

OCCLC SAC Liaison Report

Robert Bremer, February 26, 2021

There are two announcements related to FAST:

1. You may remember that when FAST was implemented that named events were coded in the x11 tag group. That meant named event headings for World War II, the San Francisco earthquake, etc., were coded as 611 in bibliographic records, a stretch of the definition of that tag. Catalogers found that objectionable because named events such as wars, earthquakes, floods, etc., are not meetings. So, we requested a change to the MARC format adding the x47 tag group to handle named events. In 2020, we completed the effort in FAST identify those x11 headings that needed to move to x47. The FAST authority file has been updated to include just over 3100 named event headings and the corresponding bibliographic records in WorldCat have also been updated.
2. We are now looking at FAST headings related to chronology. In the past, chronology headings have been limited to ranges of years only, but we are now working on adding “named” time periods that would likely be more familiar to catalog end users. For example, “Colonial period” as opposed to just “ca. 1600-1775” as related to U.S. history. The ranges of dates will remain, but the named time periods, when applicable, will coexist and be tagged 648 in bibliographic records. Work in this area should be completed later this year.