

# Names Project

# Why?

- ◆ Repositories Programme
- ◆ People depositing copies of their papers, learning materials, slides in institutional and subject-based digital repositories
- ◆ Need to add metadata to the digital object for information retrieval

# What?

- ◆ Names of people involved in creating item
- ◆ Names of institutions and departments

# Need to control forms of names

- ◆ Collis, G P
- ◆ Paddy Collis
- ◆ G P Collis
- ◆ Gerard Paddy Collis
- ◆ Collis, Gerard P
- ◆ Gerard P Collis
- ◆ Collis, Gerard Paddy
- ◆ Collis, Paddy

And these are all  
spelt correctly!

# Retrieval

- ◆ Users may want to find all articles by a particular individual
  - Difficult if the name has been entered in a variety of ways

# Disambiguation

- ◆ Need to retrieve only those materials deposited by that particular individual
- ◆ With common names, there will be many matches – loss of precision
- ◆ Need to be able to uniquely identify individuals

# Project structure

- ◆ 15 month project
- ◆ MIMAS partnering British Library
- ◆ Establishing an Expert Panel
  - Name authority files at The National Archives
  - Representatives of repository services

# Project plan

- ◆ Scoping study phase for 6 months
  - Investigating existing services and data structures
  - Establishing requirements of repositories
  - Identifying sources of data
  - Determining ideal data structure
  - Mapping source data to new structure
- ◆ Leading to specification for prototype service
- ◆ From January to September 2008, prototype development and testing

# Exit Strategy

- ◆ BL may take project over, if successful and develop it into a service