

The Revision of the Cataloging Rule (KCR4) and Authority Control under the New Rule

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1 Brief Introduction to KERIS and Authority Control in Korean University

KERIS (Korean Education & Research Information Service) was established on April 22 of 1999 according to KERIS Act (Statue No. 5686). As the name shows, KERIS provide two major services; education information for elementary, middle, and high school users, and academic research information services for university users. KERIS is operating the integrated bibliographic DB's of 174 university library catalogs with 5.8 million records. 306 university libraries are using the union catalog and 243 university libraries are participating in LtoL (KERIS ILL) service. KERIS also provides diverse DB's including article index DB, thesis and journal article DB's, academic DB's in other country.

Four major universities have their own authority DB's. They are Seoul National University, Yonsei University, Ewha Womans University, and Sogang University. The number of records exceeds 700,000. As pointed out in the papers presented in the first and second meeting, these university libraries have a different policy and source data, and as a result have different forms and levels of authority control. These differences would make difficult the integration of these authority DB's. The differences are summarized in the table 1.

2 The Change to Come in Cataloging Rule (KCR4)

Korea Cataloguing Rules (KCR) was published in 1964 and revised in 1966. After 17 years later in 1983, the third edition of KCR (KCR3) was published, and in 1990, KCR3.1 was published with minor changes. In the last December, Korean Library Association published the draft of KCR4. Even though this report does not have a citation, most of the content is from the publication.

KCR4 has two parts, description and access point. In the first part, description rules for books, serials, audiovisual materials, pictures, maps, scores, electronic files, microforms, old materials, and Braille materials. KCR4 is different from KCR3 in three aspects.

First of all, the term “heading” is not used in KCR4. Instead “access point” is used. The online catalog is quite different from the card catalog in data description, filing order, and in several aspects. For example, the filing order of records has little meaning in the online environment. Also the function of tracing in the card catalog is replaced with a quite different method in the online environment. In the online environment, filing order by heading is losing its importance; instead, retrieval by access point is emphasized.

Secondly, main entry is not used. A main entry is treated as one of access points like other added entries. In the automated information retrieval environment, the function of a main entry is not different from that of other access points. Also, it is said to be difficult to set up the concrete rule for the selection of main entry.

Lastly, a particular form for a heading is not considered as a standard form. That is, the traditional concept of “uniform heading” does not exist in KCR4. Different forms of an access point are connected to each other, and these terms are used for information retrieval. The result of the information retrieval is the same with the one by a uniform heading and its variations. A standard form for a heading needs not be decided. The time and cost for the selection of a uniform heading are saved without reducing the function of a heading.

3 Authority Control under KCR4

As said above, KCR4 does not accept the concept of “heading”, and also main entry and uniform heading are not used in KCR4. These changes would have a wide effect on authority control. First of all, the methodology for authority control needs to be changed. Traditionally variations of a heading have been represented by a particular form of heading. Without the concept of main entry and uniform heading, the representative form of heading in authority control would be of little use. Also, the method to connect the bibliographic file and the authority file needs to be changed. The bibliographic record does not have a main entry and a uniform heading, which is important to make a connection to the bibliographic record.

There have been serious discussions among researchers in Korea about the methodology of authority control. The traditional side emphasizes the importance of a representative form for authority control, and the other side does not acknowledge the value of the representative form. It was said that the variations of a heading could be represented by a group ID and this ID can be used to connect the authority record and the bibliographic record. The cataloging rule is about to change to accept the new way.

In the near future, KERIS will have an action plan to build an authority DB with major university libraries. The differences in authority data among the major universities were the most serious problem KERIS has to solve before the development of an authority DB. The change to KCR4 will give a positive chance to KERIS. It relieves KERIS from the burden of standardization of authority data and conversion of the data into a standard format. Variations can be collected under a group ID and it would make easy the integration of authority data.

4 Concluding Remark

The draft is under evaluation now. The impact the change will bring cannot be

estimated easily. It would not be easy for the university library to accept the revision and to change their records. The KCR4 focuses on descriptive cataloging, which make a strong demand on authority control of a high quality for effective information retrieval. KERIS will watch out the change and do several researches about the new way

Table 1

		Seoul National U.	Yonsei U.	Ewha U.
Format		KORMARC (Domestic) USMARC (Western)	KORMARC	Own format
Authority Control		Personal name, Corporate name, Conference name, Uniform title	Personal name, Corporate name, Conference name, Subject	Personal name, Corporate name, Series title * Data with reference only
Head- ing form	Korean name	Hangul	Hangul	Hangul
	Japanes, Chinese name	Romanization (Modified Hepburn)	Korean Pronunciation of Chinese Character in Hangul	Hangul