Please stand by for realtime captions.

Good afternoon and welcome to the [Indiscernible], my name is Jamie Hayes and with me here today as my colleague Ashley Dahlen. She will being plate -- be playing tech-support today. Our presenter is Christer Faulkner. She has her [Indiscernible] from the University of Denver and she worked with public and academic libraries before bettering settling into federal librarianship. She has been navigating technical services for nearly 5 years. And before we get started I will walk you through a few housekeeping reminders so if you have any questions you would like to ask the presenter, or if you are having any technical issues, peace -- please feel free -- is located in the bottom right-hand corner of your screen. I'm going to keep track of all the questions that come in and at the end of the presentation crystal will respond to each of them. Each of the questions. We are also currently recording today's session and we will send an email link to the recording and slides to everyone who registered for this webinar. We will also be sending a certificate of participation using the email you used to register for today's webinar and if anyone needs additional certificates because multiple people are watching the webinar with you, please email [Indiscernible] and include the title of today's webinar along with the names and email addresses of those needing certificates. Desktop computers and laptop users may use -- zoom in on the slides being presented. Click on the full-screen button on the bottom left hind side of your screen and to exit the full-screen mode mouse over the blue bar at the top of your screen so it expands and click on the blue return button to get back to the default view and finally at the end of the session, we will be sharing a webinar satisfaction survey with you. We will let you know when the survey is available and the URL will appear in the chat box. We would very much appreciate your feedback after the session including comments on the presentation style and the value of the webinar. That's it for me housekeeping spiel. I will hand the microphone over to Crystal who will take it from here. All yours, Crystal.

Hi, everyone. To those of you who have joined, I'm here to talk about taxonomy and authority control issues as they pertain to forestry, science librarianship and the steps my library has taken to close the gaps. I'm also interested [Indiscernible - low volume] and excited to make new contacts and work with you all. The national Forest Service library is located in the United States Forest Service, as was mentioned earlier. The US Forest Service is under the USDA, Department of Agriculture. We chiefly exist to provide information resources to Forest Service resources of the United States but we've been ramping up efforts to meet the needs of the public in the last few years. We maintain a public site and our catalog and digital collections are both available there. I will give you the URLs of these sites later in the presentation. So if you happen to be looking for me at a conference or something, this is what I look like. I wear many hats as a national Forest Service library in. I've been at the national Forest Service library for more than four years. My role has evolved with time but currently I manage the front and back end of the integrated library system in the content management system. I also manage the library's internal and external websites and I've been spearheading the digitization of reservation efforts for the library selection. I also represent the library in our outreach and conferences. I'm personally located at the main branch located in Fort Collins Colorado. We also have two specialized branches, the Forest products laboratory library in Madison, Wisconsin.

And the international Institute of forestry library located in Puerto Rico. I saw one of you was from Puerto Rico so I thought you might like that. We are here today because I've offered to talk about our science taxonomy efforts at the national Forest Service library. If you work in a science library you already know there are many challenges. If you don't you may not realize that maintaining accurate taxonomy and linked data in the sciences is a bit of a minefield. Why is science complicated? Science is constantly changing. There are changes in cultural values of the decade which you research in one direction or another, there are new discoveries, new methods developed and new technology use and the way we talk about it and the terminology we use changes. We discover new viruses, bacteria and they simply evolve into something else or get woken up into new genetic group things. Their domestic and scientific names for all genus and species and these have been known to change. Sometime several times across a few decades as scientists learn more about the species. We encounter new issues in science and as the climate changes are the way we talk about issues changes. One example is -- I don't know if any of you are parents but apparently Brontosaurus is not a real dinosaur, that wasn't a thing when I was a kid. There was definitely a brontosaurus but apparently not anymore. That's one funny example. So I can't tell you how many times I've had to explain controlled vocabulary to non-library folks. Most commonly I get asked why it matters in a realm where we now have full text searching on a most everything? I can give you a great example of why it matters. The most obvious reason is that monograph and similar items are not [Indiscernible - Muffled Audio]. There's still a lot of stuff that's not but less obvious is taxonomy is constantly evolving. The National Forest Service Library has materials dating back to the 1800s. Prior to the birth of [Indiscernible]. [name unknown] has been referred to by a common name and by a [Indiscernible], in terms of library catalog we need to know which term to give the tree so [Indiscernible] pertinent results for a scientist. How do we do that? When it comes to subject cataloging obviously the biggest hitter is the Library of Congress. [Indiscernible] dominates library catalogs. Using the same example I brought up earlier, if you were to look up London Planetree in [Indiscernible] you would find absolutely nothing. A search for either scientific name [Indiscernible] or [Indiscernible] also brings up zilch. For many years the National Forest Service Library was using [Indiscernible] for subject headings. That has much more extensive breath of knowledge about science and science related subjects than the library of Congress subject headings due. But there are real disadvantages to using [Indiscernible]. It is British and they refer to things with a different bouquet really. They sell things differently sometimes too. As you can see on the example above plant fibers is the preferred term, and the American spelling is the alternate spelling listed. For catalog have records with both spellings because this is a confusing for catalogers. The other disadvantage is that no matter how many times we sent [Indiscernible] terms which were missing we never got so much as an email back and the terms we suggested were never added. Our concerns sunk into the abyss. Because so many terms could not fit into CAB or [Indiscernible] and [Indiscernible - Muffled Audio] we resorted using a field which is uncontrolled vocabulary. This most -- makes most library and set her. We didn't love it but we needed our materials to be retrievable regardless of the deficits of controlled vocabulary. You can see the screenshot of what we had to do at that time. How do we make the change? Interim Director [name unknown] came to our library from the National Agricultural Library. He came to us from Beltsville, Maryland. It came for a few months when our Director retired so he introduced us to an AL thesaurus. We tested it and pointed out it was

missing a lot of force related terms. Both the NSF AL began formulating a term to work together. If you are not familiar with NAL thesaurus you may have noticed some agriculture related items have used 650-three and you can see a search for [Indiscernible] in NAL tells us to use [Indiscernible] instead. Of our catalog found an old [Indiscernible] would grab the older term and you would get the best of both. At least some certainly in our digital selections. It was usually created for the USDA [Indiscernible - Muffled Audio]. It is currently used by [Indiscernible], agricultural network information Center and economic research service. You can find more information about the history of the NAL thesaurus on the website but to sum it up numerous glossaries, dictionaries and classification resources was used to compile his transect the subject matter includes neurology, pesticides, cellular biology, ecology, business and economics, nutrition, bacteriology, biomass, chemistry, disease, environmental protection, fishing, veterinary science, genetics, horticulture, paper production and more. An article was published in a recent issue of issues in science and technology library entitled a comparison of selected bibliographic database search retrieval for agricultural information by Stephanie Ritchie, Kelly Banyan and [name unknown]. According to the study search result retrieval was compared across eight research literature databases. [Indiscernible], for three topics from different agricultural disciplines to compare retrieval results based on the searcher experience. Precision, recall and uniqueness were analyzed by ratings of search results for relevancy. A generalized linear model statistical analysis designed that [Indiscernible] ranked the highest and was statistically more likely to produce a relevant result than the four other databases. As I mentioned it's fueled by NAL thesaurus and that means there taxonomy has been [Indiscernible - Muffled Audio] for agricultural subjects. They've created something called an annotator which is only available if you are collaborator and have a link. I think it is still considered to be in beta but you are able to insert the abstract of the material or another text selection and it will generate appropriate subject terms from the thesaurus for your record. Our staff loves this feature and they find that while it's not perfect it is fast and helpful. So I actually pasted in a selection of text to create this image from an article about the London Planetree and this is what gave us in the search. So if you wanted an example. How do we do it? We worked with our IT to provide a list of every 650 or CAB term. We sent the terms to NAL and based on [Indiscernible - Muffled Audio] deemed appropriate or offering alternative terms. We took all of this information back to our IT and they did a conversion of all terms to the appropriate NALT term. We were forced to break up the list which were just under 20,000 terms into several instances. After processing each list we deleted the terms which NAL deemed invalid and after this local staff began looking up uncontrolled terms and trying to phone alternatives in NAL or deleting them altogether the entire top -- process took about a year. We -- there were a lot of advantages to this. We've always been glad we did it. We found a lot of typos and field errors which we were able to clean up and we learned a lot about how are subject [Indiscernible] is consolidated or broken up and we realized we were actually able to provide the library with more than 15,000 new force related terms. That's a big contribution. We formed a relationship with an AL creating synergies that the USDA has been seeking with the Forest Service. This has been important for us because it has improved the forest and forced three research [Indiscernible - Muffled Audio]. It is also improved cohesiveness between our organizations and resources. The proof is in the putting. We have actually doubled productivity in the [Indiscernible] since we finished the conversion and while there's a lot of

reasons why this might've happened, I do think improved Richard ability is one of the factors. In addition to are in initial conversion to NALT we also started our digital collection site that has used NALT exclusively in most of our collections of subject terms. The link to each is listed on the slide and we would love for you to peruse our collection. One we hope to acquire a discovery product that will index both collections in addition to our other resources in a one such approach and the confidence of the conversion will pay off even more at that time. In the meantime staff are trained to use the NALT annotator as the first [Indiscernible] and the library catalog. If you would like to check out our public offerings, our external facing site can be found easily in Google with a quick search for National Forest Service Library. Our external facing has public spacing digital collection and ILS catalog. We mainly serve Forest Service employees on a daily basis but we are happy to make materials available to the greater public audience. I have a slide after this that gives my contact information and everything, but I would love to leave this one open. As we go into the question and answers because these are questions that I have that I would love to get answers from you all about. My library is obviously more concerned with forest and forest related terms . What other specialized vocabularies exist? I know there is a medical one but if you yes one I would love to hear about it and I obviously discuss what we did at FSO to re-remedy these issues but what are other libraries doing? In the body broader audience since you are on here, and I assume you're interested in science or list federal librarianship what networking opportunities exist for us in these niche is and what groups do you participate in and what do you subscribe to that helpful? And anything else. So before she opens up to questions I just wanted to put those out there. I would love to have some talking points and get feedback.

That's all I've got.

All right. So if you have any questions, please check them in the chat box or if you would like to respond to any of the questions that Crystal has just asked you can raise your hand or let us know in the chat box that you would like to be on muted if you would like to actually speak and answer any questions that have been posed. I see a question, what if any cataloging or other relationships do you have with various state DNR's, i.e. their publications?

So our library is -- we acquire a lot of different materials from a lot of different places. We definitely get stuff from state and private forestry. We definitely try to have inclusive collections, and -- that is actually -- I don't actually work on her exhibitions so -- but we definitely are heavy on our national -- federal National Forests in the materials that come from many research scientists. We are definitely heavy on U.S. Forest Service materials. But that doesn't mean we don't try to acquire and have a very inclusive catalog for people to use for this kind of thing. We are not the only ones out there so the state forest and things like that -- I would love to actually -- as a library do more with the states. I know we do have projects with forest health protection which is in state and -- private forestry. We have a digital collection we are putting up for them. There's always room for more.

Okay. Another question, Mark says I have a similar question regarding networking opportunities. I have been looking for webinars just like this one. Something specific to research libraries with science collections.

Another question, does the FS library have a lot of manuscripts or archival collections versus published materials and if so have you found that you are taxonomy project has improved access?

Yes, so we have been digitizing our manuscripts. Almost all of our digitization is unpublished except for a few station reports and things like that which we have used the NALT the saurus to catalog all of these things. If you go to our digital collection site, which if you got access -- you will get access to the slide and there's a link to it. You can see we have more than 10,000 unpublished manuscripts which have been loaded to our digital collections. These are things that we have made sure are basically either only available because we put them up or very hard to find anywhere else. So we have tried to do what is valuable, scan with valuable and I do think -- our digital collection site is getting more popular every month and I think we are definitely seeing results, you know, the digital collections -- it was born using NALT so it's hard to say it's improved because we don't have information from prior but I definitely recommend checking out what we have.

Okay. Another question. Can we email you after the presentation. I didn't catch your email address.

Okay, there is crystals email address.

Sorry about that. I started talking to myself.

It happens to all of us. Please email. I'm so happy to reach out to you guys and I'm happy to network. Please do email me..

Another questions using controlled subject terms for local, state, natural resource publication so I'm happy to learn about your work, how much of your work is not also covered by GPO PURL s.

This might be a tough one to answer. Ashley, do you want to chime in -- do you know how much that we PURL of their collections ?

I don't know off the top of my head but I suspect what we've actually done -- this is just my assumption. I suspect what we've done is actually PURL to the tool , the digital library as opposed to individual documents but I don't know that for a fact.

S, our digital collections have largely just existed -- I don't think we have been in contact with GPO to do anything further with our collections after we have loaded them to our own, or content repository. But I do know that we make sure that these documents are not digitally

available anywhere else before we put them in our repository and then we link to them. Or we create those links and everything so they are so rare that GPO definitely hasn't gotten to them yet and because they are not published, they don't go out via our other Forest Service methods of getting to the GPO which would be like through [Indiscernible] search or government printing office or anything here at the Forest Service. So we have a lot of stuff that is exclusively available through us right now and we would love to get more of it out there via GPO.

Perhaps an opportunity for more collaboration we can work on after this webinar?

Exactly.

Crystal, this is Ashley. Is your domain FS.USDA.gov?

For my email?

No, for your catalog.

[Indiscernible - multiple speakers] we have over 800 PURLs linking to FS to USDA.gov stuff. That much I know.

Okay, another question just came in. I do a lot of original cataloging but have never assigned NALT subject headings. I've only used LC subject headings. Is there a site for looking up NALT subject headings I can use or do we need to get a paid subscription?

I believe that the NALT thesaurus is available off network . I'm afraid to try to go to it because I've never used WebEx to get out into the internet. But we access it by just going to the National Agricultural Library thesaurus website and you can look up specific terms. And I believe that that is publicly available. If it's not, then I will be really surprised.

Okay. I just lost my comments. All right. What format will -- is your vocabulary available in? RDS or SK OS?

There's a lot of different ways to export the thesaurus. From the NAL website, I don't actually -- I'm not a manager for the vocabulary, just a contributor but if you go to their website, there are downloads available and if they don't still have them linked to their downloads, it's right on the page. You can email them and they will give you that export. And they are very tech savvy so they can give it to you and many formats.

These have been some really great questions. Do we have any more questions? Ashley, if you can push out the satisfaction link. We want to ask everyone to take some time and fill out the satisfaction survey. Let us know about programming, what you are interested in seeing. If you are interested in more science or Forest Service presentation you can let us know in the satisfaction survey. There is the satisfaction survey. We will give it a couple more seconds for any last lingering questions.

Thanks, everyone. I hope I hear from a lot of you. These were some great questions as well.

Thank you, Crystal. We are so excited to of had you present here at FDL P Academy and we are excited everyone joined us here today and we look forward to seeing you at the next Academy webinar. Thank you, everyone. [Event Concluded]