Multilingual Subject Retrieval

Bibliotheca Alexandrina Subject Authority File and Linked Subject Data

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Background

- When did it begin?
- Why is BA's effort unique?
- Tri-lingual

Outline

- Workflow
- Linking process
- Similarity and difference between the BA and the LC/OCLC authority files
- Advantages and disadvantages of creating local AF
- Next steps and conclusion

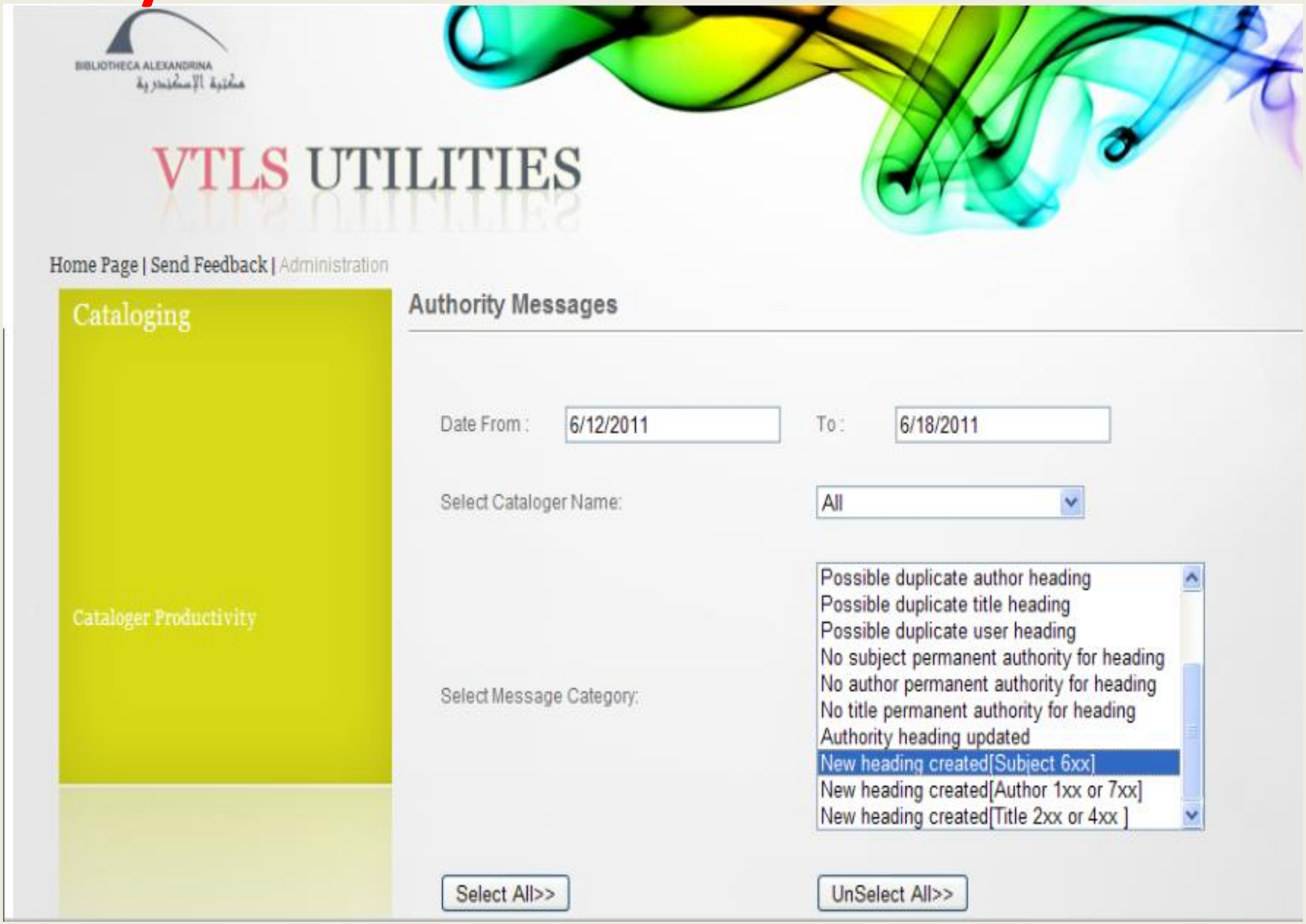
I. Workflows: Cataloging Process For Latin Scripts

- Search OCLC for copy
  - No verification of access point

- Create original records only in their OPAC
  - Search OCLC Authority file and download
  - Create access points based on AACR2

- Daily report and post cataloging authority processing

Daily List of Access Points



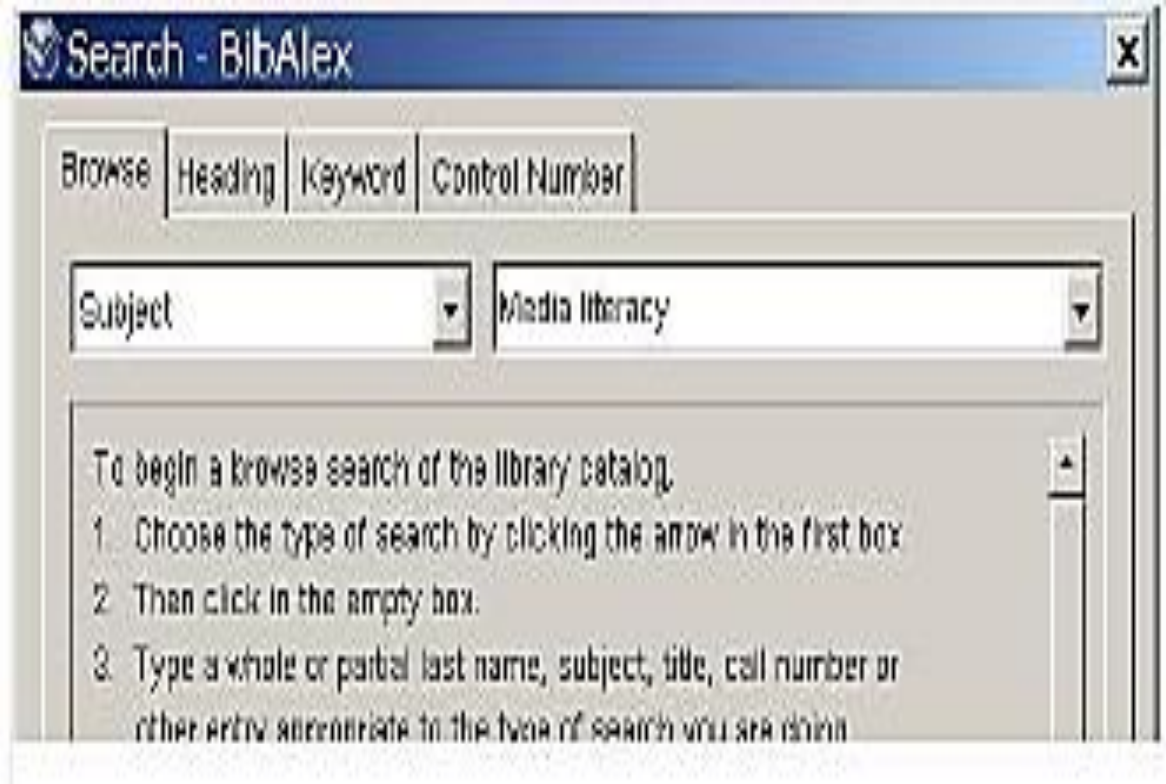
ID	User Name	Time Stamp	Diagnostic Text
392353	nesrine.abdelmeguid	1/13/2009 10:40:13 AM	651 $a Croatia $x Antiquities.
392353	nesrine.abdelmeguid	1/13/2009 10:40:13 AM	650 $a Excavations (Archaeology) $z Croatia.
392362	nesrine.abdelmeguid	1/13/2009 11:17:58 AM	650 $a Mass media $x Social aspects.
392364	may.abdelshaffy	1/13/2009 11:22:05 AM	650 $a Bubbles $v Juvenile literature.
392365	nesrine.abdelmeguid	1/13/2009 11:28:45 AM	650 $a Mass media $x Study and teaching.
392365	nesrine.abdelmeguid	1/13/2009 11:28:45 AM	650 $a Media literacy.
392375	may.hamdy	1/13/2009 11:47:41 AM	650 $a الطب.
392382	may.hamdy	1/13/2009 12:13:25 PM	650 $a الطب.

More Workflow

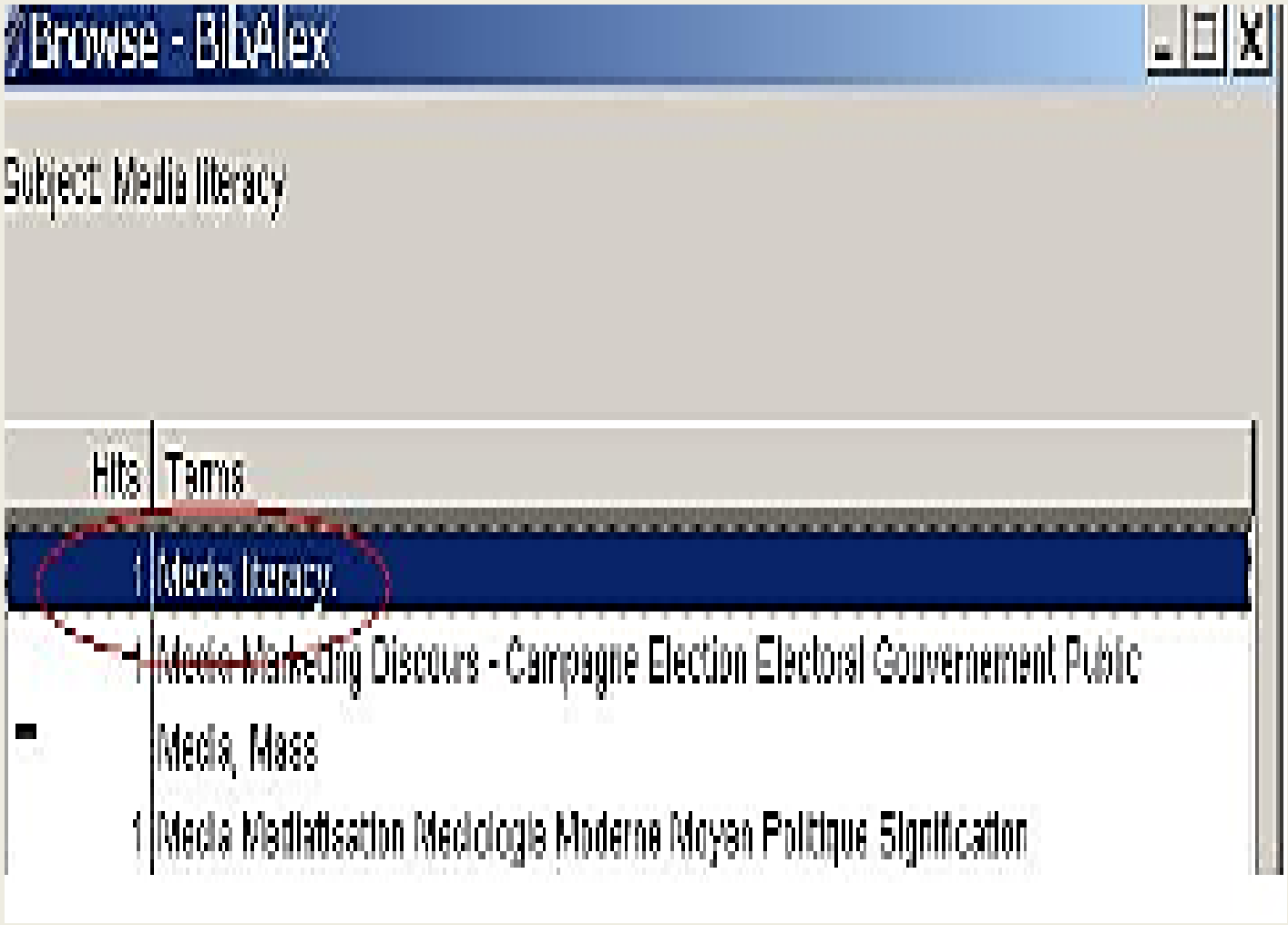
- Search for “media literacy” in the local VIRTUA database to check for duplication
- Search the LC/OCLC Authority File and download the authority record
- If the authority record is not found, the cataloger creates a new record locally.
- For either downloaded or newly created authority records, search the BA database to determine if there are items under term in another language that is equivalent

Let’s look at the steps for creating the term “Media literacy”

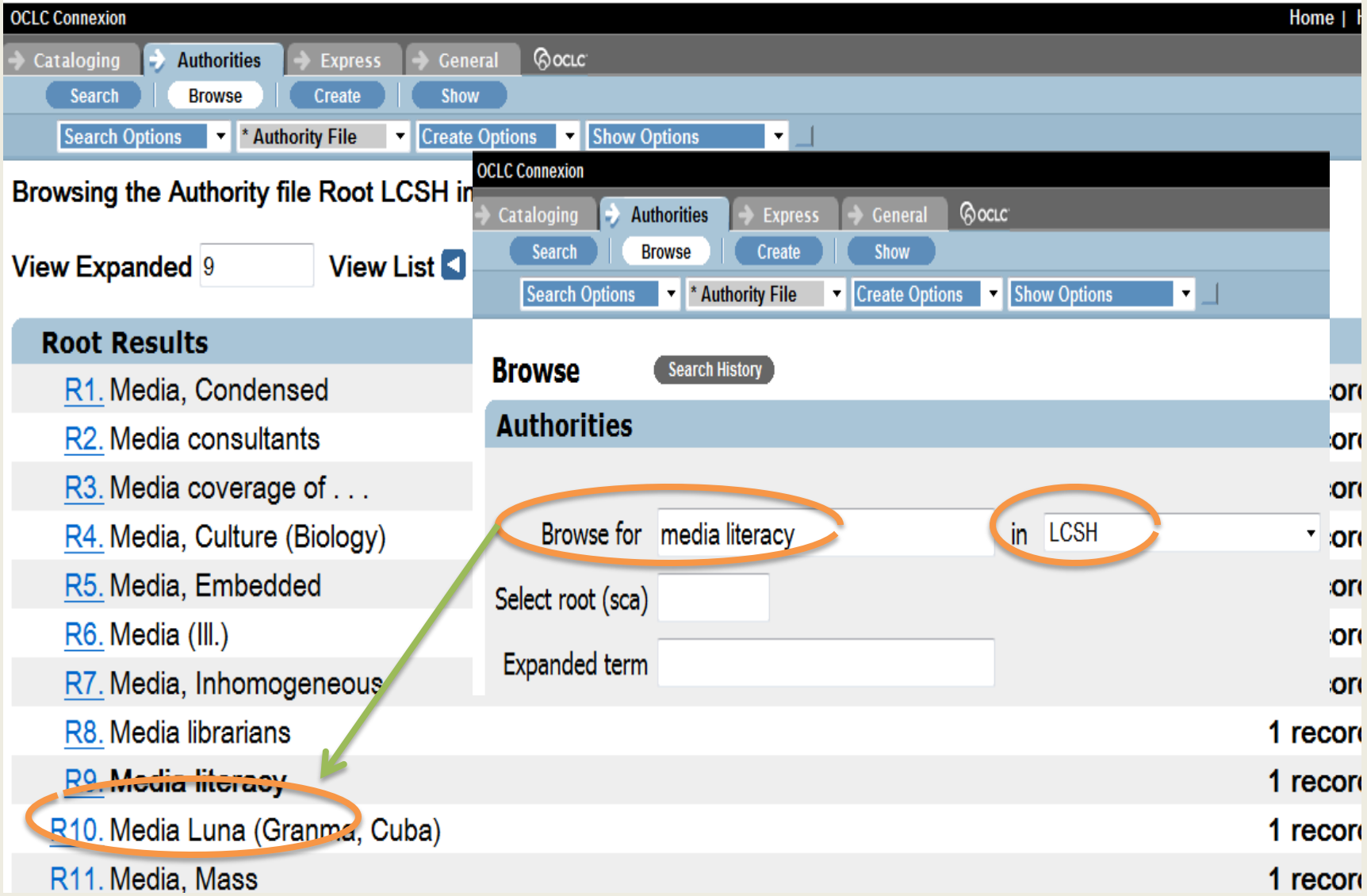
Search the BA



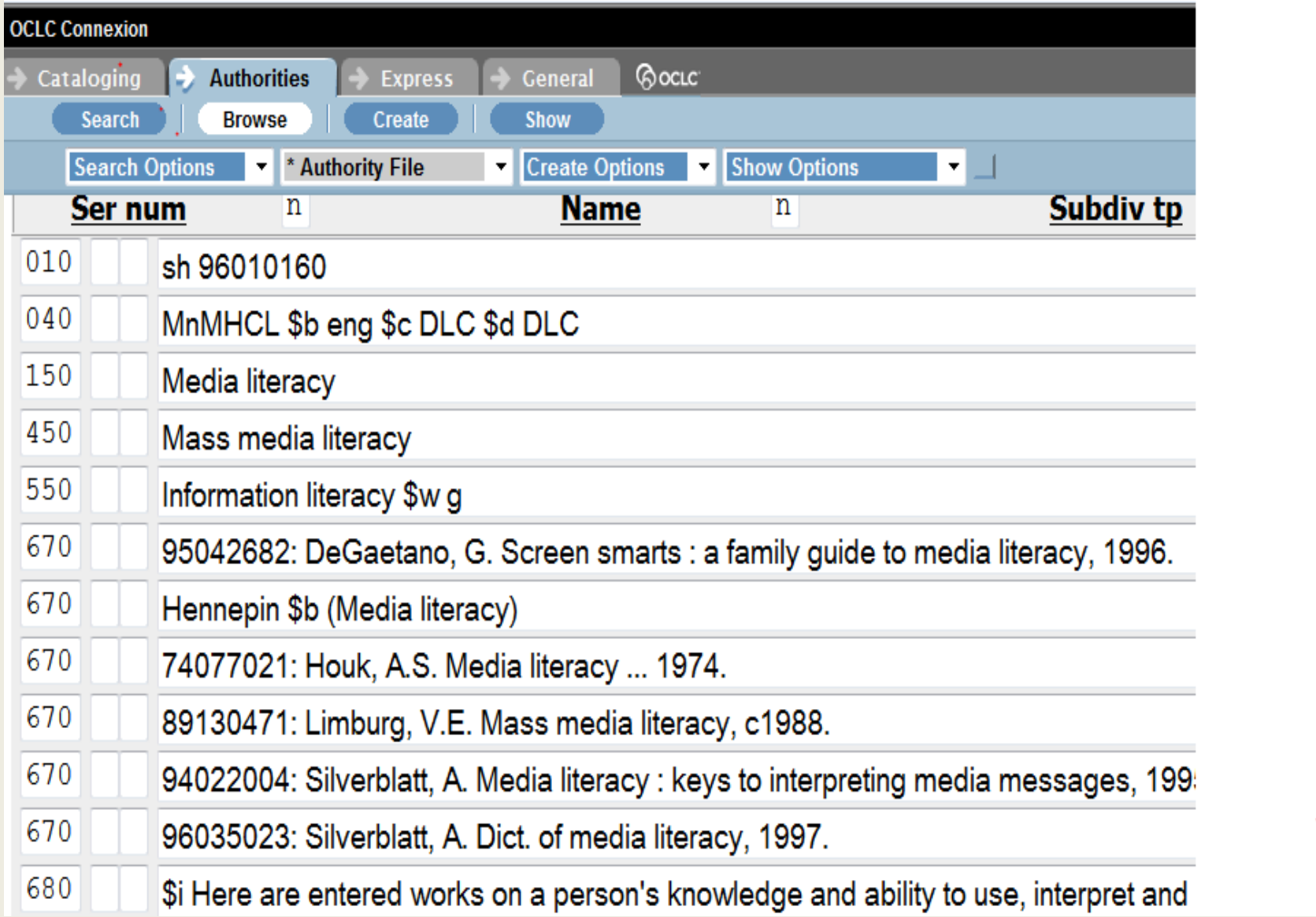
The term is found



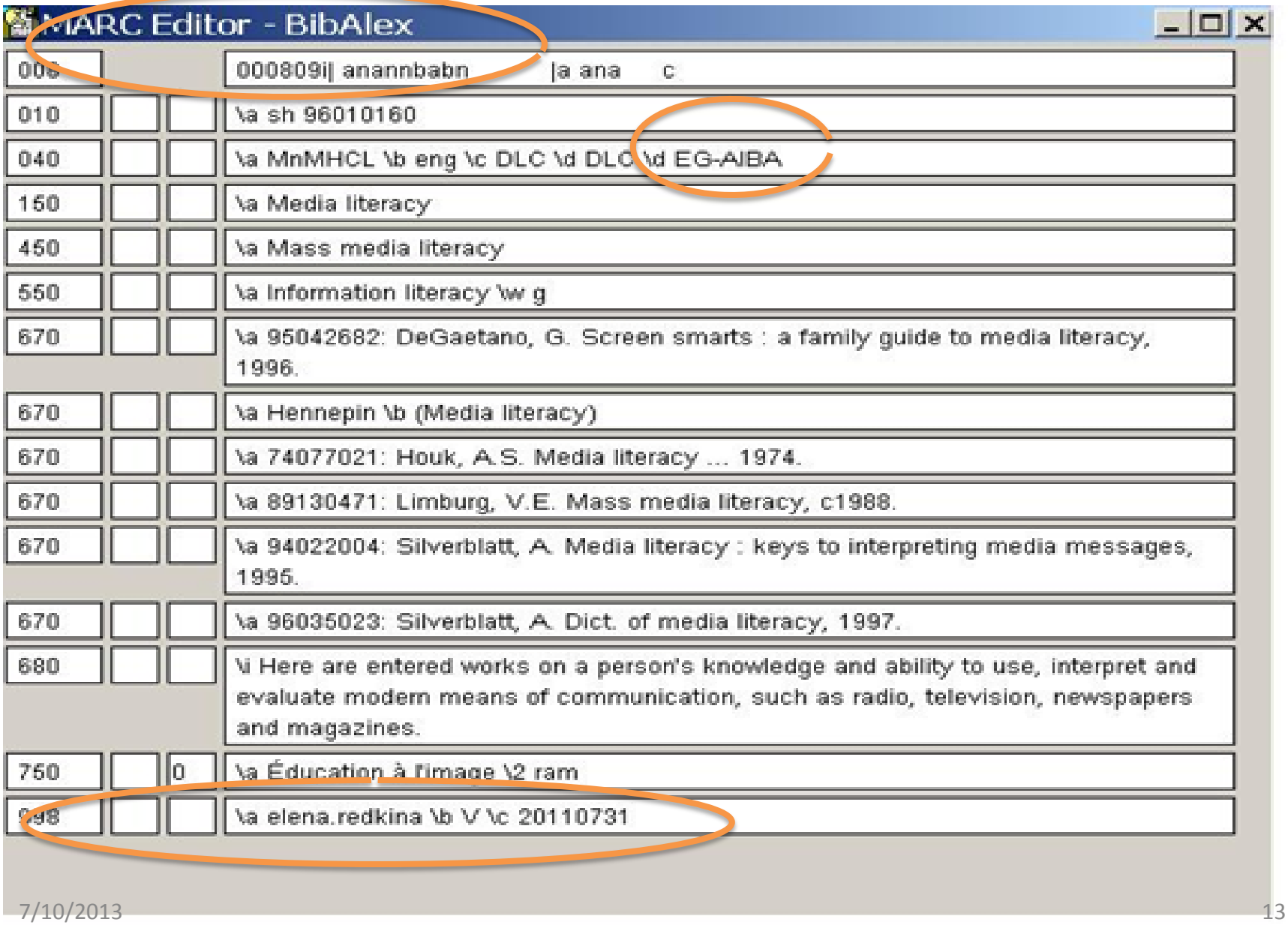
Search OCLC


OCLC Connexion
Home
Cataloging
Authorities
Express
General
Search
Browse
Create
Show
Search Options
* Authority File
Create Options
Show Options
Browsing the Authority file Root LCSH in
View Expanded 9
View List
Root Results
R1. Media, Condensed
R2. Media consultants
R3. Media coverage of . . .
R4. Media, Culture (Biology)
R5. Media, Embedded
R6. Media (Ill.)
R7. Media, Inhomogeneous
R8. Media librarians
R9. Media literacy
R10. Media Luna (Granma, Cuba)
R11. Media, Mass
1 record
OCLC Connexion
Cataloging
Authorities
Express
General
Search
Browse
Create
Show
Search Options
* Authority File
Create Options
Show Options
Browse
Search History
Authorities
Browse for media literacy
in LCSH
Select root (sca)
Expanded term

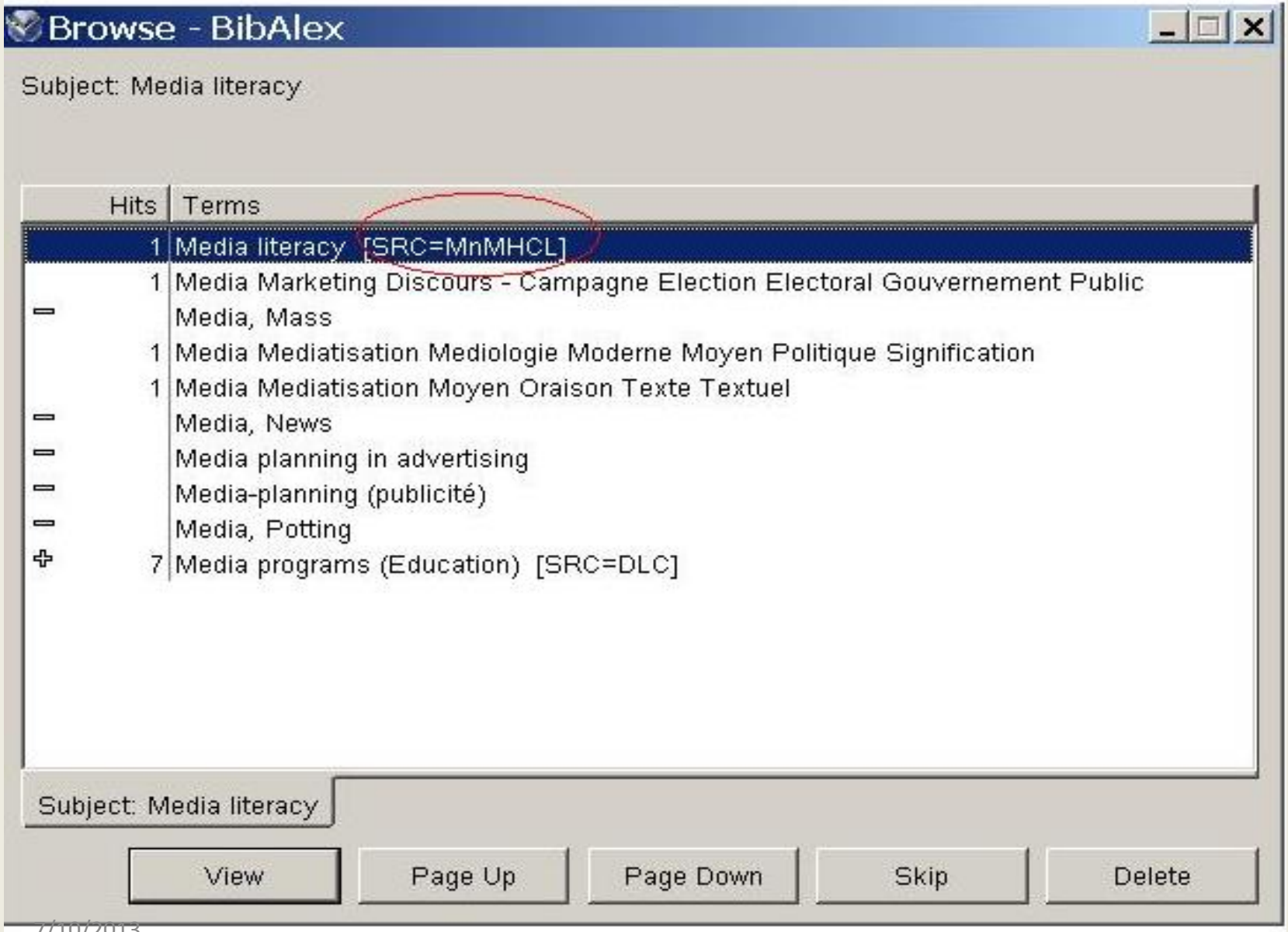
Export the record to their local system



Edit the record



The authority record is created



Result

BA Catalog

« 30 « 20 « 10 « Back | Forward » 10 » 20 » 30 »

You searched Bibliotheca Alexandrina - Subject: media literacy

Hit Count	Scan Term
1	Media literacy
1	Media Marketing Discours - Campagne Election Electoral Gouvernement Public

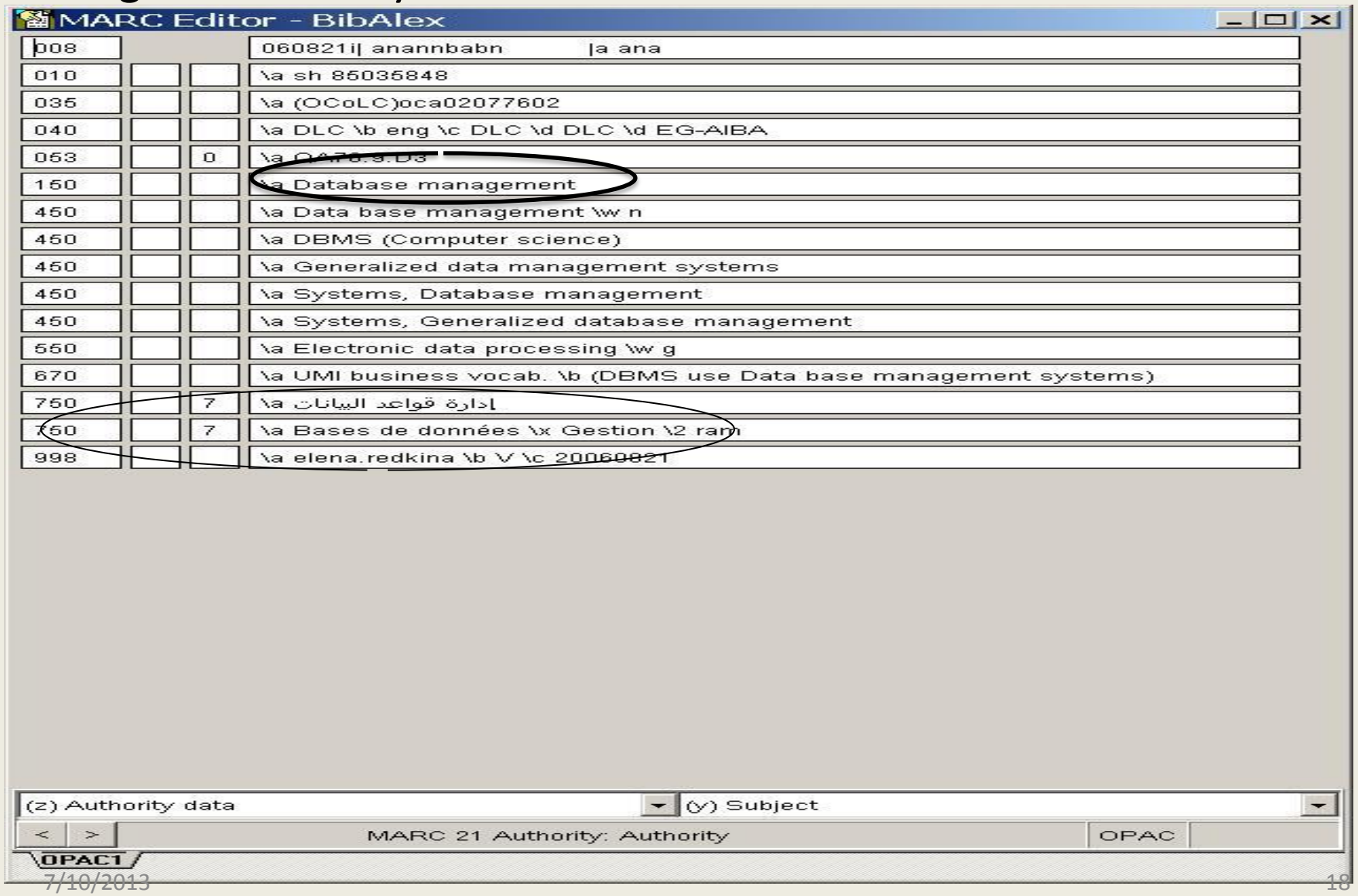
II. Linked Subject Headings in Arabic, French and English as equivalents

- How it works?
- What is the result?

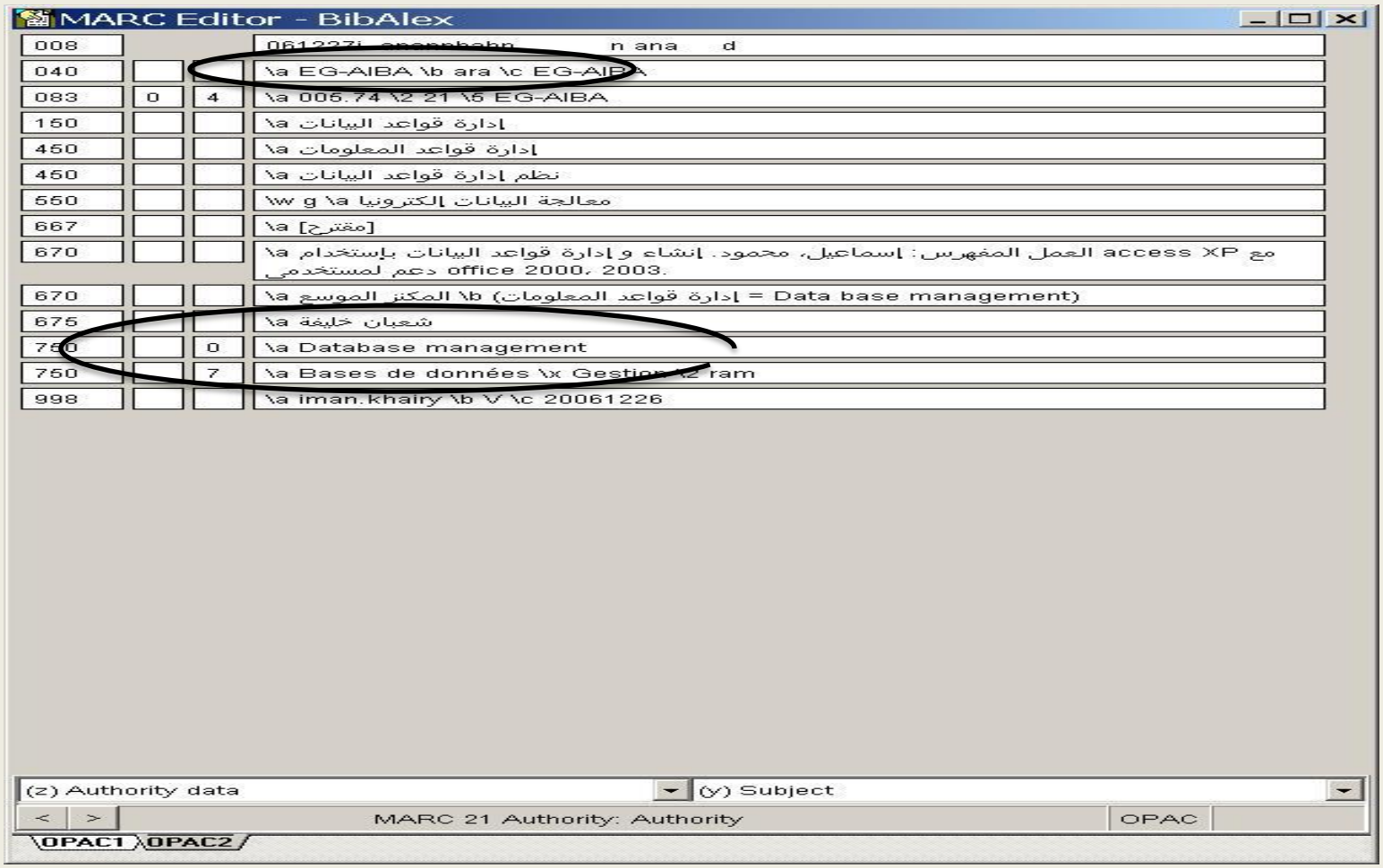
How it Works

- In the daily report, the cataloger finds the subject “Database management”

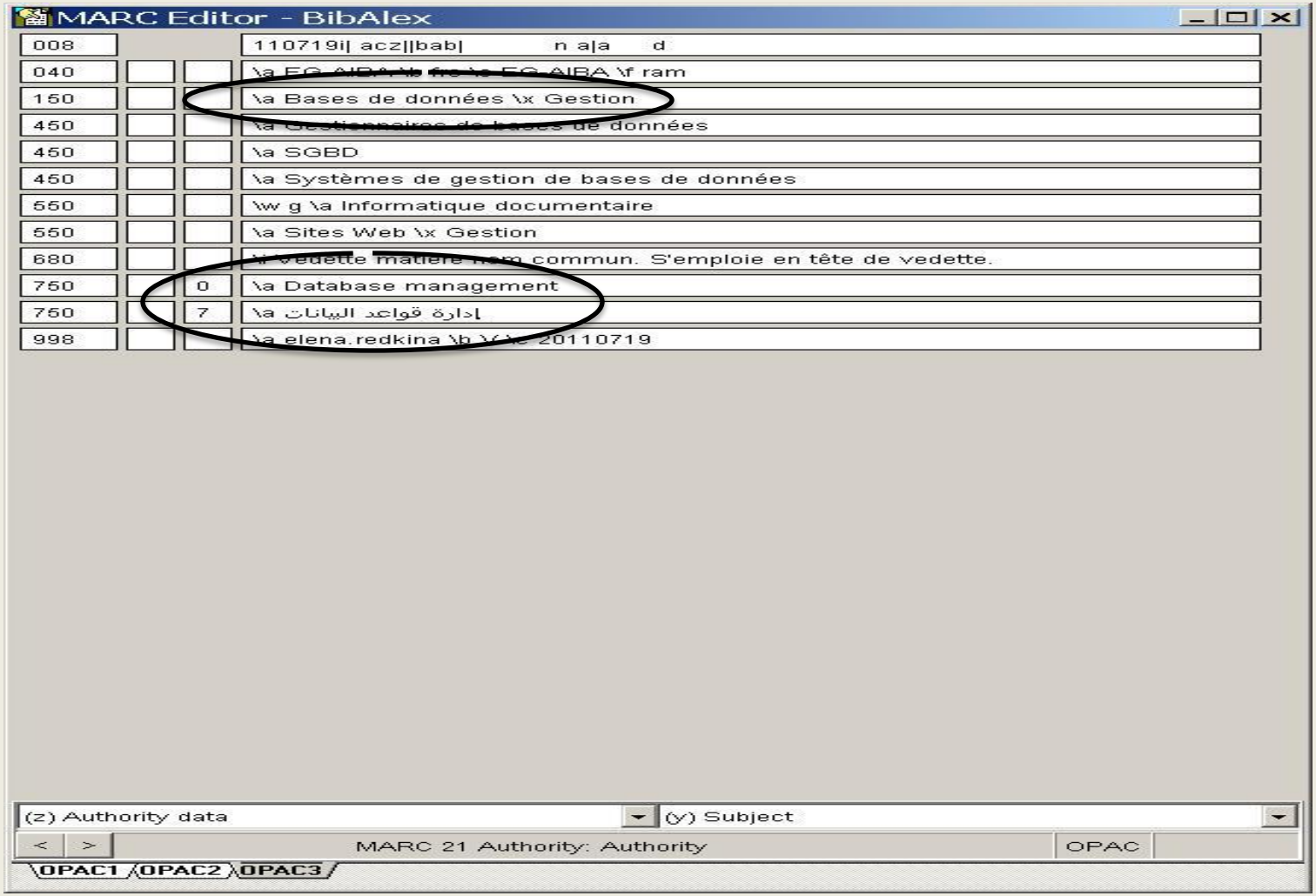
Adding the French and Arabic equivalent terms to the English Authority record



Adding the English and French equivalent terms to Arabic Authority record



Adding the English and Arabic equivalent terms to the French Authority record

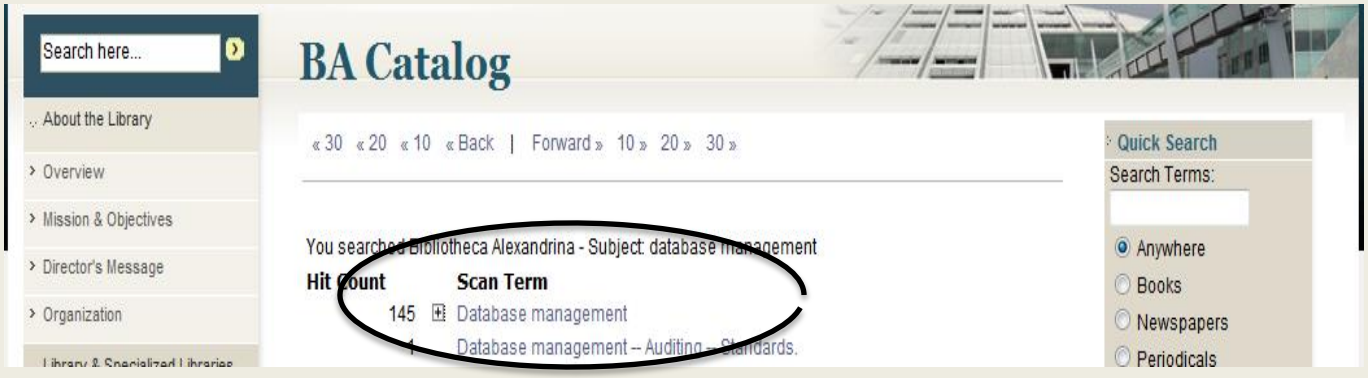


Result

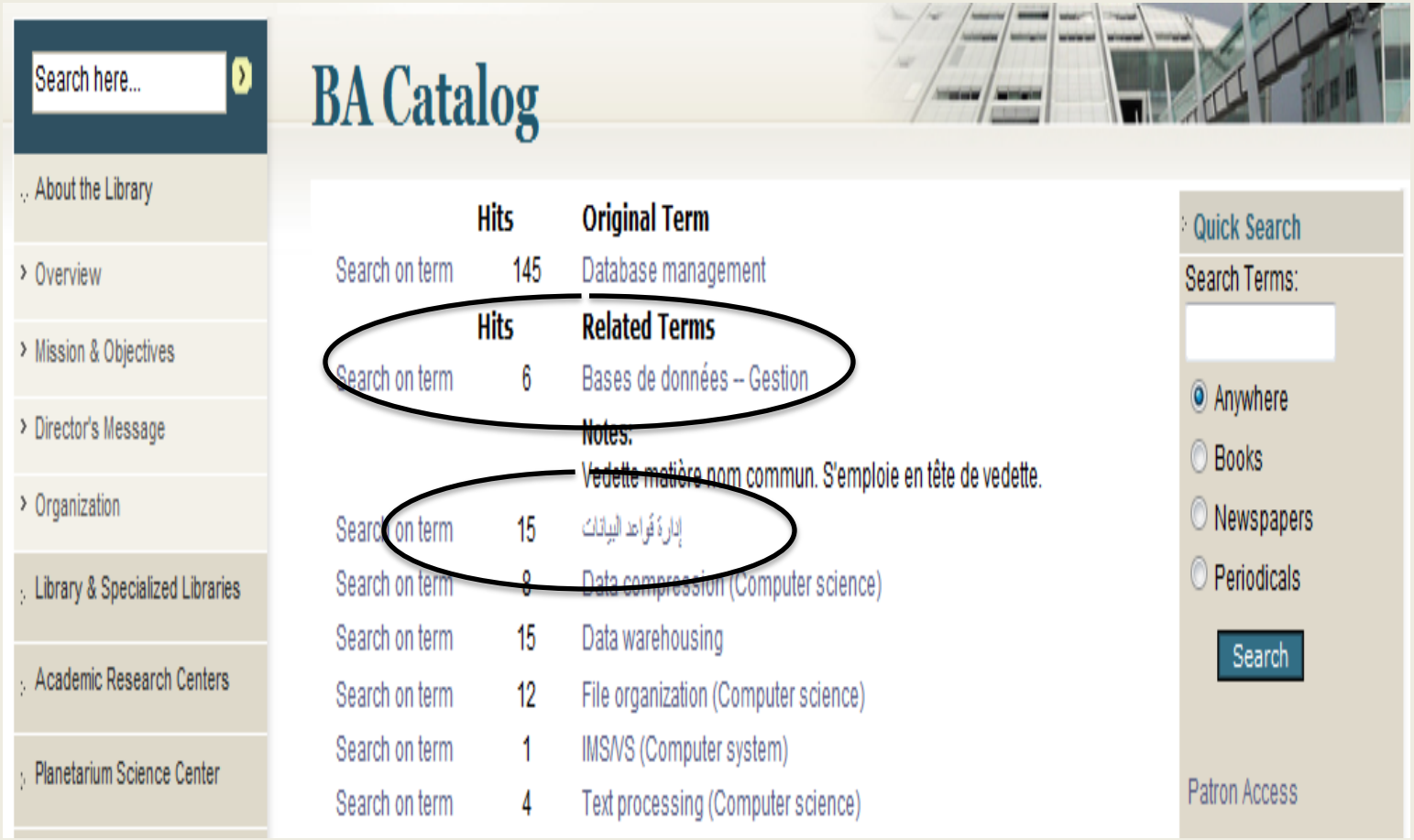
- User’s ability to search materials by subject in three languages and different scripts.

Searching by Arabic Term

Searching by the English Term



Cross references



Searching by the French Term

References used to create Subject Headings:

- English subject headings are assigned from (**LCSH)**
- Qaimat ruus al-mawduat al-tibbiyah = Medical subject headings (**MeSH**), National Library of Medicine,
- Arabic subject headings are assigned from (Qa'imat ru'us al-mawdu'at al-'Arabiyah al-qiyasiyah lil-maktabat wa-marakiz al-malumat wa-qawaid al-bayanat (**QRMAK)** and other lists thesaurus as appropriate.
- al-Fayṣal : A List of subject headings used for Islamic studies
- French Subject Headings are assigned by the French Catalogers from Les notices d'autorité de BN-OPALE PLUS (**Rameau**).

III. Similarity and differences between the BA and the LC/OCLC authority files

- The structure of the BA Authority file conforms to the of the LC/OCLC
- BA has established procedures for creating standard forms for subject headings

IV. Advantages

- Possibility to create an authority center that would serve the Arab world through cooperative arrangements.
- Some of the solutions developed at the BA can lead to future developments in resource sharing and cooperation on a global scale
- Their system provides multi-lingual displays in one step.

Disadvantages

- Extensive work has been done to manually map concepts from different knowledge organization systems (LSCH, Rameau, and Arabic Subject headings), which is a tedious and expensive process
- Mapping depends on the cataloger's understanding of the concepts in these three languages
- Sometimes the concepts can be used to mean something else in different languages.

Next steps

- Developing a method to automatically map concepts, using different ontology matching techniques.
- Linking these vocabularies to each other, regardless of their language, is a first step towards searching and browsing across collections
- SKOS and the Arabic alphabet

Questions?

Shukran – Merci - Thank You!