

About the Author – The Good, the Meh and the Bad.

The company (Baker and Taylor) providing our covers, provides free of charge additional information that displays (when available) on the Full Record page in the About section, labeled “About the author.” Like the summaries in CARL discovery, this information is coming from outside the catalog and not something we can control or edit. The information is usually pretty brief, and can be generically bland or mildly interesting depending. Here are two typical examples:

<https://infosoup.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S181C673001>

<https://infosoup.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S181C582882>

The unfortunate thing about these however, is that they occasional include code that BiblioCommons does not read correctly, resulting in some html gibberish. See:

<https://infosoup.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S181C780409>

<https://infosoup.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S181C758514>

The real problem, however, is that neither vendor (Baker & Taylor or BiblioCommons) is taking responsibility to fix this. The code being sent contains what are called HTML entities and can be read by most browsers. Example, in html **&** should display as **&**. BiblioCommons, however, is trying to correct this by turning the initial “&” into “&” thus mucking everything up. From the vendors view, neither is doing anything particularly wrong, and they think it is up to the other to fix it. A couple of BC libraries have complained about this, and BC is aware of it. Whether they fix it or not is unclear, as they see this as third-party data that someone else should fix. The long and the short of it is that, currently, no one is “fixing” these and there is not much we can do. Our one option, and I’m not even sure this is an option, would be to ask Baker & Taylor to **NOT** include this data in our Cover subscription. BiblioCommons said they cannot turn it off on their end.

So, for now, please do not submit these About the Author gibberish text issues. There is just nothing we can do right now. After using the BC catalog for a while, we can discuss if the benefit of this information is outweighed by the poor visuals of what looks like typos on our end. I will keep working with the vendors to try and resolve this.