



Faculty Publications

2022-05-19

Incorporating Inclusivity in Our Catalog

Nicole Lewis
nicole_lewis@byu.edu

Rachel Jane Wittmann
University of Utah

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/facpub>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Original Publication Citation

Lewis, Nicole; and Wittmann, Rachel. "Incorporating Inclusivity in Our Catalog." Utah Library Association Conference. Layton, Utah. May 19, 2022.

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Lewis, Nicole and Wittmann, Rachel Jane, "Incorporating Inclusivity in Our Catalog" (2022). *Faculty Publications*. 6272.

<https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/facpub/6272>

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

The Utah Library Association represents libraries located on Native American shared territory of the Confederated Tribes of Goshute, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation, Skull Valley Band of Goshute, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, White Mesa Community, and the Navajo Nation. We honor the original ancestors of this land and also offer respect to their sovereign nations. We acknowledge this history to cultivate respect for and advocate with our Indigenous communities still stewarding this land.



Utah Library
Association

Incorporating Inclusivity in Our Catalog

Utah Library Association Annual Conference
May 19, 2022



Nicole Lewis

Digital Metadata Librarian

nicole_lewis@byu.edu

Pronouns: she/her/hers

BYU Library



Rachel Wittmann

Digital Curation Librarian

rachel.wittmann@utah.edu

Pronouns: she/her/hers

 **J. Willard Marriott Library**
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

ALL **U**
NEED

Problematic Subject Headings

- Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) are used in library catalogs and digital collections to describe the content (aboutism) of an item. Terms are also used to colocate items on a similar topic together
- LCSH can be outdated, offensive, and exclusive to many groups (Women, BIPOC, LGBTQ, and neurodiverse)
 - Negros > Blacks > Afro-Americans > African Americans
- Offensive terms hurt and exclude our patrons and students

LCSH -- Illegal aliens

- Students at Dartmouth College were offended by the dehumanizing term “Illegal Aliens” in the library catalog and worked with librarians to change to “Undocumented immigrants”
 - Dartmouth Library submitted a Subject Change request to the Library of Congress, it was approved but then quickly denied due to political pressure
 - Students petitioned the Library of Congress and American Library Association to change term but was met with strong political opposition
 - A number of libraries have implemented local changes despite the Library of Congress
- November 2021, Library of Congress changed to “Noncitizens” and “Illegal immigration”

Documentary, *Change the Subject*



<https://youtu.be/1SroscdR7-Y>

Cataloguing Code of Ethics

“We recognise that neither cataloguing nor cataloguers are neutral, and we endorse critical cataloguing as an approach to our shared work with the goal of making metadata inclusive and resources accessible” (p. 2).

Cataloging Ethics Steering Committee

[Cataloguing Code of Ethics](#)

[Cataloging Ethics Steering Committee website](#)

Why Implement at the U

“We will uphold values of diversity, equity, inclusivity, and social justice within our libraries, campus, and community. We are committed to answering the American Library Association’s call to action to ensure that racism ‘has no place in our institutions, our policies, our practices, or our behaviors.’”

UU Libraries’ Statement Against Racism

<https://lib.utah.edu/anti-racism-statement.php>

Strategic Directions and Values

Marriott Library Strategic Directions

- Create a culture of assessment
- Foster diversity and inclusion

<https://lib.utah.edu/info/strategic-directions.php>

University of Utah Core Values

#3 Diversity:

- The U celebrates the rich diversity of people as well as creative and intellectual traditions by being inclusive in every respect.

<https://president.utah.edu/universitystrategy/>

Marriott's Project Scope

J. Willard Marriott Library
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

ALL U NEED

RESEARCH SERVICES ABOUT ASK US

Search Everything

All U Need
Your gateway to the [Library Catalog](#), [Course Reserves](#), [Digital Items](#), [Library Website search results](#)

Collections Databases Journals

FIND A PLACE TO STUDY ASK THE LIBRARY COMPUTER LABS & TECH LOANS PRINT COPY OR SCAN

Search over 350 digital collections, containing over 1 million digital photographs, maps, books, videos, audio recordings, and other items.

Search All Formats

Home Advanced Search

Popular Topics: Architecture, Law, Manuscripts, Oral Histories, Photographs, Research Tools, etc.

RECENTLY ADDED

FEATURED COLLECTIONS

- Rare Books Collection**
The Rare Books Division... houses and administers... the nation's largest historical... collection...
- Salt Lake Tribune Negative Collection**
This collection contains over 175,000 images from the 1880s to the 1980s...

Library Catalog

Digital Collections

SPC Finding Aids

ARCHIVES WEST

ABOUT CONTACT HELP

Search DIGITAL OBJECTS ONLY

Search by Keywords

Archives West provides access to descriptions of primary sources in the western United States, including correspondence, diaries or photographs. Digital reproductions of the materials are available in some cases.

By Repository

- Idaho
- Montana
- Oregon
- Utah

By Subject

- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Business, Industry, Labor, and Commerce
- Environment and Conservation
- Places
- Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
- Education
- Immigration and American Expansion
- People, Ethnicity, and

Marriott's Project Scope

Terminology categories

- Race/ethnicity
- Disability/ableism
- Gender
- Sexuality
- Ageism
- Religions
- Among others...

Overview of PAC12 Projects (as of Nov 2021)

- Four institutions belong to the Orbis Cascade Alliance and manage their catalog at a consortial level. The Orbis Cascade Alliance had implemented changes to “Illegal aliens” but no other heading yet.
- Two other institutions had also only implemented changes to “Illegal aliens.” Both expressed a desire to do more but either had limited staff resources or had stalled efforts due to a system migration.
- One institution makes corrections as requested or reported, but hadn’t yet established a systematic approach for proactive changes due to a position vacancy for the head of cataloging.
- One institution regularly checks for and changes seven specific problematic headings.
- One institution has reviewed subjects in one of their LGBT collections.
- Two institutions never responded to our email request.

Problematic Headings and Alternatives

Old heading	New heading
Aliens	Non-citizens
Illegal aliens	Non-citizens AND Illegal immigration
Sex change	Gender transition
<u>Transvestism</u>	Cross-dressing
Blacks	Black people
Whites	White people
Freedmen	Freed persons
Gypsies	Romanies
Aged	Older people
Cripples	People with disabilities
Handicapped children	Children with disabilities
Mentally retarded persons	People with mental disabilities
Socially handicapped	People with social disabilities
Japanese Americans--Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945	Japanese Americans--Forced removal and internment, 1942-1945
Yellow peril	[removed heading – no alternative]
	Indigenous peoples—America

Religious Headings

- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
 - Stated preference to be called by the Church's full name rather than by nicknames "Mormon Church" and "Mormons" (see their [style guide](#))
 - Mormonism also refers to the larger religious movement and other offshoot religions
 - The Consortium for Church Libraries and Archives (CCLA) presently discussing how to apply this to subject heading usage and construction - We recommended that the U Libraries follow their lead
- Review other religious headings for accurate name preferences

Resources for Review (Selected)

[Report of the SAC Working Group on the LCSH “Illegal aliens”](#)

[Report of the SAC Working Group on Alternatives to LCSH “Illegal aliens”](#)

✦ [Cataloging Lab](#)

✦ [OLA TSRT Critical Cataloging Repository](#)

[UC Boulder Libraries Project](#)

[TRLN Discovery Subject Re-mapping Program](#)

[OhioLink Report](#)

[Orbis Cascade Alliance Recommendation to Implement Alternative paper](#)

✦ [LC Subject Heading Approved Monthly Lists](#)

Suggested Change Implementation - [Alma/Primo](#)

- Rely on SACO processes for updates to offensive headings
- In the meantime, normalization rules in Primo - can be turned off as headings are updated in SACO

However,

- Metadata from other sources which are harvested and aggregated by Primo, such as Ex Libris' Central Discovery Index, reportedly aren't altered by normalization rules
 - Needs further investigation

Suggested Change Implementation - [Digital Library](#)

Subjects

- No LCSH authority control - manual queries and updates in Solphal
- Add alternative and preferred terms to Keywords element

Other Descriptive Metadata

- Titles and Descriptions often contain original captions and outdated terms
- Location Names, update place names that have changed due to derogatory terms
 - “Sq-w Valley, CA” now “Palisades Tahoe, CA”
- Request internal notifications via Etickets, track manual updates

Invisible Metadata

- Metadata element that is hidden to public yet searchable to contain terms researchers may still use



Suggested Change Implementation - [Archives West](#)

No authority control for Finding Aids

May not offer bulk update options

Suggest accelerating transition to ArchivesSpace

Offensive Terminology Reporting

Library Catalog

- Internal - Eticket form for ALMA/E-Resources/Cataloging/Usearch (Primo)

Digital Library

- External - feedback form linked to on every record in the Digital Library
- Internal - Eticket for Special Collections & Library Employees
 - Tracking updates to problematic terms found in descriptive metadata (Title, Description, Subjects, Keywords)

Special Collections Finding Aids - ArchivesWest

- Contact info listed on each finding aid

DIGITAL LIBRARY AND METADATA ISSUES

This form is for metadata issues or suggested improvements on collections.lib.utah.edu. If this is an issue with an individual metadata record, you can submit a metadata update when viewing the item (prompt listed under item viewer).

Logged in as *Rachel Wittmann*

Brief summary of issue

Priority High Medium Low

Further information

Link(s) to records and collections that need to be updated

[Add Link](#)

Link 1 [remove](#)

Attach Screenshot or Other Files [Add File](#)

Contact

Anna Neatroux
[Email](#)

Rachel Wittmann
[Email](#)

Related Links

Eticket routes to Jira where issues are assigned and tracked

University of Utah's Process

● Committee formation

● Review similar projects

● Issue report to Dean and ADs on project scope, objectives, deliverables

● Meet with the library's Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the Assistant Dean, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

● Compile list of headings and alternatives

● User surveys

● Present to Dean and ADs

● Implementation of changes to non-LCSH approved terms

Campus Input

General Student/Faculty body

American Indian Resource Center

Black Cultural Center

Dream Center

LGBT Resource Center

School for Cultural and Social Transformation

Questions or comments?

Thank you!

Nicole Lewis

nicole_lewis@byu.edu

Rachel Wittmann

rachel.wittmann@utah.edu