

Authority Control

Authority Control Jobs

The WRLC Network Zone runs three different jobs in Alma for authority control every day. These jobs apply only to Network Zone-linked bibliographic records that have been added or updated since the last time the job was run, also to bibliographic records with subject headings linked to authority records that have been updated since the last job was run.

1. Link BIB Headings job : links authority headings to an authority record
2. Preferred Term Correction job : changes the heading from the non-preferred term to the preferred term.
3. Handle Local Authority Record Updates job : updates \$0 in the bibliographic record and performs relinking for local authority records.

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](#).

Authority Control Rules

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 the current configurations in the WRLC Network Zone for authority control.

Configuration > Resources > General > Authority Control Rules





Link BIB Headings Tab

Activate Rules


Institution Rules List

[+ Add Rule](#)  

Filter: All

Enabled	Move Up	Move Down	Rule Name	Description	Managed in Network	Updated By	Update Date	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Undifferentiated personal name	When the authority 008 control field, position 32 = "b", then do not link		Admin, WRLC	03/25/2022	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			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									
Filter: All									
Enabled	Move Up	Move Down	Rule Name	Description	Managed in Network	Updated By	Update Date		
1.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		▼	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.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	▲		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](#)

Revision #13

Created 26 September 2023 22:47:09 by Jackie Saavedra

Updated 8 April 2025 21:18:19 by Jackie Saavedra