

VIAF Virtual International Authority File

Challenges from the point of view
of a national library



Historical overview

www.viaf.org

- **1978** : First discussions for an international authority file in IFLA

- **2003** :  OCLC Research prototype (LC, DNB)

- **2007** : BnF joins VIAF

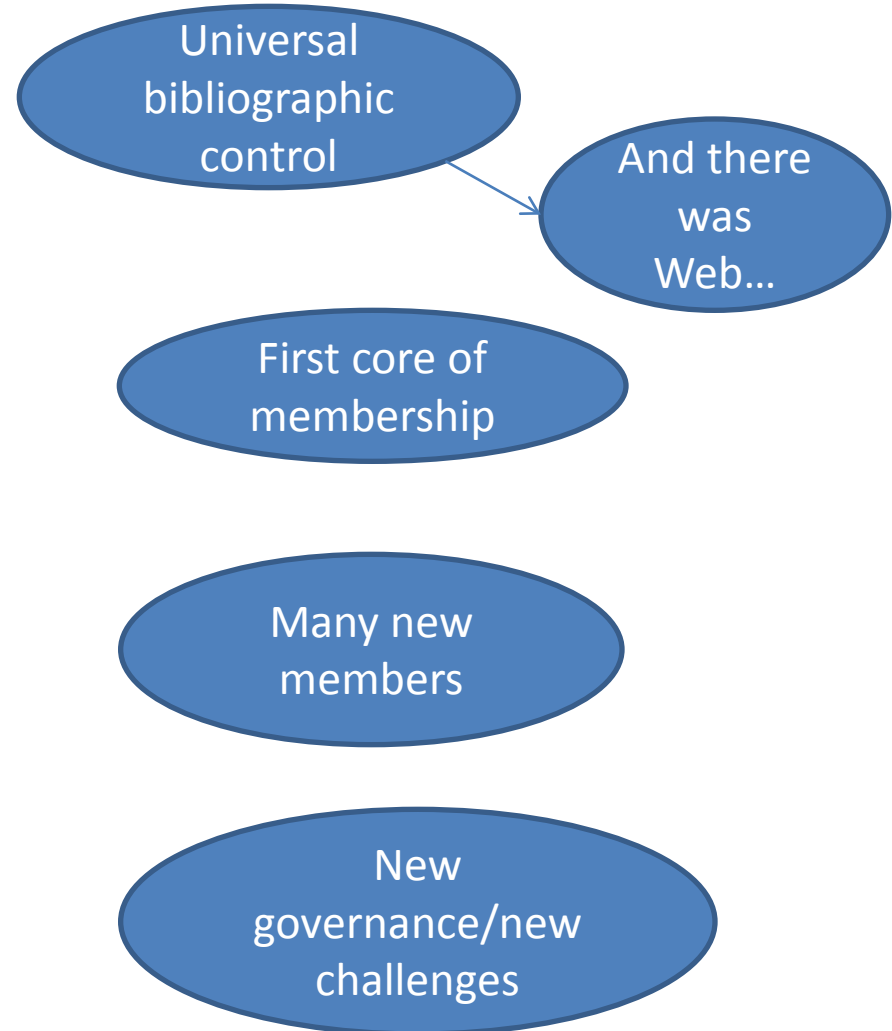
- **2012** : New governance

-  OCLC service

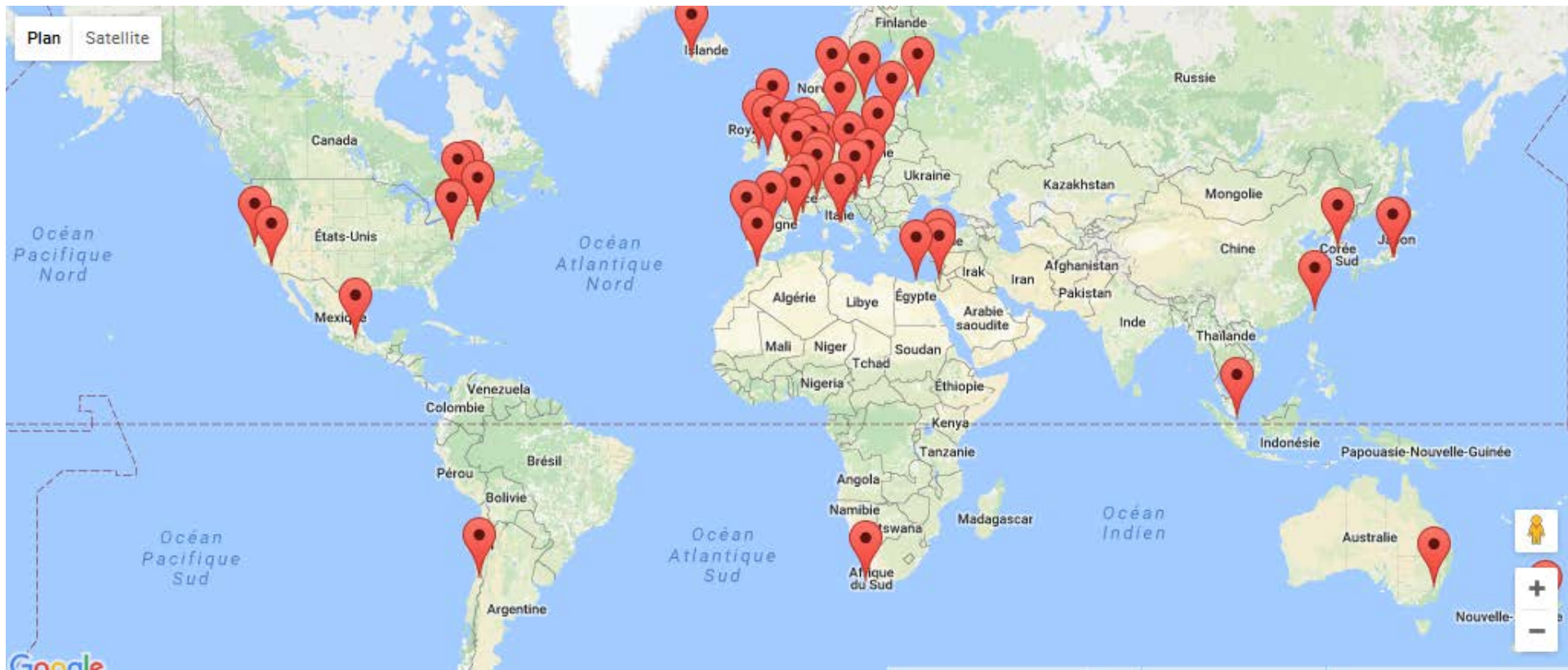
- VIAF Council 

- **2012** : Open data

- **2015** : New criteria for joining adopted by the VIAF Council



Membership



VIAF is international

VIAF and the revolution of authority data



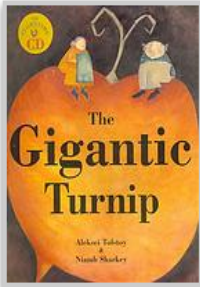
- **Basic uses of VIAF : a research project as a tool for cataloguing**
 - **Share** authority data around the world
 - **Strengthen** data by comparison
 - **Reduce** cataloguing costs
 - **Simplify** authority control internationally
 - **Provide** authority data in form, language and script users want
- **New challenges for VIAF**
 - **Provide** linked data services (RDF, bridging identifiers)
 - **Provide** trustworthy data to be freely reused
 - **Bridge** different communities
 - **Strengthen** the FRBRization of the catalogues

Authority data : not only access points to the bibliographical description but also trustworthy data with identifiers which offer infinite possibilities

Persons

National flag identifies partners

35 millions



- Tolstoj, Aleksej Nikolaevič, 1882-1945 
- Tolstoy, Aleksey Nikolayevich, graf, 1883-1945. 
- Tolstoï, Alekseï Nikolaevitch, 1883-1945 
- Tolstoj, Aleksej Nikolaevič 1883-1945 
- Tolstoj, Aleksej N. 1883-1945 
- Tolstoj, Aleksej (Aleksej Nikolaevič), 1882-1945 
- Tolstoj, Aleksej Nikolajevič, 1882-1945 
- Tolstoï, Alekseï Nikolaevich 
- Толстой, А. Н. (Алексей Николаевич), 1883-1945 
- Tolstoï, Alekseï Nikolaevich 1883-1945 
- 1883-1945, טולסטוי, אלכסיי ניקולאייביץ, 
- Толстой, Алексей Николаевич, граф, 1883-1945 
- Алексей Николаевич Толстой российский и советский писатель и общественный деятель 
- Tolstoj, Aleksej Nikolaevič 
- Tolstoj, Aleksej N. 
- 1945-1883, تولستوي, أليكسي, 
- Tolstoj, Aleksej 
- Толстой, Алексей Николаевич 1882-1945 
- Tolstoi, Alexei, 1882-1946 
- ID VIAF98681641 (Personne)
permalien<http://viaf.org/viaf/98681641>
ISNI : [0000 0001 2283 3642](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-2283-3642)

VIAF ID / ISNI

Organizations

5 500 000 clusters

- Rossiiskaia natsional'naia biblioteka
 - Rossijskaja nacional'naja biblioteka
 - Российская национальная библиотека
 - Rossiiskaia nacional'naa biblioteka.
 - Bibliothèque nationale de Russie
 - Rossijskaja nacional'naja biblioteka (Sankt-Peterburg)
 - ロシア国立図書館
 - Rússia., National Library
 - National Library of Russia
- ID VIAF127114742 (Collectivité)
permalien<http://viaf.org/viaf/127114742>
ISNI : [0000 0001 2243 2013](http://www.isni.org/0000-0001-2243-2013)

With ISNI






Formes retenues

- [110 2 _ 1a Bibliothèque nationale de Russie](#)
- [110 2 _ 1a National Library of Russia](#)
- [110 2 0 1a Rossiiskaia natsional'naia biblioteka](#)
- [110 2 _ 1a Rossiiskaia natsional'naia biblioteka](#)
- [110 2 _ 1a Rossiiskaia natsional'naia biblioteka](#)
- [110 2 _ 1a Rossiiskaia natsional'naia biblioteka](#)
- [110 2 _ 1a Rossijskaja Nacional'naja Biblioteka](#)
- [110 2 _ 1a Rossijskaja nacional'naja biblioteka](#)
- [110 2 _ 1a Rossijskaja nacional'naja biblioteka \(Sankt-Peterburg\)](#)
- [110 2 _ 1a Rossijskaja nacional'naja biblioteka](#)
- [110 2 _ 1a Rossijskaja nacional'naja biblioteka](#)



Works and expressions

both from authority data and from automatized alignment

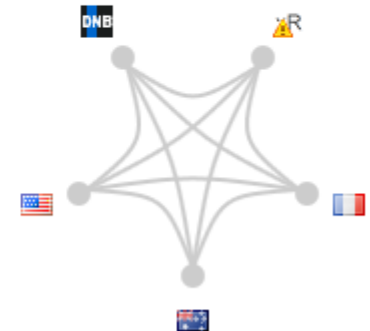
Sienkiewicz, Henryk, 1846-1916. | Ogniem i mieczem     


ID VIAF185924757 (Œuvre)
permalien<http://viaf.org/viaf/185924757>

4 millions

Formes retenues

-  240 _ _ [_ta Sienkiewicz _b Henryk _f 1846-1916 _t Ogniem i mieczem](#)
-  100 1 _ [_ta Sienkiewicz, Henryk _d \(1846-1916\). _t0 \(viaf\)24608122 _t Ogniem i mieczem](#)
-  100 1 _ [_ta Sienkiewicz, Henryk _d 1846-1916 _t Ogniem i mieczem](#)
-  100 1 _ [_ta Sienkiewicz, Henryk _d 1846-1916. _t Ogniem i mieczem](#)
-  100 1 _ [_ta Sienkiewicz, Henryk _d 1846-1916. _t Ogniem i mieczem](#)




Sienkiewicz, Henryk (1846-1916). | Ogniem i mieczem (pol.) 



ID VIAF302095110 (Expression)
permalien<http://viaf.org/viaf/302095110>

Formes retenues

-  100 1 _ [_ta Sienkiewicz, Henryk _d \(1846-1916\). _t Ogniem i mieczem _l \(pol.\)](#)

Places

Koncertna dvorana Vatroslava Lisinskog (Zagreb) 

Koncertna dvorana Vatroslava Lisinskog  

ID VIAF305763986 (Lieu)

permalien <http://viaf.org/viaf/305763986>

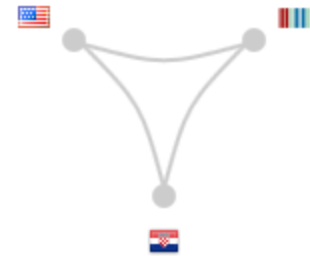
400 000 clusters

Formes retenues

 151 [_ _ ta Koncertna dvorana Vatroslava Lisinskog](#)

 110 2 [_ ta Koncertna dvorana Vatroslava Lisinskog](#)

 110 2 [_ ta Koncertna dvorana Vatroslava Lisinskog \(Zagreb\)](#)



How does it work?

- *“nothing is lost, nothing is created, everything is transformed”*.
 - Quality of alignment depends on quality of source data
 - Data updating by partners leads to update of VIAF alignments and clusters



Lavoisier

VIAF : <http://viaf.org/viaf/2495579/>

ISNI : [0000 0001 2117 9175](http://isni.org/isni/0000-0001-2117-9175)

Traité élémentaire de chimie

<http://viaf.org/viaf/218126588/>

VIAF is Virtual : dataflow logic

How does it work?

Alignment item-by-item

Data from authority records and from bibliographic records

- **901** ISBN (020\$a)
- **902** ISSN (022\$a)
- **903** LCCN (010\$a)
- **910 Title from bib (or \$t in an auth record)**
- **912** Title not used during matching (e.g. a very common title)
- **920** Publisher id (020\$a)
- **921** Publisher (260\$b, 533\$c)
- **922** Country of publication
- **930** Alternate form of author's name From the statement of responsibility
- **940** Language (041 \$a or 008)
- **941** Relator code
- **943** Decade of publication From dates 1 & 2
- **945** Occupation code
- **946** Gender
- **947** Nationality
- **950** Joint personal author
- **951** Joint corporate author (110|710)
- **955** Personal name added entry 100 & 700's from records with this name as a subject
- **960** Personal name subjects From 600's, if they don't match main author
- **969**'Subject' Present if person occurred as a subject (600) in a bibliographic record
- **996** Authority IDs compared, but not matched
- **997** Coded version of dates Birth date and death date, along with indication of type of date. A date of 0 indicates unknown. Date types can be 'lived', 'circa', or 'flourished'
- **998** Authority link \$a name \$2 Linked-to record ID \$3 Type of link
- **999** Bibliographic record link

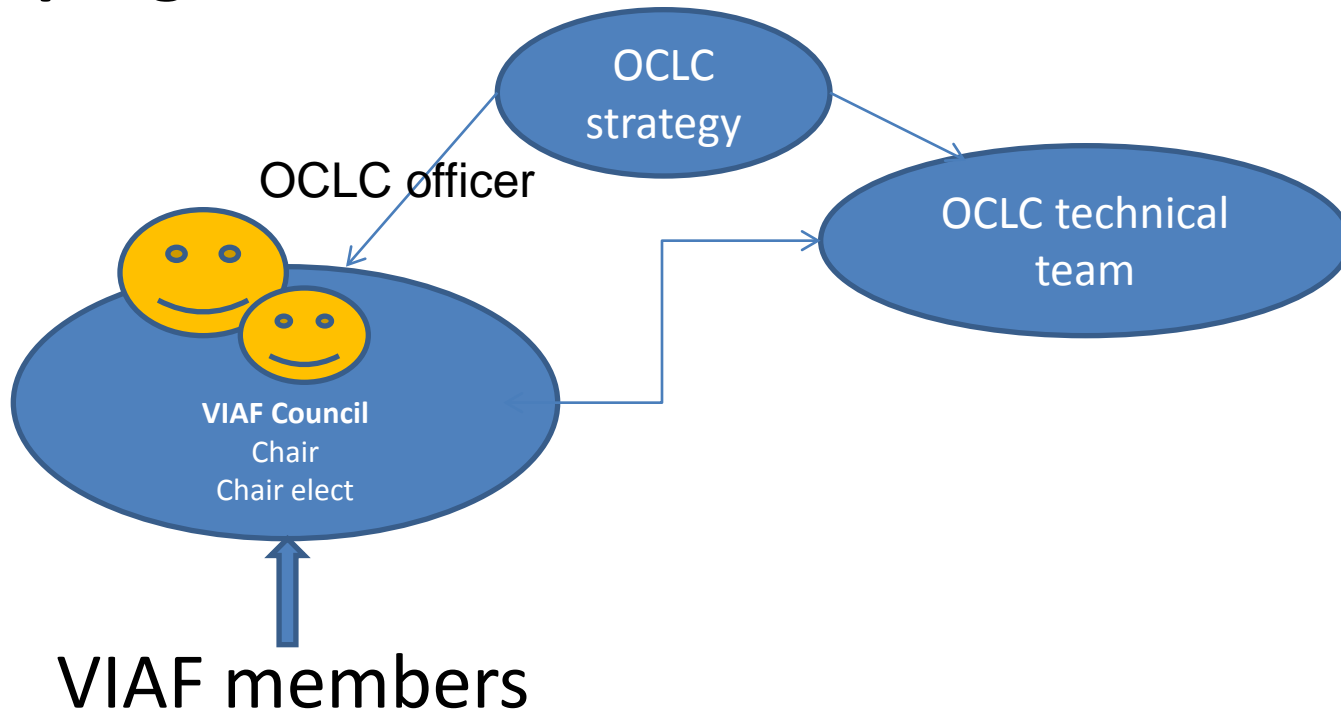
VIAF governance

General agreement 2012



VIAF program

VIAF data basis



VIAF Council



One representative from each VIAF partner

- | | |
|---|--|
|  National Library of Australia |  Swiss National Library |
|  Library and Archives Canada |  RERO (Switzerland) |
|  National Library of the Czech Republic |  Library of Congress/NACO |
|  Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Egypt) |  Biblioteca Nacional de México |
|  Flemish Public Libraries |  British Library |
|  Denmark (DBC)-test |  National Agricultural Library (U.S.) |
|  Bibliothèque nationale de France |  National Library of Medicine (U.S.) |
|  SUDOC (France) |  National Library of New Zealand |
|  Deutsche Nationalbibliothek |  National Library of Scotland |
|  Getty Research Institute |  National Library of South Africa |
|  National Széchényi Library (Hungary) |  National Library of Wales |
|  National Library of Israel |  Vatican Library |
|  Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo Unico (Italy) |  Russian State Library-test |
|  National Diet Library (Japan) |  Wikipedia (en)-test |
|  National Library of the Netherlands-test | |
|  National Library of Norway | |
|  NUKAT Center (Poland) | |
|  Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal | |
|  Biblioteca Nacional de España | |
|  National Library of Sweden | |

A chair with a one-year term

One annual meeting (the next one : in Wroclaw, August 2017)

The VIAF Council (VIAFC) is established under the aegis of the VIAF Program.

= Providing guidance on matters of import with respect to the policies, practices, and operation of the VIAF.

Specifically, the VIAFC is charged to:

- Contribute to the development of policies, practices, and the operation of VIAF and the VIAF Program, and policies related to the eligibility and selection of new VIAF Contributors;
- Advise on service features and data formats supported by the VIAF;
- Advise on ways and means to promote the effective and appropriate use of the VIAF;
- Execute certain business aspects (e.g., election of the VIAFC Chair) of the VIAFC as required;
- Designate a VIAFC Chair.

Challenges for a national library

- **VIAF data basis** = VIAF as a dataflow, VIAF as a tool for automatizing dataflow
 - Reusing data from VIAF: VIAF as a tool for cataloguing
 - Sending data to VIAF : automatisisation of dataflow
 - Exposing data in VIAF : blocking clusters or blocking a core cluster ?
 - VIAF and semantic Web : SPARQL in VIAF?
 - Key demand : Make VIAF clusters and VIAF IDs more persistent and more stable

- **VIAF program** = VIAF as a community
 - The VIAFC is the only international body focused on authority data for libraries. Common challenges
 - Getting VIAF members more involved with VIAF quality processes (for instance : how to handle mixed identities...)

VIAF and ISNI

From a national library

- **Are two logics reconciliable ?**
 - Dataflow vs persistent identifier
 - Going beyond various data models vs ISO standard
 - Down-top logic vs top-down logic
- **Role of libraries (data providers and producers)**
 - Libraries members of VIAF (VIAFC) and libraries ISNI RAG or ISNI members = creating a common interest group?
 - Having an overall/common business model for data : recognizing role of data producers in business model
 - Public institutions (non for profit / open data)