Authority Control in dPanther – Part III:
– Subject Headings

-- For dPanther Users’ Group
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Outline

1) What are subject headings?
2) Why do we need subject headings?
3) How do we assign subject headings?
4) How do we identify subject headings?
5) How do we manage subject headings in dPanther?
What are subject headings?

- Subject headings are about the content
- They summarize the overall content and most important topics
- You can think about the definition when you are not sure about a subject heading
  - This [book] is about [maps]
Why do we need subject headings? (1)

- Subject headings collocate all of the materials on a topic together
- Users don’t have to search for every possible synonym in order to find all of the materials on a topic
Why do we need subject headings? (2)

- Subject headings disambiguate unrelated materials on a topic
- Users don’t get unrelated materials on a topic

Title: On Fire: 7 Choices to Ignite a Radically Inspired Life
[has nothing to do with fires]
Subject headings: Conduct of life Self-realization
How do we assign subject headings? (1)

- We assign subject headings that best summarize the overall contents of the work and provide access to its most important topics.
- We consider the intent of the author or publisher, and, if possible, assign headings for this orientation without being judgmental.
- We do not assign subject headings that reflect our opinion about the contents.
The number of headings that are required varies with the work being cataloged.

Sometimes one heading is sufficient.

Generally a maximum of six is appropriate.

Do not assign more than ten headings to a work.
How do we assign subject headings? (3)

- We assign the headings that most closely correspond to the overall coverage of the work.
- We do not assign headings that represent the subtopics included in an assigned heading's coverage.

Title: Beginning gymnastics.

650 #0 $a Gymnastics.

[Do not assign separate headings for parallel bars, balance beam, horizontal beam, vaulting horse, tumbling, etc., instead of, or in addition to, Gymnastics.]
How do we assign subject headings? (4)

- If a work discusses a general topic with emphasis on a particular subtopic, we assign headings for both the general topic and the subtopic, provided that the subtopic forms at least 20% of the work.

Title: Revolutions yesterday and today.

[A survey of revolutions with emphasis on the Cuban Revolution of 1959]

650 #0 $a Revolutions $x History.
651 #0 $a Cuba $x History $y Revolution, 1959.
How do we assign subject headings? (5)

- If a subject heading represents the two or three topics discussed in a work, and it does not include other topics, we assign the one heading instead of two or three narrower headings.

Title: By land, sea, and air: the story of transportation.

650 0 $a Transportation $x History
How do we assign subject headings? (6)

- If a general topic includes more than three subtopics, but the work discusses only two or three of them, we assign the two or three headings rather than the broader heading. -- Rule of three

- If more than three of the subtopics are discussed in the work, we assign the broad heading instead unless the rule of four applies

Title: South Carolina fruit tree survey, 1975: peaches and apples

650 0 $a Peach $z South Carolina $v Statistics
650 0 $a Apples $z South Carolina $v Statistics
How do we assign subject headings? (7)

- If a heading covers a broad range and each subtopic forms only a small portion of that whole range, we assign headings for the four subtopics instead. -- Rule of four

  Title: Selected works of four American literary authors
  [a heading for each author may be assigned since the heading American literature—History and criticism covers all American authors.]

- We do not exceed four subtopics under any circumstances.
How do we identify subject headings?

Introduction of FAST
What is FAST?

- FAST (Faceted Application of Subject Terminology) includes subject headings in eight facets: topical, geographic, form, chronological, personal names, corporate names, events, uniform titles.
- Each facet may be used independently.
- FAST can be accessed through: http://fast.oclc.org/searchfast/
How was the FAST developed?

- FAST is derived from LCSH and retains LCSH headings in OCLC authorized under different rules.
- FAST is a post-coordinated vocabulary for online environment.
- All FAST headings (except chronological) are fully established.
What’s the benefits of using FAST?

- FAST is easier to use, understand, and apply
- FAST enables a broad range of users to assign subject terminology to web resources
- FAST has rich vocabulary covering all subject areas
- FAST is a vocabulary to facilitate faceted browsing
- FAST is amenable to automated authority control
LCSH and FAST Comparison

**LCSH**

- 600 Lincoln, Abraham, $d 1809-1865
- 650 Political leadership $z United States $v Case studies
- 650 Genius $v Case studies
- 600 Lincoln, Abraham, $d 1809-1865 $x Friends and associates
- 650 Presidents $z United States $v Biography
- 651 United States $x Politics and government $y 1861-1865

**FAST**

- 600 Lincoln, Abraham, $d 1809-1865
- 648 1861 - 1865
- 650 Political leadership
- 650 Genius
- 650 Friendship
- 650 Presidents
- 650 Political science
- 651 United States
- 655 Case studies
- 655 Biography
In LCSH, it is common to establish events as a combination of a geographic heading and a chronological ($y$) subdivision:

- Buffalo (N.Y.) $x$ History $y$ Civil War, 1861-1865
- Grenada $x$ History $y$ American Invasion, 1983

FAST creates event headings for each of these subdivisions:

- American Civil War, 1861-1865
- American Invasion of Grenada, 1983
How to search FAST?

- Access: http://fast.oclc.org/searchfast/
- Search options:
  - Search by keywords
  - Search by authorized heading keywords
How do we automate FAST subject headings selection?
How do we manage subject headings in dPanther? (1)

- We need keep **consistency of the headings** we choose. Don't use different terms for the same topic.

- We need keep **consistency of capitalization**. Only capitalize first letter of the subject heading. Don't capitalize other letters.

- We need keep **consistency in adding space before and after punctuations**. Add a space after coma, and add a space both before and after dashes.
How do we manage subject headings in dPanther? (2)

- We need to use controlled vocabularies such as FAST

- Climate change
- Climate science
- Climatic change
- Climatic extremes
- Emission reduction, greenhouse gas
- Food security
- Global carbon cycle
- Ice Caps
- Ice sheet
- Marshes
- Sea ice -- Arctic regions
- Sea level -- Florida -- Monroe County
- Seawater
- Sustainability
- Thermal Expansion
- Animals -- extinction
- Earthquakes

- Climatic changes
- Climatology
- Greenhouse gas mitigation
- Carbon cycle (Biogeochemistry)
- Ice caps
- Ice sheets
- Sea ice -- Arctic Regions
- Seawater
- Expansion (Heat)
- Extinction (Biology)
References

QUESTIONS?