Authority Control

The WRLC Network Zone runs two different jobs in Alma for authority control: the Link BIB Headings job, and the Preferred Term Correction job. The former links authority headings to an authority record, and the latter changes the heading from the non-preferred term to the preferred term. Both jobs run daily for records linked to the Network Zone; they are specifically applied to bibliographic records that have been updated or added to the repository since the last job, and for headings linked to authority records that have been updated since the last job. More information can be found in the [Alma Knowledge Center](#).

Ex Libris runs a re-indexing job on all repository records twice a year (from November to January, and from May to July). This process applies both authority control jobs to all records in the repository; this is the only time that the jobs will run on old records as well as new ones.

The WRLC did not have authority control jobs running in the Network Zone until 2022. In the Fall of 2021, the WRLC Metadata Committee reviewed authority control in Alma and came to the conclusion that, although the jobs are not perfect, the benefits outweigh the drawbacks. A detailed description of this review can be viewed in the [Authority Control Testing Fall 2021](#) document created by the WRLC Authority Control Subgroup. The official WRLC Policy on Authority Control can be found in the [WRLC Network Zone Bibliographic Record Policies document](#).

In addition, WRLC created several Authority Control rules to mitigate some of the mistakes commonly committed by the Link BIB Heading and Preferred Term Correction jobs.

The jobs and rules mentioned above are configured in the Network Zone, and therefore only apply to records linked to the Network Zone. Below are are the current configurations in the WRLC Network Zone for authority control.

Configuration > Resources > General > Authority Control Rules
Link BIB Headings Tab

Institution Rules List								⌄

⊕ Add Rule

Filter : All ▾

	Enabled	Move Up	Move Down	Rule Name	Description	Managed in Network	Updated By	Update Date	
1.	🔵		▾	Undifferentiated personal name	When the authority 008 control field, position 32 = "b", then do not link		Admin, WRLC	03/25/2022	⋯
2.	🔵	▲		Exact subfield codes	Subdivision fields will NOT be disregarded by the Link BIB Heading job		Saavedra, Jacqueline	02/04/2025	⋯

Default Rule					⌄

	Rule Name	Description	Managed in Network	Updated By	Update Date	
1	Default	Default Link BIB Headings Rule		Ex Libris	12/02/2018	⋯

Undifferentiated Personal Name : when the authority 008 control field, position 32 = "b", then do not link

Exact subfield codes : Subdivision fields will NOT be disregarded by the Link BIB Heading job

Configuration > Resources > General > Authority Control Rules
Preferred Term Correction Tab

Institution Rules List								⌄

⊕ Add Rule

Filter : All ▾

	Enabled	Move Up	Move Down	Rule Name	Description	Managed in Network	Updated By	Update Date	
1.	🔵		▾	Undifferentiated non-preferred personal name	Prevents preferred term correction for personal names in an X00 field to be linked to an authority record with an undifferentiated non-preferred personal name.		Admin, WRLC	03/25/2022	⋯
2.	🔵	▲		655 LCSH Headings	If a term in a 655 field is from LCSH vocabulary, preferred term correction will not be applied		Admin, WRLC	03/25/2022	⋯

Default Rule					⌄

	Rule Name	Description	Managed in Network	Updated By	Update Date	
1	Default	Default Preferred Term Correction Rule		Ex Libris	11/04/2018	⋯

Undifferentiated non-preferred personal name : Prevents preferred term correction for personal names in an X00 field to be linked to an authority record with an undifferentiated non-preferred personal name

655 LCSH Headings : If a term in a 655 field is from LCSH vocabulary, preferred term correction will not be applied

Resources :

- [Working with Authority Records](#)
- [Authority Control Rules](#)
- [WRLC's Authority Control Testing Fall 2021](#)

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