

Author Names Project: June Status Update

Outreach to Potential Project Partners: April

When the project was funded in April, this milestone enabled outreach to begin happening in a more concerted effort to other project partners. Email invitations were sent to a small number of additional project partners to get their formal approval to participate. Harvard University Press was an enthusiastic responder and has agreed to partner with us. A librarian at MIT has agreed to partner with us, as a bridge to MIT Press, given that he performs their cataloging as a member of the [ECIP program](#). Discussions are still underway with additional small presses.

ORCID

During the conceptual grant-writing phase, Michelle Durocher and Amy Brand, member of the ORCID Board and Harvard Assistant Provost, had discussed possible intersections with Author Names project and the [ORCID](#) initiative. Once the project was funded in April, Amy kindly put Michelle in touch with a staff member of ORCID so that we could explore interoperability potential in a more detailed discussion. On April 30, we had a phone conference and determined that ORCID's interests in moving more into the 'monograph' arena was a perfect match with the Author Names project. ORCID shared their technical/developer information with us and links to their APIs. We are planning to link the Author Names interface with ORCID; details to follow once analysis has been completed on what their APIs will allow us to do at this point.

Technical kick-off meeting with Berkman Developer: May 7

Project Team members from the Metadata Management unit, Michelle, Durocher, Christine Eslao and Colin Van Alstine met with Anita Patel, the web applications developer from the Berkman Center who is creating the open source system through which the project goals will be realized: to share metadata between the library and publishing communities. We reviewed the technical details and brainstormed possible options that would impact the user interface and export data streams.

Data Analysis for User Interface Design: May

Colin analyzed the Author Questionnaires that we had received from our two existing publisher partners, Tupelo Press and Harvard University Press. He compared the data points in common and examined divergences. He created a comparison chart to help us determine what would be included in the basic element set of the online Author Questionnaire and began making recommendations for what kinds of fields should be broken into discrete elements and what fields may benefit from linking to controlled vocabularies or other datasets.

Data Export for Library Purposes: May

Christine consulted with Mary Jane Cuneo, Harvard's [NACO](#) representative to the Program for Cooperative Cataloging, to begin mapping information from existing author questionnaires to MARC RDA authority records and choosing suitable fixed field codes. Mary Jane provided expert guidance on options to consider. Christine will analyze this data to determine where required fields, greater granularity, links to controlled vocabulary, or additional questionnaire fields may be helpful. Christine will convey these and other needs regarding the user interface to Anita and will compile open questions to help shape decisions on the back-end implementation.

Development Update: May

The application is being built using Ruby on Rails with a PostgreSQL database. Coding has begun and initial database structure is being refined. Technical requirements and user flows have been written up and near completion. Once finalized, the requirements and use cases will be implemented and pushed to a development environment for initial testing.

Expenses to Date

All project expenses to date have been associated with application development by staff at the Berkman Center.