Ethical Questions in Name Authority Control, edited by Jane Sandberg. Sacramento: Library Juice Press, 2019. vii, 410 p. ISBN: 978-1-63400-054-3. \$35.00.

Authority control is not a field of cataloging in which monographs are terribly common; the ethics of any cataloging or classification specialization even less so. *Ethical Questions in Name Authority Control*, as a search of an online catalog will reveal, is represented by the Library of Congress subject headings “**Name authority records (Information retrieval)**” and “**Cataloging--Moral and ethical aspects.**” Indeed, the Library of Congress (LOC) online catalog only lists this one book on the subject. Regardless, this compilation of essays is thoughtful, in-depth, and cutting edge. The editor, Jane Sandberg, has previously published on *Resource Description and Access* (RDA), BIBFRAME, and authority control, and brings a discerning eye in her selections for this book. As she notes in the introduction, “this is the first time that scholars have come together to look at multiple facets of name authority control with the goal of working toward an ethical framework,” something that has become even more urgent as issues around linked and big data, social media, and privacy increase. The essays are organized into four sections exploring various topics in great depth, and a fifth, which proposes some solutions to the problems presented in the prior parts. This review will focus on those topics of greatest interest to *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly* readers, but does not attempt to be comprehensive.

The first section, “Self-Determination and Privacy,” focuses on issues of privacy and consent in name authority records (NARs), beginning with authorial naming and then extending to other demographic information like birth dates and sexuality. Multiple identities are the focus of both Violet B. Fox and Kelly Sickward’s chapter on zines as well as Michelle M. Kazmer’s focus on use of women’s married names, but in different ways. In their chapter “My Zine Life is My Private Life”: Reframing Authority Control from Detective Work to an Ethic of Care,” Fox and Sickward ask “what happens when people don’t want to be paired with their work,” and go on to explore that question in depth. They wisely point out the potential for actual life-and-death consequences that could result, such as when political zines and their creators are linked. In her chapter “Identity Theft: How Authority Control Undermines Women’s Agency,” Kazmer takes a different tack and points to the use of Agatha Christie’s married name as the record for which her work as Agatha Mallowan and Mary Westmacott is listed—despite her “very firm intention [that they] stay separate.” Both chapters conclude by arguing that catalogers should not “Poirot” their NARs, which is to say that catalogers should be “mindful of the privacy and safety” of the authors, and “think of the creator as a person and not a piece of data.”

Jennifer M. Martin and Thomas A. Whittaker round out the section by focusing on NAR-usage of dates of birth and sexuality respectively. Both chapters are valuable to catalogers and future researchers, as there is very little prior literature on the topics. Whittaker’s illustration of cataloger use of Wikipedia to determine sexual orientation is especially concerning in light of the LOC’s decision that Wikipedia citations are not appropriate for these term proposals (see summary of decisions related to “*Asexuality; Asexual people*” in <https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/saco/cpsod/psd-160321.html>).

The second section of the book, “Impacts of Colonialism,” uses a postcolonial lens to argue for the decolonization of authority files. Focusing on Native American name authority records at the University of Denver, Erin Elzi and Katherine M. Crowe apply Tribal Critical Race Theory and a feminist ethics of care in their work with “Cheyenne and Arapaho nations [to

create NARs] in ways that respect tribal sovereignty and cultural traditions.” Heather K. Hughes uses postcolonialism to critique Library of Congress subject headings (LCSH) for Kurds and Kurdistan proposing ethical ways to name Kurdish people and geographies.

The book’s third and largest section, “Gender Variance and Transgender Identities,” also carries a significant polemical heft, in that it is a concerted and concentrated reply to the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) Ad Hoc Task Group on Gender in Authority Records.¹ In the eyes and words of the authors of this section, the Task Force attempted and failed to “take a more humane approach to how authority files describe gender variant and transgender people.” The Task Group was, in turn, replying to RDA 9.7, which (at the time) required the labelling of NARs as male, female, or ‘not known.’ RDA 9.7, therefore, inscribes “fixedness of gender, cisnormative and regressive understandings of gender... [and imposes] Western gender classification on [non-Western and] indigenous gender systems” in the catalog. Kalani Adolpho, Ahava Cohen, Hale Polebaum-Freeman, Travis L. Wagner, and Naomi Shiraishi examine various issues of gender in the Task Force, RDA 9.7, and NARs broadly. Each of these chapters offer suggestions and solutions. For example, Cohen’s chapter, “Free to Be... Only He or She: Overcoming Obstacles to Accurately Recording Gender Identity in a Highly-Gendered Language,” examines NARs from the point of a view of a highly gendered language (Hebrew) which often requires two different NARs for a transgender person. The common thread that runs through this section is a demand that regulations “designed to be inclusive of transgender and gender diverse peoples... respect the privacy and agency of those people.” These chapters are probably of great utility to both activists and educators among *CCQ* readers. Alongside RDA 9.7 and the Task Force recommendations, they serve as an excellent case study of how classification decisions with profound ethical and moral importance are made, revised, and re-revised. If there is any critique to be made of this section (and the book at large), it is that the Task Force cannot respond. It would have been valuable to include the perspectives of Task Force members and their recommendations in this section, if possible.

The impacts of three emerging technologies (massive indexing databases; linked data authorities; researcher profiles) have been frequently discussed in *Cataloging and Classification Quarterly* and elsewhere, but they are handily described and examined in the fourth section of this book, “Challenges to the Digital Scholarly Record,” by Sholeh Arastoopoor and Fatemeh Ahmadinassab, Ruth Kitchin Tillman, and Anchalee Panigabutra-Roberts respectively. The chapters in this section provide useful crash courses on cataloging and classification technologies and their implications for students, educators, and the curious. Tillman’s chapter is especially noteworthy for its clear, comprehensive explanation of the “benefits and risks” of linked data. Tillman’s timely reminder that “despite the potential [linked data] offers for incorporating unheard voices, a multiplicity of representation or viewpoints does not inherently lead to ethical behavior or the prioritization of voices which have been excluded by white supremacist, patriarchal practices” is well taken and worthy of consideration in any syllabi and discussion referencing these technologies.

The final section, “Emancipatory Collaborations,” offers some solutions to the foregoing issues. The editor successfully places essays by Alexis A. Antracoli and Katy Rawdon, Tina Gross and Violet B. Fox, Carol Rigby and Riel Gallant, and finally Naomi R. Caldwell in

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¹ Amber Biley, Matthew Haugen, John Hostage, Nancy Sack, and Adam L. Schiff. *Report of the PCC Ad Hoc Task Group on Gender in Name Authority Records*. (2016).

http://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/documents/Gender_375%20field_RecommendationReport.pdf

conversation with each other. Antracoli and Rawdon's chapter "What's in a Name? Archives for Black Lives in Philadelphia and the Impact of Names and Name Authorities in Archival Description," is another literature first, proposing "racism audits" as a pathway for white archivists—the overwhelming majority of the field—to engage with local minoritized communities. Racism audits, they point out, allow for reconsideration of archival practices and naming in light of anti-racist literature and then the circulation of those reconsiderations to Black communities. Individuals interested in this project should watch it closely to see how the archivists put their community recommendations into practice. In the following chapter, Gross and Fox promote a view of "authority work as outreach." By reaching out to the individuals on the other end of 'the power to name' to correct errors, catalogers and creators can engage in a collaborative partnership. Finally, the last two chapters focus on the use of indigenous languages (Rigby and Gallant) and perspectives in building and maintaining NARs (Caldwell).

Ethical Questions in Name Authority Control is striding onto new ground in a number of ways. If there were no literary warrant for moral and ethical aspects of cataloging, this would hopefully be enough of an exemplar. This is an indispensable collection of essays, which demonstrates Jane Sandberg's editorial prowess and critical eye. The sections themselves, however, do not naturally flow into each other; a reader would be well served by revisiting this book again and again. As quite a bit of new ground is broken, it is hard to orient the work within the field: is it aimed at educators? Professional catalogers? Students? Both the editor and publisher seem to hope that the answer to all of these questions is 'yes' — and that is perhaps true. Individual chapters may range in audience and intention, but there is much to be found for advanced beginners, professional catalogers, educators, students, and others.

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