

The Current Status of the Authority DB in Korea and a Development Plan

Hong- Seok Park, Senior Researcher, KERIS
honspark@keris.or.kr

Ji-Won Lee, Researcher, KERIS
jwlee@keris.or.kr

Table of Content

- 1. Introductory Remark**
- 2. A Brief History of Computerization of the University Library Catalog**
- 3. Current Status of Authority DB's in the Korean University Library**
- 4. Current Status of the Authority DB in KERIS**
- 5. Works Needed for Development of a National Authority DB**
- 6. Concluding Remark**

1. Introductory Remark

This paper is to show the current status of authority DB's of Korean university libraries and to suggest a future development plan. Authority control for the Korean university library is in the beginning stage. There would be several problems to overcome to build a national authority DB. In this paper, a brief history of computerization of the university library catalog is reviewed as a background for authority control in Korean university libraries. Secondly, the current status of authority DB's of the library and KERIS is introduced. And finally, a few important topics are mentioned to suggest a way to build a national authority DB for university libraries. This paper does not show all the issues related to authority control in Korea, but gives a brief overview about it.

2. A Brief History of Computerization of the University Library Catalog

Computerization of Korea university libraries began in the end of 80's. Most of

4-year universities have computerized their libraries already. An important part in this work is computerization of the library catalog. About 80-86% of the catalog was computerized in 4-year university libraries(교육부, 2000).

The library catalog was computerized by retrospective conversion of the card catalog data. In this process, there was no standard catalog data to refer, and no leading organization for the computerization. Most of the library had built a MARC DB in their own ways. This situation was quite different from the one in Japan, in which the university library could use the bibliographic data provided by NACSIS for retrospective conversion. Individual Korea university library applied the rules in different ways under different interpretations of the rules, and there had been little consideration about standardization and sharing of bibliographic data(조재인, 한혜영, 2000).

These problems partly came from the lack of a detailed cataloging rule. Korea Cataloging 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 change in KCR3. KCR3 had only description rules for monographs and did not have the rules for heading selection and form. In 1991, “KORMARC Format” (description rules for monographs) was published. It specified only rules for the selected main entry without specifying the rule to apply for selection of the main entry. It simply note that “the main entry is selected according to the cataloging rule”, but it did not specify which cataloging rule to apply. (정옥경, 1996)

The fact that the heading part was not included in KCR3 and the fact that two cataloging rules(KCR and KORMARC Format) had existed, were the basic problems for development of the national cataloging rule. Because the cataloging rule is directly related to authority control and used to build the authority DB, the revision and reorganization of the cataloging rule is important for development of an authority DB on the national level.

3. Current Status of Authority DB's in the Korean University Library

It needs large amount of manpower and budget to build an authority DB of high quality on the national level. Currently, only three university libraries (Seoul National University, Yonsei University, and Ewha Woman's University) have their own authority DB. These are summarized in the table below(한국교육학술정보원, 2000, pp. 103-105). These libraries have a different policy and source data, and as a result have different forms and levels of authority control. For example, Seoul National University

romanizes the Japanese and Chinese name while Yonsei University and Ewha Woman's University use Korean alphabet for these names(한국교육학술정보원, 2000, pp. 110-111). This difference will be a problem in developing a national authority DB. The difference will make difficult the integration of the authority DB's.

<Table: Current Status of Authority DB)

		Seoul National U.	Yonsei U.	Ewha U.
# of record		186,000	390,000	140,000
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	Korean	Korean	Korean
	Japanes, Chinese name	Romanization	Korean alphabet	Korean alphabet
	Western name	Romanization	Romanization	Romanization

4. Current Status of the Authority DB in KERIS

KERIS(Korean Education & Research Information Service) is operating the integrated bibliographic DB of 155 university library catalogs with 5.4 million records. Comparing with NII union DB of 679 university libraries with 4.9 million records, KERIS DB would have many duplicated records. It would be related to the lack of the specified cataloging rule and an authority DB. The development of a national authority DB will affect the future of the union DB of KERIS as well as bibliographic DB's of university libraries in Korea.

KERIS is providing LC authority data to Korean university libraries. Also a

part of authority data of two university libraries is provided. KERIS is preparing for development of an authority DB on the national level. “A study for development of an authority DB for academic information” had been done as a first step(한국교육학술정보원, 2000). In this study, the current status of authority DB’s of Korean university libraries and a practical strategy for development of a national authority DB were covered

5. Works Needed for Development of a National Authority DB

It needs a lot of work of several steps to develop a national authority DB in Korea. These works are briefly described below.

5.1. Studies on the authority DB’s in Korea

Currently, three major university libraries have their own authority DB. The number of records exceeds 700,000. These data may be highly useful as an initial data set for the national authority DB. To integrate these DB’s into one, careful studies on the data are needed to analyze the level of authority control, the rules they use for selection and description of heading, and others related to the authority control. According to the result, a best way for integration can be found.

5.2. Revision of cataloging rules

The first thing to develop a national authority DB is to revise and reorganize the cataloging rule. As mentioned earlier, the cataloging rule in Korea is not updated one. Also several people said that the rule is not specific enough for cataloging. Based on the specified and updated cataloging rule, authority data can be managed effectively.

5.3. Development of a system and a test DB

After studying the authority DB’s and revising the cataloging rule, a part of authority data can be integrated for a test. Also, tests on the KERIS’s authority control system are needed. Several functions for integration of current DB’s, entry of large retrospective data, DB management, and for the revised rule are necessary in the system.

5.4. Management of the national authority DB

It would be effective to manage the national authority DB through cooperations among university libraries. The study by KERIS(한국교육학술정보원, 2000, pp 118-120) suggested 3 groups of university libraries; 1) core management group : the group

for new authority data entry and approval of new data produced by the data uploading group, 2) data uploading group : the group for data production and uploading, 3) data downloading group : the user group. This grouping is similar to the one for managing the union DB of KERIS.

5.5. Connection of the authority data and bibliographic data

The authority data is connected to the bibliographic data for cataloging with standardized data and to increase retrieval effectiveness. The KERIS study suggested 4 levels of connection(한국교육학술정보원, 2000, pp. 77-78).

- 1) Independent authority and bibliographic data, and simple reference of authority data for cataloging
- 2) Independent authority and bibliographic data and automated entry of authority data into the bibliographic record
- 3) Inclusion of parts of authority data in the bibliographic record
- 4) Inclusion of the control number of an authority file in the bibliographic record

The form and level of connection between the authority record and bibliographic record would seriously affect the shape of the university library catalog and KERIS union catalog. The connection needs to be carefully decided based on the future perspective of the bibliographic DB on the national level.

6. Concluding Remark

Authority control, which is traditional in the library, is getting important as the amount of information is increasing. Especially it is important for data exchange and integrated information retrieval on the international level. Considering the situation in Korea, it would be difficult to build a national authority DB in a short period. There should be serious considerations about the three factors below in the long run; 1) the level of the university library catalog, 2) the easiness of retrospective development and conversion of the data of the university library and KERIS, 3) the possibility of maintaining two kinds of DB's, one for old data and the other for new standardized data. KERIS should find a way to build a national authority DB while reducing the effects of the factors above. And also, a corporation with National Library of Korea is important.

References

- 교육부. (2000). 2000년 대학도서관 정보화현황 조사
- 정옥경. (1996). “목록규칙에 있어서의 표목부 변천에 대한 연구”. 한국문헌정보학회지, 30(3), 85-108.
- 조재인, 한혜영. (2000). “일본과 한국의 대학도서관 종합목록시스템 운영 현황 비교 분석 및 향후 발전 방향 : NACSIS와 KERIS를 중심으로”. 도서관문화, 41(3), 37-45.
- 한국교육학술정보원. (2000). 학술정보 전거DB시스템의 개발과 구축에 관한 연구. 한국교육학술정보원 위탁과제