

Staff at OSU has asked OhioLINK staff to change the central catalog's wwwoptions file to display the uniform title (when it is present) in record browse displays instead of the title proper. This is something that can be extraordinarily helpful in sorting through music entries, and OSU has adopted it locally. According to AACR2 a uniform title is:

1. The particular title by which a work is to be identified for cataloguing purposes.
2. The particular title used to distinguish the heading for a work from the heading for a different work.
3. A conventional collective title used to collocate publications of an author, composer, or corporate body containing several works or extracts, etc., from several works (e.g., complete works, several works in a particular literary or musical form).

Use of the uniform title in browse screens makes it easier to sift through a lot of records with slightly (or immensely) different titles that all pertain to the same musical or literary work and really makes use of the intellectual work of collocating works with this cataloging device.

OhioLINK's wwwoptions file is, as far as I know, set less by design at this point than default.

Staff at OSU have asked OhioLINK staff to make this change right away after USC and DMSC have a chance to discuss it by email. We are willing to make this change, but, as with almost any decision, there may be some considerations to weigh. I've tried to lay them out here. For music cataloging, uniform titles are very useful, almost essential. In other subject areas, their usefulness for sorting and display varies.

We will make this change around March 22 if there is no substantial disagreement.

Anne Gilliland  
Assistant Director of Library Systems, Database Management  
OhioLINK  
2455 North Star Rd., Ste. 300  
Columbus OH 43221  
Phone: 614.728.3600, ext. 324  
Fax: 614. 728.3610  
[anne@ohiolink.edu](mailto:anne@ohiolink.edu)

Here are some examples from OSU showing the difference between the relative ease of picking an entry from a long list of music records in the OSU catalog versus the greater difficulty of finding versions of a musical work in the OhioLINK catalog:

**EXAMPLE 1:**

OSU catalog:

Do an AUTHOR search for Sibelius, Jean and pick the entry that has 680 results. Scroll forward through these entries and the titles that display are all in alpha order.

Two types of titles will display in this list. These titles represent the same record:

Example:

Ballettikohtaus 1997 (uniform title - 240)

Scène de ballet -- See Ballettikohtaus (see reference from Scene de ballet (245) to Ballettikohtaus (240))

Central catalog for same search and look at the entry with more than 3000 results:

Scène de ballet for orchestra, 1891

(The uniform title, Ballettikohtaus, does not display on the browse screen at all. Only the 245 title, Scene de ballet. The Ballettikohtaus 1990 that you do see in the list is from a 700 subfield t for a different record).

**\*\*OSU's display does a better job of collocating all the records about this work\*\***

**EXAMPLE 2:**

OSU catalog

AUTHOR search for Debussy, Claude (1862-1918)

Quartet, strings, op. 10, G minor 1950 (uniform title 240) displays on browse screen bringing all of these records together.











Central catalog:

Quartet in G minor op. 10, for two violins, viola and cello 1950 (The 245 title displays on browse screen, not the uniform title. All titles similar to Quartet, strings, op. 10, G minor that display on the browse screens are from the 700 subfield t)

**\*\*Again, OSU's display does a better job of collocating this work on a browse screen.\*\***

**Here is a non-musical example that shows the problems with the current browse display in the central catalog**

Do an author search on Jefferson, Thomas. As you page through the selections for Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826, you will see this screen of entries:

326	<a href="#">The life and morals of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.</a> / Extracted textually from The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John by Thomas Jefferson		1946
327	<a href="#">The life &amp; morals of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.</a> / extracted textually from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John by Thomas Jefferson.		1976
328	<a href="#">The life and morals of Jesus of Nazareth</a> / edited with a foreword		1944
329	<a href="#">The life and morals of Jesus of Nazareth.</a> / edited with foreword		1941
330	<a href="#">The life and morals of Jesus of Nazareth.</a> / extracted textually from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, by Thomas Jefferson; edited, w		1951
331	<a href="#">The life and morals of Jesus of Nazareth.</a> / edited with foreword		1940
332	<a href="#">The life and morals of Jesus of Nazareth</a> / edited with a foreword		1940
333	<a href="#">The Jefferson Bible : the life and morals of Jesus of Nazareth</a> / extracted from the Gospels by Thomas Jefferson		c1989
334	<a href="#">The Jefferson Bible : the life and morals of Jesus of Nazareth</a> / Thomas Jefferson ; with an introduction by F. Forrester Church and an afterword by Jaroslav Pelikan.		c1989
335	<a href="#">The Jefferson Bible.</a>		1995
336	<a href="#">The Jefferson Bible : the life and morals of Jesus of Nazareth</a>		

Has the alphabet turned itself around? What are Jefferson Bible entries doing in the midst of records for the books that Thomas Jefferson wrote that begin with "L"? They are entries with uniform titles.

If you look at one of them--#333, for example, you'll see this:

Author [Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826](#)  
Unif title [Life and morals of Jesus of Nazareth](#)  
Title **The Jefferson Bible : the life and  
morals of Jesus of Nazareth /  
extracted from the Gospels by  
Thomas Jefferson**  
Publish info Costa Mesa, CA : Noontide Press,  
c1989

[1 library has this item](#)  
[REQUEST THIS ITEM](#)

Descript'n iv, 134 p. ; 22 cm

Note Chiefly English; little French, Greek,  
and Latin

Originally published as: The life and  
morals of Jesus of Nazareth.





Washington, D.C. : U.S. G.P.O.,  
1904

Includes index

This entry has a uniform title, and it is doing what a uniform title is supposed to do: collecting entries under a common entry and sorting results by it. But the display is falling down on the job and displaying the title while the system is sorting the entry by the uniform title. The proposal from OSU would allow this entry to display the uniform title, which is what the system is using for sorting anyway.

**Here's another non-music example that might be a little problematic if the display was changed**

In some areas, the uniform titles impart less useful information. Here are the entries when you do an author search on Dunkirk (Ohio):

Dunkirk (Ohio)			
1	<a href="#">Codified ordinances of the Village of Dunkirk, County of Hardin, State of Ohio</a>		1995?
2	<a href="#">Codified ordinances of the Village of Dunkirk, County of Hardin, State of Ohio</a>		2000
3	<a href="#">Enacted codified ordinances of the Village of Dunkirk, County of Hardin, State of Ohio</a>		2003
4	<a href="#">Enacted codified ordinances of the Village of Dunkirk : and, the Ohio basic code / Bruce Comly French, solicitor</a>		2003-













All of these entries actually have a uniform title that says "Laws, etc." like this entry, #4:

Corp author	<a href="#">Dunkirk (Ohio)</a>
Unif title	<a href="#">Laws, etc</a>
Title	<b>Enacted codified ordinances of the Village of Dunkirk : and, the Ohio basic code / Bruce Comly French, solicitor</b>
Publish info	[S.l. : s.n., 2003- ]
<p><a href="#">1 library has this item</a>  <a href="#">REQUEST THIS ITEM</a></p>	
Descript'n	1 v. (various pagings) ; 30 cm
Note	Title from binder cover "Comprising all ordinances of general and permanent application in effect April 15, 2003."

Under the OSU proposal, each of these entries would display with the title "Laws, etc." instead of the title proper. Is the title proper more informative? Does it matter that much?

**This example shows also shows an example where a display change may make browse screens less clear**

Do an author search on "Akron (Ohio) and move to the second screen of entries.

13	<a href="#">Charters</a>		1927
14	<a href="#">Charters</a>		1918
15	<a href="#">Curriculum guide for the elementary school</a> / Akron Public Schools		1977
16	<a href="#">Executive operating budget in brief</a>		
17	<a href="#">General budget for operations</a>		
18	<a href="#">Geohydrology and water quality in northern Portage County, Ohio, in relation to deep-well brine inj</a> / by Sandra M. Eberts ; prepared in cooperation with the City of Akron, Ohio, and the Ohio Water Devel		1991
19	<a href="#">Interdepartmental telephone directory</a> / City of Akron		
20	<a href="#">Code of ordinances</a> / City of Akron, Ohio		c1985-
21	<a href="#">Charter</a> / City of Akron, Ohio		c1985
22	<a href="#">The revised ordinances of the city of Akron : comprising the general ordinances and franchises : in</a> / revised, codified and published by order of the City Council		1898?
23	<a href="#">City of Akron, Ohio code of ordinances</a>		1993-
24	<a href="#">City of Akron, Ohio code of ordinances</a>		2004-

#23 from this list, City of Akron, Code of Ordinances, has a uniform title:

Corp author [Akron \(Ohio\)](#)  
Unif title [Laws, etc](#)  
Title **City of Akron, Ohio code of ordinances**  
Publish info Seattle, Wash. : Book Publishing Co., 1993-

**Click on the following to:**

[Connect to link](#)

[2 libraries have this item](#)

[REQUEST THIS ITEM](#)

Descript'n 1 v. (looseleaf) ; 29 cm  
Note Includes supplements and index  
Subjects [Ordinances, Municipal -- Ohio -- Akron](#)  
[Akron \(Ohio\) -- Ordinances, Municipal](#)  
[Akron \(Ohio\) -- Charters](#)  
Other titles Akron code of ordinances  
Code of the City of Akron  
[Akron Ohio code of ordinances](#)  
[Akron city code](#)  
LC NO KFX1005 .A2421 1993  
OCLC # 29893608

In this case, the title proper may tell the user more about the item than the uniform title does. But if you glance back up at the browse screen, the records are filing by the unseen uniform title.