually identified
- female, male, or empty data
- fixed, now and forever

But this has real-world ramifications
Fixed and linear.

Name heading: Bono, Chaz
Gender: female (1969-2008?)
Gender: male (2008?-present)
Variant: Bono, Chastity
Miss-identification

Name heading: Big Freedia
Gender: female
Variant: Fredia, Big
Variant: Ross, Freddie
Rude.

Name heading: Bornstein, Kate, 1948-
Gender: transgender
Information found: born March 15, 1948, in Neptune, NJ as Albert Herman Bornstein; underwent sex-reassignment surgeries from 1985-1986
Kermit the (male) Frog
Outing. Forever.

Name heading: Coyote, Ivan E. (Ivan E[...]), 1969-
Gender: Transgender people
Fuller Form of Personal Name: Ivan E[...]

(Thompson, p. 141)
Extra justification?

We don’t provide this *extra* and *very personal* justification for other name changes, or to record the gender of cisgender individuals.
Looking at trans* NARs

65% of NARs for trans* authors analyzed contained some form of outing information
- Multiple 375 fields
- Trans* terms used in the 375
- Trans* identity indicated elsewhere in the NAR (670)

Thompson, K. J. “More Than a Name: A Content Analysis of Name Authority Records for Authors Who Self-Identify as Trans,” Library Resources & Technical Services 60, no. 3 (July 2016).
Ignorance.
Stigma.
Transphobia.
“We have the opportunity to accurately represent authors as they choose to be known.”

(Thompson, p. 142)
We needed to change the rules instructions to be more inclusive.
Changing RDA 9.7

FastTrack Proposal submitted to JSC to add “transgender” as an official term to the RDA vocabularies (Summer 2015)

Accepted “umbrella term” for the trans* community

Promotes controlled vocabularies and collocation

The proposal was deferred and the broader issue was discussed at the JSC (now RSC) Nov. 2015 meeting
Changing RDA 9.7

New Fast Track proposal submitted by the JSC (now RSC) to deprecate the entire controlled vocabulary for Gender and redefine the element.

To support internationalization of RDA

This new proposal was accepted in February 2016!
The new RDA 9.7!

9.7 Gender
9.7.1 Basic Instructions on Recording Gender

**9.7.1.1 Scope**

Gender is the gender with which a person identifies.

9.7.1.2 Sources of Information

Take information on gender from any source.

9.7.1.3 **Recording Gender**

Record the gender of the person, using an appropriate term in a language preferred by the agency creating the data. Select a term from a standard list, if available.

Record gender as a separate element. Gender is not recorded as part of an access point.
Why still record gender at all?

It’s one important way to organize and identify people (whether we like it or not)

Disambiguation is still an issue

   Non-roman character transliteration

   “Unisex” names
New instructions need new best-practices.
New Best Practices

The RDA instruction change ignited lively discussion on cataloging email lists.

PCC ad-hoc task group formed to draft new best-practices for recording gender in NARs.

The committee produced a report on October 1, 2016. The recommendations were well received at PoCo 2016, and are under review to work out the details for implementation.
Task Group Recommendations

Record information about gender as the person self-identifies and explicitly discloses, taking information from readily and publicly available sources such as:

- Biographical information published on the resource
- Biographical information provided by the publisher
- Author’s personal website or social media profiles
- Direct communication with the author
- For non-contemporary persons use works by the person as well as biographies, obituaries, articles, etc. about the person
Task Group Recommendations

Record Males or Females in accordance with the term used by the person, or with gendered pronouns and/or inflected nouns used in the source

- Do not assume gender identity based on pictures or names
- Do not dig for given names or genders assigned at birth

For transgender/transsexual persons record the terms Transgender people or Transsexuals in accordance with the term used by the person
Task Group Recommendations

For well-known persons who publicly transition between male and female mid-life and have literary warrant for recording both genders, record both Males and Females and other terms as applicable.

Record gender terms based on information in the source.

For example, if a person claims to be a cisgender male, record Cisgender persons and Males. If a person just says “as a young boy…” or uses male pronouns then record Males, but do not assume he is cisgender or transgender.
Task Group Recommendations

Record dates (375 $s and $t) associated with a gender only when the person explicitly provides dates of transition.

Justify gender data recorded in the 375 field in a subfield $v$ or 670 field or both.
Task Group Recommendations

Take into account the following considerations:

1. “Is there potential for this information to harm the [person] through outing or violating the right to privacy?

2. Is there an indication that the [person] consents to having this information shared publicly?

3. Will including this information help a library user in the search process?”*

*Thompson, KJ. “More Than a Name: A Content Analysis of Name Authority Records for Authors Who Self-Identify as Trans,” Library Resources & Technical Services 60, no. 3 (July 2016), p. 152.
Proposed
New DCM Z1 375 and PCC-LC PS for 9.7
Proposed DCM Z1 375 practices

Record only terms that represent the identity/identities with which a person self-identifies.

- descriptive statements by the person
- use of personal or possessive pronouns

Do not assume gender based solely on a photograph or image of the person.

In case of doubt, leave it out.
Proposed DCM Z1 375 practices

When recording a gender term, prefer terms from a subset of the gender category in Library of Congress Demographic Group Terms (LCDGT)

Females
Gender minorities
Intersex people
Males
Transgender people
Transsexuals
375 ## $a$ Males $2$ lcdn
gt

(A person who identifies himself as male or uses male pronouns to refer to himself)
Proposed DCM Z1 375 practices

Whenever possible, propose additional needed gender identity terms through the SACO Program.

Do not record terms that incorporate elements of age or sexual orientation, such as Boys, Women, Lesbians.
Record multiple terms to represent multiple gender identities in separate fields.

375 ## $a Males $2 lcdgt

375 ## $a Transgender people $2 lcdgt
(A person who identifies himself as a transgender man)

375 ## $a Females $2 lcdgt
375 ## $a Transsexuals $2 lcdgt
375 ## $a Males $2 lcdgt
(A person who originally published and self-identified as a man and subsequently published and self-identified as a transsexual woman)

375 ## $a Females $2 lcdgt
375 ## $a Cisgender people $2 lcsh
(A person who identifies herself as a cisgender woman. “Cisgender people” is an established LCSH heading; “Cisgender people” being proposed as an LCDGT term)
Proposed DCM Z1 375 practices

Record additional controlled or uncontrolled terms in separate fields as needed. For consistency, capitalize the first word of the term. When terms do not come from a controlled vocabulary, use a singular form, and do not include subfield $2.

Gender Code and Term Source Codes
Other vocabulary usage examples

375 ## $a Females $2 lcdgt
375 ## $a Transsexuals $2 lcdgt
375 ## $a Male-to-female transsexuals $2 lcsh
(Controlled term from another vocabulary included for additional clarity)

375 ## $a Females $2 lcdgt
375 ## $a Transgender people $2 lcdgt
375 ## $a Katoeys $2 homoit
(Controlled term from another vocabulary included for additional clarity. Katoey is a term used in Thailand for either a transgender woman or an effeminate gay male)
Proposed DCM Z1 375 practices

Record dates associated with a particular gender identity in subfield $s$ and subfield $t$ only when the person provides the dates.
Transgender people

Males: 2009

Females: 1992 to 2009

(Date of transition provided in the author Jon Edwards’s autobiography The boy who was born a girl. Page i: “Jon Edwards was born in Peru in 1992. In 2009 … Jon started his transition from female to male … awareness of what being young and transgender is like”)

Transsexuals

Males: 1946 to 1998

Females: 1998

(Date of transition given on Joan Roughgarden’s website, on which she identifies as transsexual. Author published first under name Jonathan Roughgarden and later as Joan Roughgarden. Found in New York times article Oct. 17, 2000 entitled Scientist at work: “For those who knew Dr. Jonathan Roughgarden well, and the many more who knew him only through his prolific production of scientific papers and books, it came as a much-discussed surprise when this Stanford professor, then 52, announced on his Web site that he was a transsexual, posting pictures of himself as Joan.”)
As always, NACO members encountering incorrect information in authority records, including the 375 field, are encouraged to **correct the information**.

Add new inclusive terms for gender in the LCDGT

Investigate the need for a NACO funnel group to handle NARs for queer and trans* individuals

Investigate leveraging publisher’s online author questionnaires

Investigate the impact of open linked data and the shift to identity management

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Questions?