

ABOUT
AWARDS
MOUG DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

2013 MOUG Distinguished Service Award
Matt Montgomery

PRESS RELEASE

MOUG ANNOUNCES 2012 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

The Executive Board of the Music OCLC Users Group (MOUG) is honored to name Matt Montgomery (OCLC) as the eleventh recipient of MOUG's Distinguished Service Award. This award was established to recognize and honor those who have made significant professional contributions to music users of OCLC. The MOUG Executive Board selects recipients based on nominations received from the membership. The award was announced on February 26, 2013 during the MOUG Business Meeting in San José.

Matt is one of the unsung heroes who work tirelessly and anonymously behind the scenes at OCLC to improve Connexion functionality. He has been the primary developer to support the controlling functionality for OCLC's Web-based Connexion browser and the Windows-based Connexion client since 2002, and from December 2010 through May 2011 was responsible for completely revising the rules used to apply punctuation when headings in bibliographic records are "controlled," that is, linked to established Library of Congress authority records. Prior to the changes implemented in May 2011, Connexion users were unable to control some types of headings because the controlling functionality used a set of punctuation rules that were not copasetic with many uniform titles. The music community, in particular, found this situation frustrating and many email messages were sent to OCLC and to various e-mail discussion lists reporting incorrectly controlled headings and requesting OCLC resolve the problem. The inability to correctly control music uniform titles created a significant hardship for users, often requiring users to individually control headings rather than using the Control All command to ensure correct punctuation was not changed in name/title entries.

Over time, various policy changes and projects to resolve inconsistencies in existing authority records were completed, and that effort enabled OCLC staff to revisit the punctuation rules and make the appropriate changes to enable the controlling software to correctly handle music uniform titles. The project required extensive attention to detail and understanding of the relationships inherent in music uniform titles. Matt's professional dedication to ensuring the correct handling of each mark of punctuation in literally thousands of test cases ensured a smooth implementation of a very high-risk and visible project.

Over the years, Matt has been responsible for modifying the controlling software to reduce/eliminate inappropriate tag flips, to allow date expansion of personal names, and to provide the ability to automatically append subfield "v" to series headings, eliminating many manual steps to append uncontrolled elements. Matt has also been active in the development of new functionality to automatically control headings in bibliographic records regardless of how the records were added (online or offline). This effort will greatly improve the quality of the WorldCat database for all users.