

**Report on the Networking Names report from OCLC Research,
SAA Description Section Meeting, August 14, 2009**

In April of this year, OCLC Research published a report titled *Networking Names*¹. The report was the work of the RLG Partners Networking Names Advisory Group. Dennis Meissner and I were both members representing the perspective of archivists.

The *Networking Names* report presents a vision of a Cooperative Identities Hub, a system for the aggregation of authority information about people, corporate bodies, and families from across multiple user communities. It outlines the problems it might address and its characteristics, scope, benefits, requirements, functions, data elements, and audiences. The report also includes multiple use case scenarios – including one on how archivists and archival researchers might use such a Cooperative Identities Hub.

A Cooperative Identities Hub would:

- Offer a framework to concatenate and merge authoritative information.
- Serve as a gateway to all forms of names without preferring one form over another.
- Use a social networking model.
- Provide a switch to extract relevant information for re-use in local contexts.
- Create a federated trust environment to authenticate and authorize contributors.

Dennis and I contributed several use case scenarios of how the Hub would interact with EAC-CPF databases.

- An archivist might contribute an EAC-CPF record to the Hub.
- An archivist might search the Hub for existing EAC-CPF records or other authority data.
- An archival researcher might search the Hub to find references to archival materials in disparate collections.
- An archival researcher might comment on or correct erroneous or incomplete information in a Hub record.

The report and related documents, including the PowerPoint from a July webinar on the report is available at the OCLC Networking Names Portlet (http://oclcresearch.webjunction.org/networking_names).

I will send this summary, including a link to the full report, to the Description Section email list, and am happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Rush, August 14, 2009.

¹ Smith-Yoshimura, Karen. 2009. *Networking Names*. Report produced by OCLC Research. Published online at: <http://www.oclc.org/programs/reports/2009-05.pdf>.