Notes on “The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People” and its differences with Iranian and Persian names in the Library of Congress Database

Documentation and Cataloging

“Documentation” as a process encompasses both descriptive and analytical cataloging. Along these lines all the works belonging to an author will be categorized under a heading specific to that particular author. For this purpose when the name of an author is used for the first time, a record is created, and for the purpose of future reference through the various names an author may use, cross-references are made and included in the record.

To accomplish this task, many libraries have a “Name Documentation” archive and the process of creating and maintaining this archive is known as “Name Documentation Control”. The main goal of name documentation control is to preclude repetitions, and to ascertain complete inclusion of all the works of a particular author under the correct heading.

Formerly books were categorized by their titles but nowadays the authors are given priority and the catalogs are organized by the names of the authors. What we want to emphasize in this note is that documentation is one of the main components of cataloging and has its own rules.

In a library’s catalog-card box, the name of each author should be unique. It is possible that the name of an author appear differently in his or her different works yet the cataloger has no choice but to make these different names uniform.
Therefore the form given to the name of an author is of paramount importance, and it is generally decided by the predominant name under which the name of the author appears. This is the basis of the so-called Anglo-American Cataloging Rules (AACR2) as detailed in Chapter 22.

**The Book of "The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People"**

The history of documentation in Iran goes back to 1969 (1348 a.h.) when the “Center for Library Services” in Iran started work on cataloging Persian and Arabic books. The center was later absorbed into the National Library of the Islamic Republic of Iran and this work continued there.

The two-volume “The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People” is a list of names which has been prepared as a tool for cataloging. The names contained in this book include the names of authors (writers, translators, editors, researchers, and digesters), the works cataloged in the National Library of Iran, and the names of people who have been subjects of books.

As was mentioned before, in this work the names appear in their predominant name using the Anglo-American Cataloging rules, thus in most cases this predominant name comprised the surname, the name, year of birth, and for the deceased the year of death. In case of Muslims born before the 19th century (13th century in Iranian calendar) the father’s name has been included after the name. Following the predominant name, the other forms under which the person’s name has appeared have been included to facilitate referencing.

This set contains the names of all the individuals whose names have been mentioned as main entry in the catalog-card of Iranian National Library.

The second edition of this book appeared in 1997 (1376 A.H. in Iranian calendar) and the third edition appeared in 2003 (1382 A.H. in Iranian calendar). The third edition contains the names of all authors and translators from 1969 (1348 A.H. in the Iranian calendar) until 2000 (1379 A.H. in the Iranian Calendar) which have been collected on the basis of more than 84000 catalog-cards pertaining to Iranian, Arab, and foreign authors. This book is one of the most trusted and comprehensive catalogs in Persian, which is based on a multitude of sources. The names in this catalog have been divided into three main groups, each of which follow a
distinct set of rules:

1. **Iranian names**
   - Pre-Islamic names
   
   - Iranian names of the Islamic period until the beginning of the 20th century (14th century in the Iranian calendar)
   
   - Iranian names after 1925 (1304 A.H. in the Iranian calendar) which corresponds to the establishment of Statistics and Registration Administration and the beginning of issuing Identity cards in Iran.

2. **Non-Iranian names** (this is beyond our subject-matter)
   - Arabic names
   
   - Arabic names from the beginning to the end of 18th century
   
   - Arabic names from 19th century onwards
   
   - Other non-Iranian names for two periods of before Renaissance and from Renaissance onwards

3. **Names of particular groups of people**
   - Kings, members of royal families, and heads of state
   
   - Prophets, Imams, Popes, and Saints
   
   - Women

**Iranian Names**

(a) **Pre-Islamic Iranian Names**

In this period the Iranian names either consist of one part such as Zartusht, Buzurgmihr, or, in some cases an ancestral name is also included e.g. Ardishīr Bābakān, Khusraw Qubādgān, Zartusht Bahrām Pajdū, or, the name is accompanied by a title as in Khusraw Anūshīravān, Bahrām Chūbīn, or Bahrām Gūr. Therefore the names of Iranian people before Islam serve as entries.

(b) **Iranian Names after Islam and until the end of the 13th century a.h. (19th century a.c.)**

The naming conventions of the Arabs became common among Iranian Muslims and adding the name of father after the word “ibn” became prevalent. Thus many authors came to be known with the names of their fathers. In this period many people were referred to in
different forms in different sources. In many cases a title, a place of origin, a pseudonym, or a pen-name were used alongside the regular name of persons in such a way that they were considered a part of the name of the author and in many cases the author was better known by it e.g. “Ibn Sīna, Ḥusayn ibn 'Abdullah” . In some cases the predominant name is the author’s first name and the entry starts with it e.g. “Nāsir Khusraw”, “Ḥasan Sabbaḥ”. Sometimes the name starts with the by-name (quniah) or the place of origin e.g. “Abū Riyḥān Bīrūnī”, “Abū Naṣr Fārābī”; and in some cases the name of an author consists of the first name followed by the name of the father e.g. “Muḥammad ibn ' Ibād, 431-448 a.h. lunar calendar”.

(c) Iranian Names after 1304 a.h. solar calendar (1925 c.e.) (Establishment of Statistics and Registration Administration and the beginning of issuing Identity cards in Iran)

In this period due to the law pertaining to identity cards, it became a legal requirement to have a family name and the names assumed a different form. In this group the family name followed by the first name is used as the authority name for each author.

The Differences between the Recordings of Persian Names According to the Method of “Library of Congress” and that of “The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People”

Considering what was said and also the goal of documentation and universalizing the methods of documentation, in many cases there are differences between these two sources which contradicts the meaning of universal methods for documentation. This creates difficulties and confusion for researchers who are trying to identify a particular author.

Catalogers are not immune to this problem either since an Iranian librarian who is more familiar with the Persian name authority will unconsciously looks for the particular form he is used to and may not be able to access the records of particular author for whom many records does exist in the Library of Congress and as observed in many cases references to it have not been created.

To obviate this problem the Library of Congress has in many cases changed its main title to get closer to the authority name of a particular person. For example before Nov. 6th, 2007, “Ṣadr al-Dīn Shīrāzi, Muḥammad ibn Ibrāhīm” was recorded as “Mullāh Ṣadra, Muhammad ibn Ibrāhīm”, or until March 27th, 2008, ”Nīmā Yushīj” was recorded as “Yuşic, Nîma” and at this date it was changed to “Yūshīj, Nīmā”.

We do not intend to the advocate this or that particular method of recording names as each
may have its own logic, however, a universal method of documentation requires us to choose one.

A possible objection to the Persian NACO Manual, as it is mentioned in its introduction, is that this manual is the policy that the Princeton University adopted to train its catalogers and is thus mainly concerned with general rules, and it has differences in details with the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules.

NACO does divide the Iranian authors into two groups, one belonging to the period before 1900 (classic authors) and the other belonging to the period after that (contemporary authors). However "The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People" has a chronological division into three groups, and yet both should follow the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules.

Thus we propose to use one source and one idea and we think "The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People" is the best choice since:

- The Anglo-American Cataloging Rules maintain in many cases that the heading for a person’s name should generally be based upon the information taken from the main sources among the literally works of the author printed in that person’s own language.
- The Anglo-American Cataloging Rules maintain in many cases that the name should be recorded on the basis of the author’s language, and the author’s country or location of residence (rules 22.1B, 22.3B1, 22.3B4, 22.3C2, 22.5C2).
- Persian NACO Manual, in “Choice of entry element” section notes that if the author is found in "The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People", that particular recording is chosen as the main heading.

It is therefore our view that, according to the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules (AACR2) and the Persian NACO Manual, the choice of "The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People" is the best choice for the determination of the main headings.

We provide some examples of different ways of recording names in “The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People and the Library of Congress’s catalog:

- Rule 22.17A: In many records of the Library of Congress year of birth and/or death are missing:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Based on Library of Congress</th>
<th>Based on &quot;The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rizāyī Iṣfahānī, Muḥammad ‘Alī</td>
<td>Rizāyī Iṣfahānī, Muḥammad ‘Alī, 1962-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afshār Sīstānī, Īraj</td>
<td>Afshār Sīstānī, Īraj, 1940-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Rule 22.16A1: Iranian monarchs and kings are always recorded under their first names followed by their dynastic title. The Library of Congress however has recorded the main entries for Iranian monarchs in several contradictory ways:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Based on Library of Congress</th>
<th>Based on &quot;The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nādir Shāh, Shah of Iran, 1688-1747</td>
<td>Nādir Afshār, Shāh-i Īrān, 1688-1747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qājār, Fatḥ ʻAlī Shāh, Shah of Iran, d. 1834</td>
<td>Fatḥ ʻAlī Qājār, Shāh-i Īrān, d. 1834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aḥmad Shāh Qājār, Shah of Iran, 1897-1929</td>
<td>Aḥmad Qājār, Shāh-i Īrān, 1897-1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ardashir I, King of Iran, d. 241</td>
<td>Ardasīr Sāsānī, Shāh-i Īrān, d. 241</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: "شاه ایران" should be recorded either in English (King of Iran) or according to the ALA-LC Persian Romanization Table as Shāh-i Īrān, yet in the above one sees the Persian word “Shah” mixed with English words “of Iran”.

- Rule 22.5C2: The entry for Iranian, Czech, French, Magyar, Italian, and Spanish married female authors should be recorded according to their maiden names and the husband’s family name should be included after the first name inside parentheses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Based on Library of Congress</th>
<th>Based on &quot;The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anṣārī, Nūsh‘āfarīn</td>
<td>Anṣārī, Nūsh‘āfarīn (Muḥaqqiq), 1939-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muʿīnī, Māndānā</td>
<td>Muʿīnī, Māndānā (Mu’addab’pūr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qadīrī, Nasrīn</td>
<td>Qadīrī, Nasrīn (Kāfī), 1973-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayman, Laylā</td>
<td>Āhī, Laylā (Ayman), 1929-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Rule 22.1C: Any aristocratic, honorary, scientific, etc. titles such as Āqā, Sayyid, Duktur,
Based on Library of Congress
ʻAlavī, Sayyid Zahīruddīn Ṭhaḥmīd, 1900-

According to the “Types of surnames” in the Persian NACO Manual and ALA-LC Persian Romanization Table, whenever a name is composed of two words, they should be written separately; in the Library of Congress database this rule has not been followed in some cases e.g.:

Bahrami, Aliakbar, 1939- (incorrect)
Bahrāmī, ʻAlī Akbar, 1939- (correct)

The other objection to the Library of Congress database is that some of the names are recorded according to the ALA-LC Romanization Table while others are not romanized. This confuses researchers since they wouldn’t know if the name of the author they have in mind has or has not been romanized. Thus it seems that using the ALA-LC Romanization Table to record the names of all Iranian authors, especially the ones after Islam, is the best way for uniformity. Here are some examples from the Library of Congress:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Based on Library of Congress</th>
<th>Based on &quot;The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afshari, Ali</td>
<td>Afshārī, ʻAlī, 1974-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hedayaty, Jawad, 1917 or 18-</td>
<td>Hidāyatī, Javād, 1917 or 18-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hashemi, Javad, 1961-</td>
<td>Hāshimī, Javād, 1961-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kermani, Parviz, 1947-</td>
<td>Kirmānī, Parviz, 1947-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most prevalent difference between the Library of Congress’s method of recording names and that of "The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People" is the choice of the predominant name of an author, especially for the authors belonging to the period after Islam. In some cases the difference is so profound that one cannot be certain if the two entries are referring to the same person or two different people!

• Rule 22.1A: The name with which a person is usually known should be used as the main
entry for that person. It is possible that this name is the person’s real name, or the person’s pen-name, an aristocratic title, a nickname, or any other sort of appellation.

• Rule 22.1B: The name with which a person is known should be extracted from the main source of information regarding the person’s works which has been published in the language of that person.

• Rule 22.3B1: For the name of a person who has penned works in more than one language, the form relevant to most of that person’s works and in case of doubt the form should be used that appear most often in the sources of the person’s country of residence or of main activity.

• And most important of all, in the “Choice of entry element” section of the Persian NACO Manual it has been noted that if the name of the author can be found in "The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People" the form found therein should be used as the main entry for that author.

In addition to these, there are other instances where the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules mentions the need to use the sources of the author’s country of residence or the country where the author has been mainly active or the sources written in the language of where the author has lived. Again, all of these indicate that the best source for extracting main catalog entries is "The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People".

It is interesting that in many of the entries recorded in the Library of Congress, the main entry in "The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People" has not even been mentioned in references. Some examples follow:

Based on "The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People":
Abū Rayḥān Bīrūnī, Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad, 973?-1048

Based on Library of Congress:
100 1_ |a Bīrūnī, Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad, |d 973?-1048
400 0_ |a Albīrūnī, |d 973?-1048
400 0_ |a Abū al-Raiḥān al-Bīrūnī, |d 973?-1048
Based on "The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People":
Rashīd al-Dīn Faḍl Allāh, 1247?-1318

Based on Library of Congress:
100 0_ |a Rashīd al-Dīn Ṭabīb, |d 1247?-1318
400 0_ |a Rashīd al-Dīn Faḍl Allāh, |d 1247?-1318
400 0_ |a Faḍl Allāh Rashīd al-Dīn, |d 1247?-1318
400 0_ |a Rašīd al-Dīn Faḍlallāh, |d 1247?-1318
400 0_ |a Faḍl Allāh Rashīd al-Dīn, |d 1247?-1318
400 0_ |a Rashīdu’d-Dīn-Faḍlullāh, |d 1247?-1318
Based on "The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People":
‘Aṭṭār, Muḥammad ibn Ibrāhīm, d. ca. 1230

Based on Library of Congress:
100 1_ |a ‘Aṭṭār, Farīd al-Dīn, |d d. ca. 1230
400 0_ |a Farīd al-Dīn ‘Aṭṭār, |d d. ca. 1230
400 1_ |a Attor, Farididdin, |d d. ca. 1230
400 0_ |a Farididdin Attor, |d d. ca. 1230
400 1_ |a Naysābūrī, Farīd al-Dīn al-‘Aṭṭār, |d d. ca. 1230
Based on "The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People":
Rūzbihān Baqlī, Rūzbihān ibn Abī Naṣr, d. 1209 or 10

Based on Library of Congress:
100 1_ |a Baqli, Rūzbihān ibn Abī al-Naṣr, |d d. 1209 or 10
400 0_ |a Rūzbihān ibn Abī al-Naṣr al-Baqlī, |d d. 1209 or 10
400 1_ |a Shīrāzī, Rūzbihān ibn Abī al-Naṣr, |d d. 1209 or 10
400 1_ |a Baqī, Rūzbahān ibn Abī Naṣr, |d d. 1209 or 10
400 1_ |a Baqī Shirazi, Ruzbehān, |d d. 1209 or 10
400 1_ |a Shirazi, Ruzbehān Baqī, |d d. 1209 or 10
400 1_ |a Rūzbihān Baqī, Rūzbihān ibn Abī Naṣr, |d d. 1209 or 10
Note: In above record there is no reference to “Rūzbihān Baqlī, Rūzbihān ibn Abī Naṣr,.”.

Based on "The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People":
Jāmī, ʻAbd al-Raḥmān ibn Muḥammad, 1414-1492

Based on Library of Congress:
100 00 |a Jāmī, |d 1414-1492
400 00 |a Camī, |d 1414-1492
400 00 |a Djāmī, |c Maulānā, |d 1414-1492
400 00 |a ʻAbd al-Raḥmān ibn Aḥmad Jāmī, |d 1414-1492
400 10 |a Dzhami, Abdurrahman ibn Akhmed, |d 1414-1492
400 10 |a Zhāmī, Ābdīrakhman, |d 1414-1492
400 10 |a Zhomī, Abdurahmon, |d 1414-1492
400 10 |a Jomī, Abdurahmoni, |d 1414-1492
400 00 |a Nūr al-Dīn ʻAbd al-Raḥmān al-Jāmī, |d 1414-1492
400 10 |a Jāmī, Nūruddīn ʻAbdurraḥmān, |d 1414-1492
400 00 |a Nur-ud-Din Abd-ul-Rahman Jami, |d 1414-1492
400 10 |a Dzhami, Abdurakhman, |d 1414-1492
400 10 |a Dzhami, Abd ar-Rakhman, |d 1414-1492
400 00 |a Abd ar-Rakhman Dzhami, |d 1414-1492
400 10 |a Jamī, Abd ar-Rahman, |d 1414-1492
400 00 |a Abd ar-Rahman Jami, |d 1414-1492
400 00 |a Abdurrahmoni Jomī, |d 1414-1492
400 10 |a Jomī, Abdurrahmoni, |d 1414-1492
400 00 |a Abdurrahman Camī, |d 1414-1492
400 0_ |a Dzhami, |d 1414-1492
400 1_ |a Jāmī, Nūruddīn ʻAbdurrahmān, |d 1414-1492
400 0_ |a Nūruddīn ʻAbdurrahmān Jāmī, |d 1414-1492
Based on "The Name Authority List of Authors and Famous People":
Rūdakī, Ja'far ibn Muḥammad, 10th cent.

Based on Library of Congress:
100 0_ |a Rūdakī, |d 10th cent.
400 1_ |a Rudaki, Abuabdullo, |d 10th cent.
400 1_ |a Rudaki, Abu Abdallakh Dzhafar, |d 10th cent.

Note: In above record:
- The name is recorded as the names belonging to the pre-Islamic period.
- There is no reference to “Rūdakī, Abū-Abdullāḥ Ja’far ibn Muḥammad”.
- There is even no reference to “Rūdakī, Ja’far ibn Muḥammad”.
- There is no reference to “Rūdakī Samarqandi”

Another shortcoming is that in the main entries, some names to which reference should be made are omitted. Here are some examples:

- Shāmlū, Aḥmad, 1304-1379
- Hāshimī Bahrimānī Rafsanjānī, Akbar, 1313-
- No reference to “Hāshimī Bahrimānī R afsanjānī, 'Ali Akbar”.
- No reference to “Hāshimī Bahrimānī, Akbar”.
- No reference to “Hāshimī Bahrimānī, 'Ali Akbar”.

In addition to what was said there are other defects which we will only note below:
- The spelling of some words is either incorrect or has been given in different forms e.g.:
  • “جواب” has been written as “Javad” and “Jawad”.
  • “مهدی” has been spelled “Mehdi” (the correct form is “Mahdī”).
  • “بیهباچی” has been written as “Bihbahani” while “Bibbānī” is the correct form.
- The word “روح” which is a part of many names should be written as “Rawḥ” as “Ruh” or “Rūh” since the letter ( ر ) has a fathah.
- The suffix “پور” in many Persian names has been spelled differently as “por, pur, pour, pūr”.
- For some Iranian names the Arabic Table of ALA-LC Romanization has been used.
- In many names the word “الله” has been joined to the name even though it must be written separately.

As a closing remark, let us mention that even though references can obviate the shortcomings to a certain degree and lead the researcher to the main entry, but it should not lead one away from the main principle of uniform documentation as this will lead to the kind of problems we have mentioned above.

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