## Author identities - an interoperability problem solved by a collaborative solution

NARCIS

datamanagement@geomar.de

arxiv

leischer, Andreas Czerniak, Pina Springer, Carsten Schirnick, Hela Mehrtens and the GEOMAR Library Team

Names

Project

GEOMAR

IN43B-1508

VIAF Library ID

The Problem

Lattes

Author

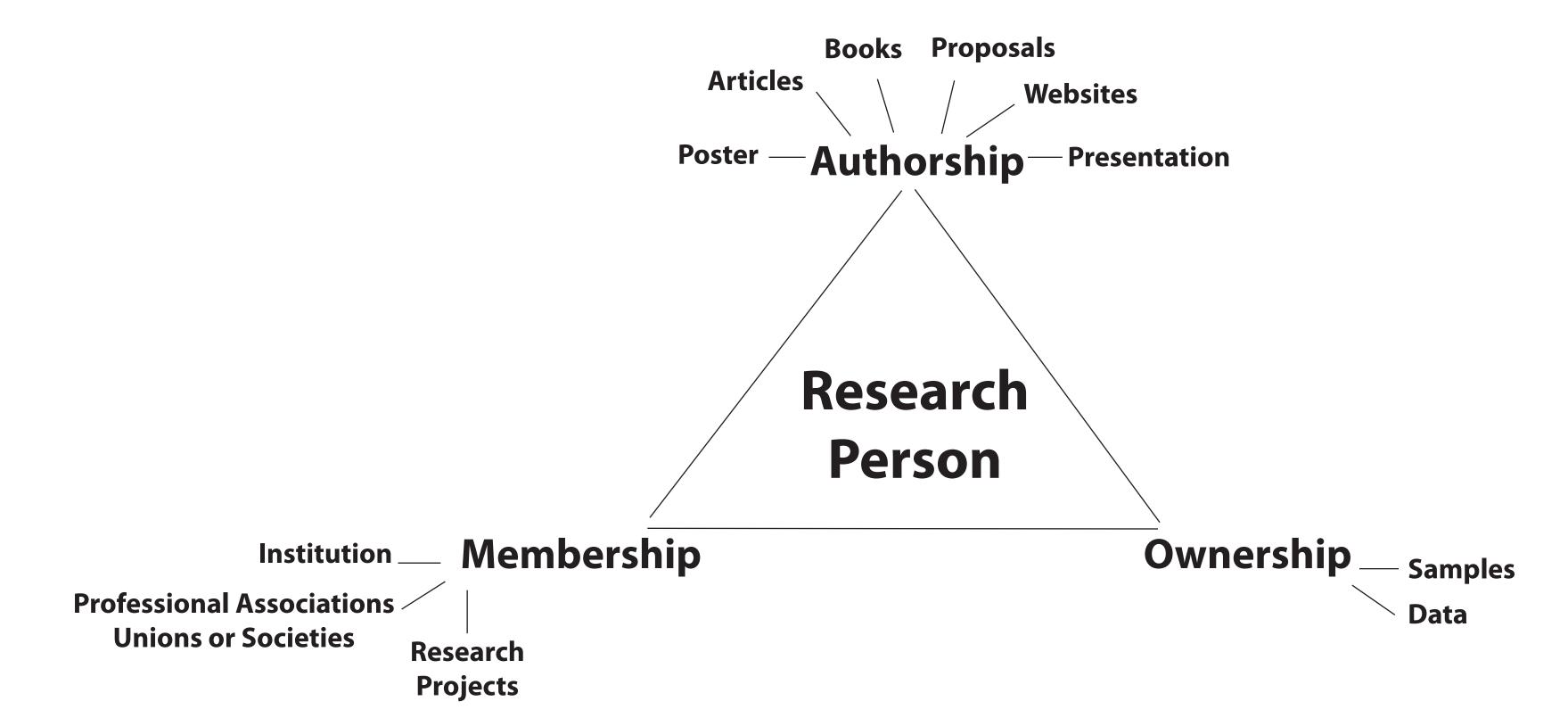
Claim

A data management infrastructures like the Kiel Data Management Infrastructures (KDMI) has to deal with the identification of its data owners, creators and users. This is not meant in a security way, but as an identity problem. International research institutes have to differentiate the people participating in international projects, visiting scientists and students from foreign countries entering into their research career.

The Romanization of Asian scientist names like 'Wei Wang' is aggravating the problem (Qiu Nature 2008 doi:10.1038/451766a) with at least 9 different notaitions in Chinese

The scientists have quite different professional roles in their working career. Building up a scientific record requires at least that some of these different roles are connected to each other. This means that it is necessary to create a personalized record assuring that the credit for a certain publication, proposal or honorary post like chairman of a scientific society refers to the right person.

We envision scientific credit also for data creation and publication, besides the possibilities of citable data sets. This means we have to eliminate uncertainties related to referable authorship. The marketplace of available identifiers is large and growing, making the right choice increasingly complicated: Even though there are more than 15 different systems available there are still some under development or proposed to come up by the end of 2012 e.g. 'PubMed Central Author ID' or ORCID.



The identity of a research person can be regarded as different roles this person has to posses in real live. These roles do not have to be necessarily connected like the private live roles and the professional live roles. Defining the context of scholar publishing it can cause insurmountable problems or tremendouse effort to obtain interoperability if not all context related roles are connected to each other. The future data stewardship will be able to provide data of a specific person simply by an author search just like AMAZON or any library catalogue.

## It's Worth the Effort

ORCID

Looking more into detail of the name authority file of the German National Library (GND) there is an international library collaboration to set up the 'Virtual International Authority File' VIAF. The dimension of this project and the arising possibilities for the KDMI and other data management infrastructure are so tremendous that we were looking for ways to actually get use of the virtual international authority file. For the scientific site of Kiel with a focus on marine research the use of the VIAF project is invaluable on the long run with 'new' scientist records from all over the world. The librarians of GEOMAR library were very enthusiastic about the personalization of data sets based on the GND. The file is synchronized regularly with the VIAF portal und therefore provides a way to actively make use of the authority file. The collaboration with the GEOMAR librarians the KDMI got the possibility to access GND for editing and creation of GND records. Without the chance to check for new records or to actually add new records there is no chance of using such a system in real live for practical reasons.

Right now we consider the complete use of GND identifiers (http://d-nb.info/gnd/14366817X) instead of the usual names and E-Mail addresses for research persons.



The virtual international authority file (VIAF) project is a collaborative effort of national libraries and organizations contributing name authority files linking together a 'super' authority record. VIAF started as a collaboration of the american Library of Congress, the German National Library, the Bibliothèque national de France and OCLC. At the beginning of 2012, contributors included 20 agencies and 16 countries

## Contact:

Dirk Fleischer

Data- and Computing Center | Data Management GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel Wischhofstr. 1-3, 24148 Kiel, Germany

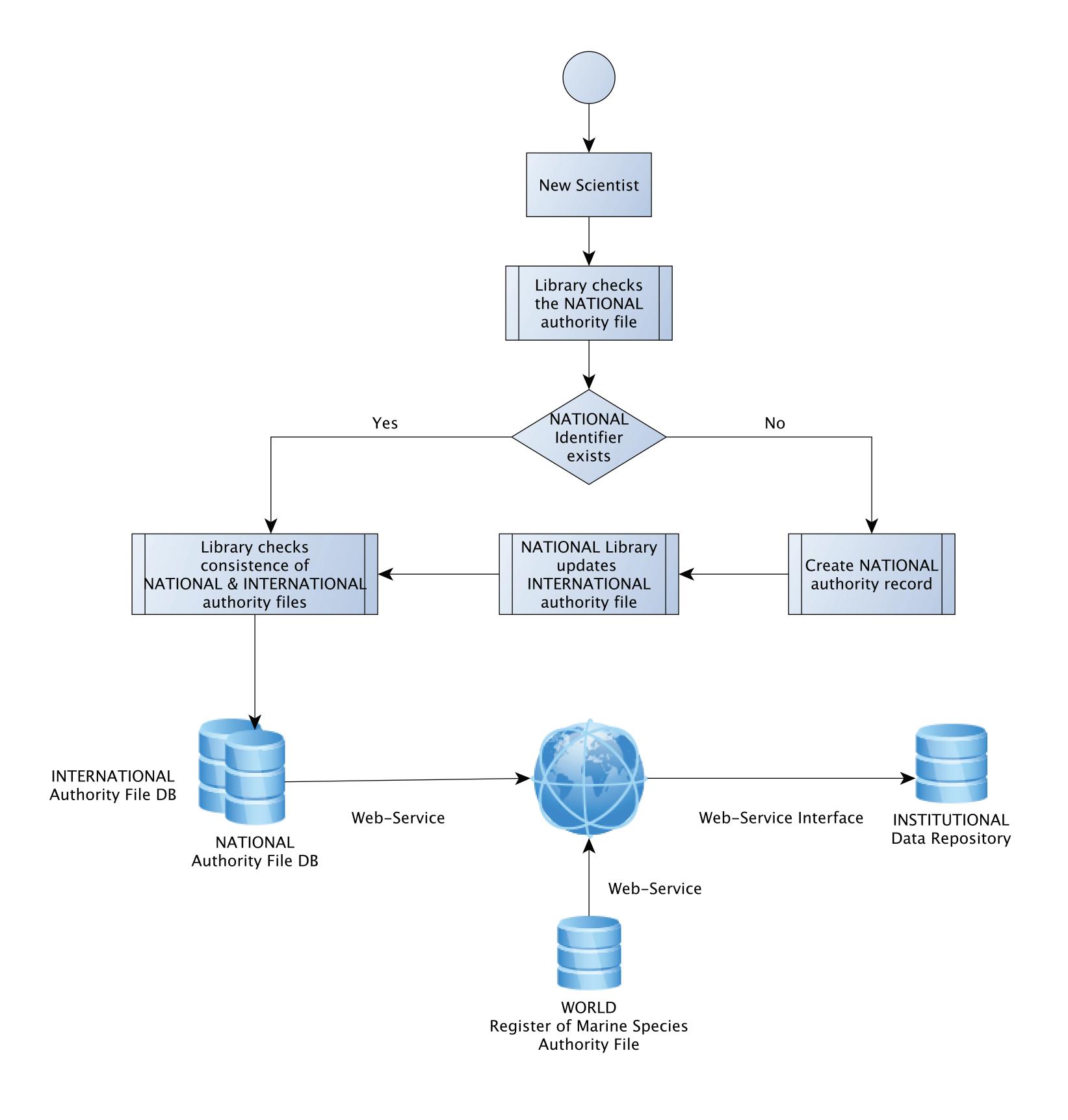
Phone: +49 431 600 2296 E-Mail: dfleischer@geomar.de

## The Collaboration

Researcher

The bilateral agreement to enable usage of the German name authority file deepened the already existing collaboration between GEOMAR library and the Kiel Data Management Team (KDMT). The KDMT is developing along the concept of data capturing at the point of data creation. This concept reveals directly the difference to libraries. Librarians usually take care of published books, articles or a thesis, but this is at the end of the complete scientific process. The KDMI on the other hand is already part at the beginning of the data creation process. This means it is necessary to have an identifier ready before the research starts.

Accordingly a process was established to empower the infrastructure for capturing the data created by a certain scientist. To a great extent this process is based on the common library process of adding a new author to the name authority file making it internationally unique and available.



The author identification is a key factor in the KDMI concept. Therefore it is essential to have an identifier for data creators ready as soon as they log in for the first time. This requires to network as much as possible to avoid time consuming migration procedures to make use of assured identities. The use of the name authority file requires adding and editing authority records as well as using this identifier.

This is also used for other authority files as long as this improves the quality of the data sets managed by the KDMI. The World Register of Marine Species is such an authority file. We developed a webservice based sollution to connect the KDMI with such webservices without shutting down the main system.



PubNed

Pangaea

Data

Center





