



VIAF Show and Tell

#viaf

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Virtual International Authority File



viaf.org

VIAF Show and Tellers



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Using VIAF in Research

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Outline

- My Research at the BA
- Objectives of using VIAF
- Benefits of using VIAF
- Conclusion

Research Topic

- Bibliotheca Alexandrina Model for Arabic Name and Subject Authority Control.
 - Classical Arabic names
 - Romanization

Classical Arabic Names Issues

- Classical Arabic names can have multiple parts.

-

Muhammd the son of Muhammad the son of Husayn the
magnificence of religion Balkhi, known as our guide to the
glory of religion al-Rumi (Rumi and Balkhi are attributions)

ism (personal name), ammad

Nasab (patronymic), **ibn** ammad **ibn**
usayn

Nisbah (attribution) al-Rūmī ; Balkhi

laqab (description of the person),
Mawlāna; Jalāl al-Dīn ; Bahā' al - Dīn
(Sultan of the Scholars)

- The classical name is often too long

ammad **ibn** Balkhī - ammad **ibn** usayn Bahā' al - Dīn
Rūmī known by Mawlāna Jalāl al-Dīn al-

Major problem were due to the Arabic scripts themselves. The different ways to read the various types of calligraphy and typography made it difficult sometimes to vocalize the Arabic words.

غزاة النفس أفضل
غزاة المال

(c) ArabicGenie.com



Romanization

Shāks**p**īr, Walyam

Shaks**p**īr, Walyam

Shakspīr, Waly**a**m

Shaks**b**īr, Waly**a**m

Shaks**b**īr, Walyam

Shiks**b**īr, wily**a**m

Objectives of using VIAF

- To find which elements of the classical Arabic names are used as the main entry by other libraries
- To study Romanization of Arabic names

Benefits

- Viaf is a Gateway to various libraries and their authority files

- Cluster display of the headings allowed me to see how various libraries assign heading

- Vial provided direct links to the library authority record

Conclusion

- I could access global resources from my laptop.
- I could gain access to each authority file via a single gateway.
- This is time saving and provides instant access to a lot of data.
- I loved the way the information was organized and displayed.
- It was easy to scan and select resources.

Thank you



Maintaining VIAF

Stephen Hearn
Metadata Strategist
University of Minnesota

VIAF matching issues

- VIAF is built on algorithmic matching, and could only have been built that way.
- Still, some matching feats are beyond the reach of the algorithms and the data they have to work with.
 - Some authorities for the same person fail to cluster together
 - Some authorities for different persons do get clustered together
 - Some bibliographic details get incorrectly included in a VIAF cluster

In some cases, source data is
ambiguous

Search

Select Field:

All Headings








Select Index:


All VIAF

Search Terms:

Search

14 headings found for *Carrión, Carlos*

	Heading	Type	Sample Title
1	Carrió de la Vandera, Alonso, ca 1715-1783    Carrió de la Vandera, Alonso (1715?-1783)    Concolorcorvo, b. ca. 1706  Carrió De La Vandera, Alonso  Concolorcorvo 	Personal	El lazarillo de ciegos caminantes El lazarillo de ciegos caminantes El lazarillo de ciegos caminantes El lazarillo de ciegos caminantes Itinéraire de Buenos-Aires à Lima
2	Carrió de la Vandera, Alonso 1706-1783 	Personal	
3	Carrión, Carlos, 1944- 	Personal	Los potros desnudos

Carrió de la Vandera, Alonso 1706-1783 













VIAF ID: 61588950 (Personal)

 Preferred Forms

  100 1 _ [1a Carrió de la Vandera, Alonso id 1706-1783](#)



 4xx's: Alternate Name Forms (12)

- 400 1 _ 1a Bandera, Alonso C. de la id 1706-1783 
- 400 1 _ 1a Bandera, Alonso Carrió de la id 1706-1783 
- 400 1 _ 1a Carlos, Calixto Bustamente id 1706-1783 
- 400 1 _ 1a Carrion de Lavandera, Alonso id 1706-1783 
- 400 1 _ 1a Carrió de la Bandera, Alonso id 1706-1783 
- 400 1 _ 1i Pseud. 1a Bustamante-Carlos, Calixto id 1706-1783 
- 400 1 _ 1i Pseud. 1a Bustamente Carlos Inga, Calixto id 1706-1783 
- 400 1 _ 1i Pseud. 1a Bustamente, Carlos Calixto id 1706-1783 
- 400 1 _ 1i Pseud. 1a Bustamente, Carlos id 1706-1783 
- 400 0 _ 1i Pseud. 1a Concolorcorvo id 1706-1783 id LCAuth 
- 400 1 _ 1a Vandera, Alonso C. de la id 1706-1783 
- 400 1 _ 1a Vandera, Alonso Carrió de la id 1706-1783 

In some cases, source data is
inadequate

VIAF

Virtual International Authority File

Search

Select Field:

All Headings



Select Index:

All VIAF



Search Terms:

2 headings found for *cameron, william bleasdell*

Heading

- 1 [Cameron, William Bleasdell, 1862-1951](#)  
[Cameron, W. B. \(William Bleasdell\), 1862-1951](#) 
- 2 [Cameron, William Bleasdell](#) 

KATALOG DER DEUTSCHEN NATIONALBIBLIOTHEK

Gesamter Bestand

Musikarchiv

Exilsammlungen

Buchmuseum

→ **Suchformular zurücksetzen**

Finden



<http://d-nb.info/gnd/143185187>

[PND](#)

Link zu diesem Datensatz

<http://d-nb.info/gnd/143185187>

Name

Cameron, William Bleasdel

In some cases, things just go wrong

Search

Select Field:

All Headings


















Select Index:

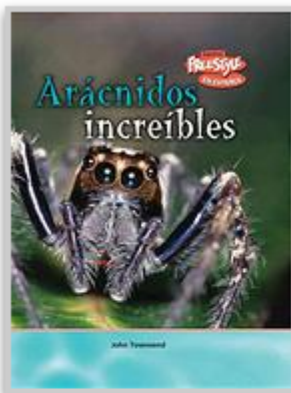
All VIAF




Search Terms:

98 headings found for *townsend, john***Heading**

- [Townsend, John Sims, 1952-](#)    
[Townsend, John](#) 
[Townsend, John, 1955-](#) 
- [Townsend, John Rowe, 1922-](#)    
[Townsend, John Rowe](#)   
- [Townsend, John Sims, 1952-](#)  



Townsend, John Sims, 1952-    

Townsend, John 

Townsend, John, 1955- 

VIAF ID: 78531376 (Personal)

Preferred Forms

  [100 1 _ |a Townsend, John Sims |d \(1952-\)](#)

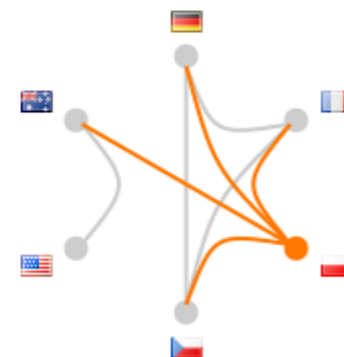
  [200 _ | |a Townsend |b John Sims |f 1952-....](#)

  [100 1 _ |a Townsend, John Sims |d 1952-](#)

  [100 1 _ |a Townsend, John](#)

  [100 1 _ |a Townsend, John, |d 1955-](#)

  [100 1 _ |a Townsend, John Sims, |d 1952-](#)



NUKAT Center (Poland)

NUKAT|n 96600055

Three authors in one VIAF cluster:

Townsend, John Sims, 1952- [BNF, DNB, NKC, NUKAT] writes pop Christian psychology titles

Townsend, John [NZ] writes on Oman

Townsend, John, 1955- [LC] writes science books for young readers















How did these get clustered?

NUKAT's authority includes a 400 for "Townsend, John"

Which connects to titles found under the NZ authorized heading, "Townsend, John"?

The NZ authority itself cites the titles "Oman" and "Where have all the leaders gone"

But how did that match to LC's authority for the children's author?

19	Townsend, John, 1928-    	Personal	Oman the making of a modern state
20	Fitch, John T. (John Townsend) 	Personal	a fitch family history
21	Townsend, John T.  	Personal	Midrash Tanhuma S. Buber recension
22	Townsend, John, fl. 1850-1862 	Personal	The southern states, their present peril, and they ...
23	Townsend, John, 1939- 	Personal	kids and drugs a parents guide
24	Consoer, White, and Hersey 	Corporate	vulnerability and recovery of public utility ...
25	Townsend, John Marshall  	Personal	emotional alarms
26	Townsend, John Raymond 	Personal	Chemistry and chemical reactivity
27	Townsend, John 	Personal	Oman : the making of a modern state

Further down the list--

Townsend, John, 1928- [NUKAT, BNF, DNB, LC] writes on Oman.

Townsend, John [LC] notes title “Oman ...” but source authority in LCNAF cites only a book on basketball—no mention of “Oman.”

Happily, neither clusters with the other, since they represent different people, despite the odd citation of “Oman” for the LC author;

but sadly, the Townsend, John, 1928- record didn't cluster with the NZ record for Townsend, John, author of “Oman ...”

If it had, the three-way errors in the first cluster might have been avoided.

The algorithms do very well, but don't get us far enough.

96 [Townsend, John, 1819-1892](#) 

Personal

97 [Townsend, John, 1825-](#) 

Personal

98 [Morris, John, of Port Townsend, Wash.](#) 

Personal



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Problems are worth reporting to OCLC

- A problem found on one cluster may suggest improvements to the algorithmic process which will benefit many other clusters
 - Unleveraged data elements, e.g., “LCAuth” in DNB record
 - Date format variation
- Testimonial: reporting VIAF problems to OCLC has worked for me!

Knowing the algorithms well could help catalogers indirectly match up their authorities with VIAF clusters; but may not help with records from other NAFs

Need for a direct linking option? Explicitly state the VIAF cluster ID in a MARC21 authority? Other authority file IDs?

Processes for member-contributed VIAF maintenance will need to be worked out by the VIAF partners. For now, direct reporting to OCLC is the preferred method.



Questions? Comments?

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