

LTI AUTHORITY RECORDS

What are LTI Authority Records?

1. LTI authority records contain valid headings which LTI has found in bibliographical records but which do not have an LC authority record. Because LC did not begin issuing authority records until the 1970's, there are many "good" headings in older materials which are not in the LC authority files. In addition, because LC catalogs only a small subset of the materials published throughout the world, there are many "good" headings in recent materials that are not in the LC authority files.
2. LTI authority records are carefully reviewed for accuracy and correct AACR2 form.

Each record is reviewed by two librarians before it is added to the LTI authority file. In addition, notes are added to the record indicating the title and publisher of the work in which the heading was found. Each week, the LTI authority records are checked to determine if any have been superseded by new or revised LC authority records.

Why are LTI Authority Records Useful to My Library?

1. They enable LTI to automatically verify that more of your headings are correct.
 - ✓ For limited review authority control, this greatly reduces the size of the "unlinked headings" reports that are returned to the library, allowing the library to concentrate on correcting headings that are incorrect.
 - ✓ For full manual review authority control, this allows LTI editors to concentrate their efforts on headings which have not been previously verified as correct. This reduces the overall cost of doing full manual review.
2. They allow more incorrect forms to be corrected.
 - ✓ Because many LTI authority records contain cross-references from incorrect forms to correct forms, more incorrect headings in your database are automatically corrected, even when there is no LC authority record for the correct form.
 - ✓ LTI authority records also provide "targets" for automatic correction of common errors in your headings. For example, if the heading in your record is **\$aSnerd,Mortimer, \$d1093-1966**, the LTI software will detect the problem in the birth date, fix it, and find that it can be linked to **\$aSnerd, Mortimer, \$d1903-1966** (an LTI authority record).
3. They allow LTI to guarantee to you that at least 95% of your headings will be authorized.
 - ✓ No vendor can guarantee that a set percentage of your headings will be linked to LC authority records—there is a limited number of LC authority records and the headings in your database, even if manually reviewed, can link only to existing headings.
 - ✓ If the link rate on your database falls below 95%, LTI will manually review the unlinked headings and either (i) link the heading to the proper LC record or, (ii) when necessary, create a new LTI authority record that will authorize the heading.

Where do LTI Authority Records Come From?

1. From "shortening" of LC authority records
 - ✓ If LC has established an authority record for a name + title form, but the name portion of that heading does not appear in the LC authority file, LTI generates an LTI authority record from the name portion of the LC record.
 - ✓ If LC has established an authority record for a name + title + language, but the name + title portion of that heading does not appear in the LC authority file, LTI generates an LTI authority record from the name + title portion of the LC record.
 - ✓ If LC has established an authority record for a corporate name (in \$a) with a subordinate body (in \$b) but has not established a heading for the \$a by itself, LTI generates an LTI authority record from the \$a of the LC record.
2. From "extension" of LC authority records
 - ✓ LC-authorized author + LTI-authorized title.
 - ✓ LC-authorized corporate \$a + LTI-authorized \$b.
 - ✓ LC-authorized conference \$a + LTI-authorized \$n, \$d, and/or \$c. For conferences, LC's general practice is to establish an authority record for the \$a of the heading, but to not establish separate authority records for each instance of the conference. There are few LC authority records that contain \$n, \$d and \$c.
 - ✓ LC-authorized "bracketed" subject headings

For instance, LC authority record #sh 85-25037 ("**150 0 \$aChristian drama, American, [English, etc.]**") permits creating of additional headings starting **Christian drama**, followed by a nationality adjective. As they are needed, headings of this type are constructed and added to the LTI authority file.
3. From manual review and editing
 - ✓ When LTI editors cannot link a bibliographic heading to an LC authority record, they will either mark the heading as valid or edit the heading to correct AACR2 form. These headings are provisionally added to the LTI authority file. These additions are then reviewed by a second LTI editor before they become permanent.
 - ✓ If the heading was edited to bring it into AACR2 form, the unedited form of the heading is added as a cross-reference in the LTI authority record as well. In addition, if an LTI editor later links an incorrect form to an existing LTI record, LTI adds it as a cross-reference to the existing LTI authority record.

How Many LTI Authority Records Are There?

1. As of January 2009, there were 2,280,868 LTI authority records.
2. In addition to the field that contains the authorized heading, these LTI records contain 1,933,096 cross-reference fields that link incorrect forms to the LTI-authorized forms.