Unseen Labor

and

Words Matter! The Inclusive Cataloging Movement Takes Flight

• • •

Two cataloging exhibitions presented by the
Special Collections Research Center,
Fresno State Library
August 28, 2023 – May 17, 2024

Copyright Statement

Some of the content displayed here is under copyright protection. Any use beyond fair use under U.S. copyright law requires permission from the original creator. When in doubt, please inquire.

Suggested citation:

Name of creator/author/stitcher, Slide #, "Unseen Labor and Words Matter! The Inclusive Cataloging Movement Takes Flight," 2023-24 SCRC Exhibitions slideshow.pdf, https://library.fresnostate.edu/find/special-collections. Accessed [date].

Woodward Family Reading Room in the
Special Collections Research Center

UNSEEN LABOR

An International Library Community Organizing Embroidery Project and Exhibit About Metadata, Our Stories, and Our Service

August 28, 2023 - May 17, 2024
Special Collections Research Center
South Wing, 4th Floor

If you would like more information about ***Unseen Labor*** and the embroidery pieces featured here, please view the online catalog using the QR code below:

(https://openbooks.library.umass.edu/unseen-labor-exhibit/)

Textile represented on our promotional materials: "From Chaos to Order"
Embroidery and beadwork
Designed and stitched by Lynn E. Gates, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Unseen Labor

Unseen Labor is an international library community-organizing embroidery project and exhibit originally conceived of and created by Ann Kardos, Metadata Librarian at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. It became a traveling exhibit with Fresno State as one of the exhibiting locations. Julie Renee Moore, Special Collections Catalog Librarian, is one of the contributing cross-stitchers and an exhibitor.

Unseen Labor

Catalog and metadata librarians, along with many other behind-the-scenes library employees, are the Unseen Labor of libraries. If you have ever found a book or other resource in a library, you can thank a cataloger!

Cataloging is an intellectual and creative endeavor, requiring a keen attention to detail. Catalogers carefully describe resources to enhance discovery for people all over the world and well into the future. When done well, cataloging can be elegant … like a beautiful piece of embroidery. We are the librarians that work behind-the-scenes to enable discovery and contextualization of library resources.

The embroidery pieces are creative expressions of our stories, feelings, and experiences as Unseen Labor. This exhibit includes works by over 30 catalogers and metadata professionals from all over the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. This group, which has come to be known as The Library Guild, represents a wide variety of libraries, including academic, public, special libraries, archives, and non-profit library groups.

UNSEEN LABOR
METADATA

"Self-Portrait #2"

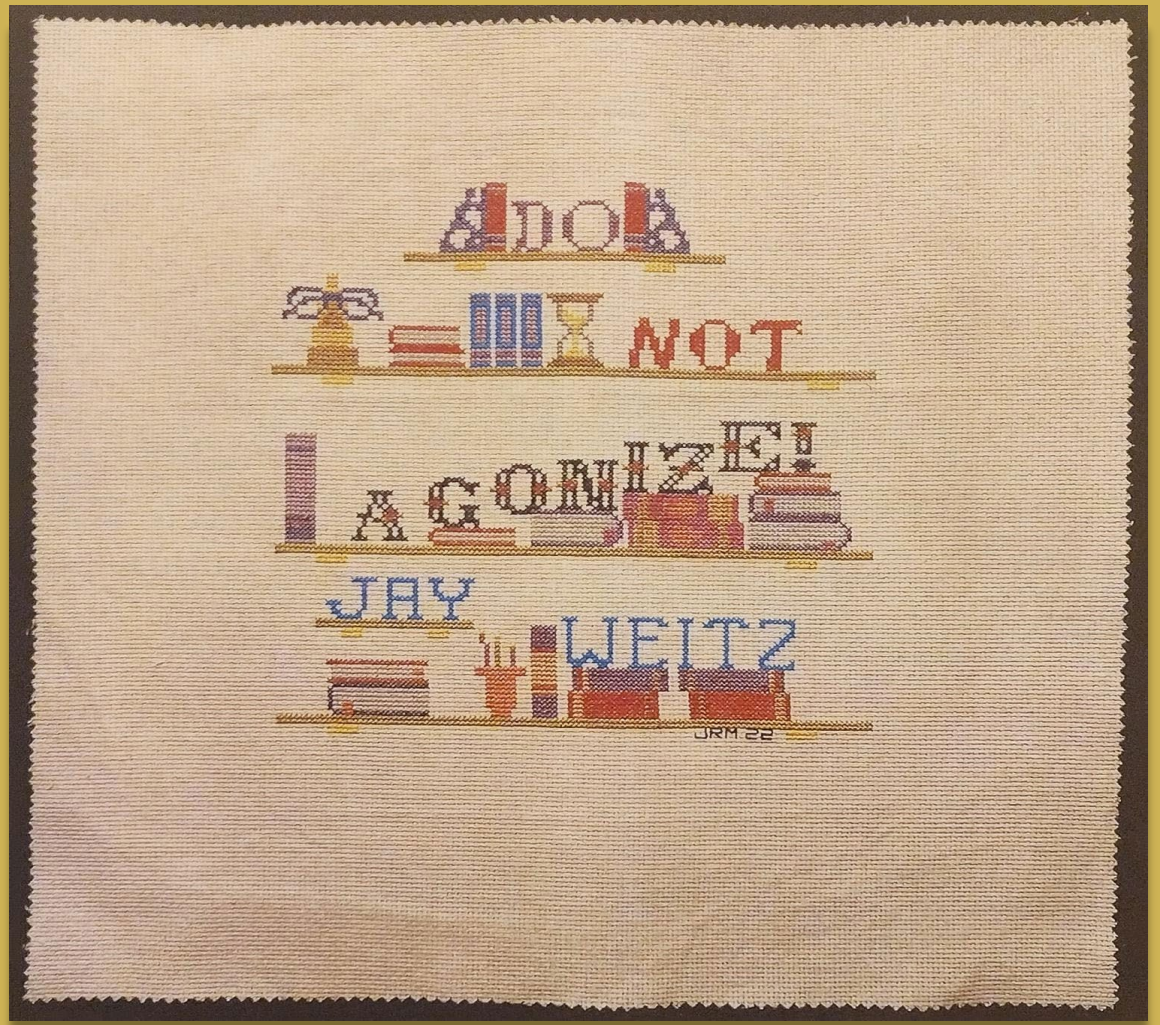
Adapted and embroidered by Ann Kardos, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts /

Original portrait in ink by Lee Morrissette

"Do Not Agonize!"

Cross stitch

Stitched by Julie Renee Moore, California State University, Fresno / Adapted design by Purple Panzy XS, lettering by Ann Kardos & Julie Renee Moore



"A Rockstar Cataloger"

Embroidery

Designed and stitched by Michele T. Fenton, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, Indiana

“Cat-a-log”

Embroidery

Designed and stitched by Stacy Gordon, University of Alaska, Anchorage, Anchorage, Alaska

"2021 Highs"

Cross stitch

Stitched by Jeanette Kalchik, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California / Adapted from pattern by KristisCornerNeedle

"It's Complicated!"

Cross stitch

Designed and stitched by Natasha Hollenbach, Indianapolis Public Library, Indianapolis, Indiana

"Cataloger's Judgment: The Hidden Human Process"

Embroidery

Designed and stitched by Margaret Joyce, University of Hawai'i, Honolulu, Hawai'i

"Librarians vs. Robots"

Cross stitch

Stitched by Alison Messier, University of Massachusetts Amherst / Designed by Ann Kardos: robots adapted from DMC, font chart by Hayley Pierson-Cox

"A Pattern of Anonymity"

Embroidery

Designed and stitched by Alexa Torchynowycz, Davidson College, Davidson, North Carolina

"Busy Bees"

Cross stitch with buttons

Stitched by Amanda Mack, UCLA Film & Television Archive, Los Angeles, California / Plant patterns designed by Susan Bates

"MARC is Not Dead"

Cross stitch

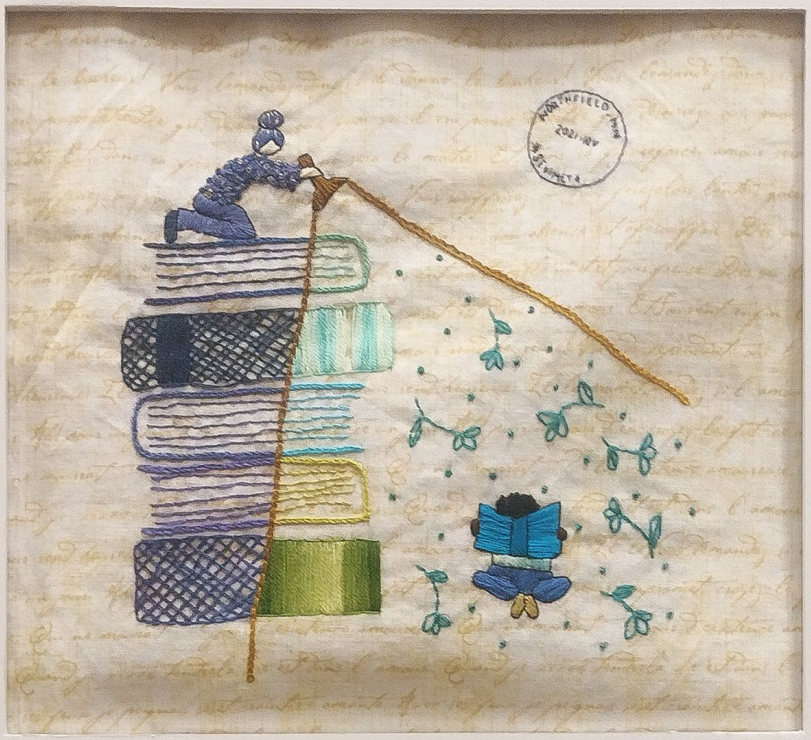
Stitched by Beth Morgan, Centre College, Danville, Kentucky /

Designed by The Witchy Stitcher

"MARC to Linked Data"

Canvaswork with cottons, silks and metallic ribbons

Designed and stitched by Heather Pretty, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada



"Shine Your Light"

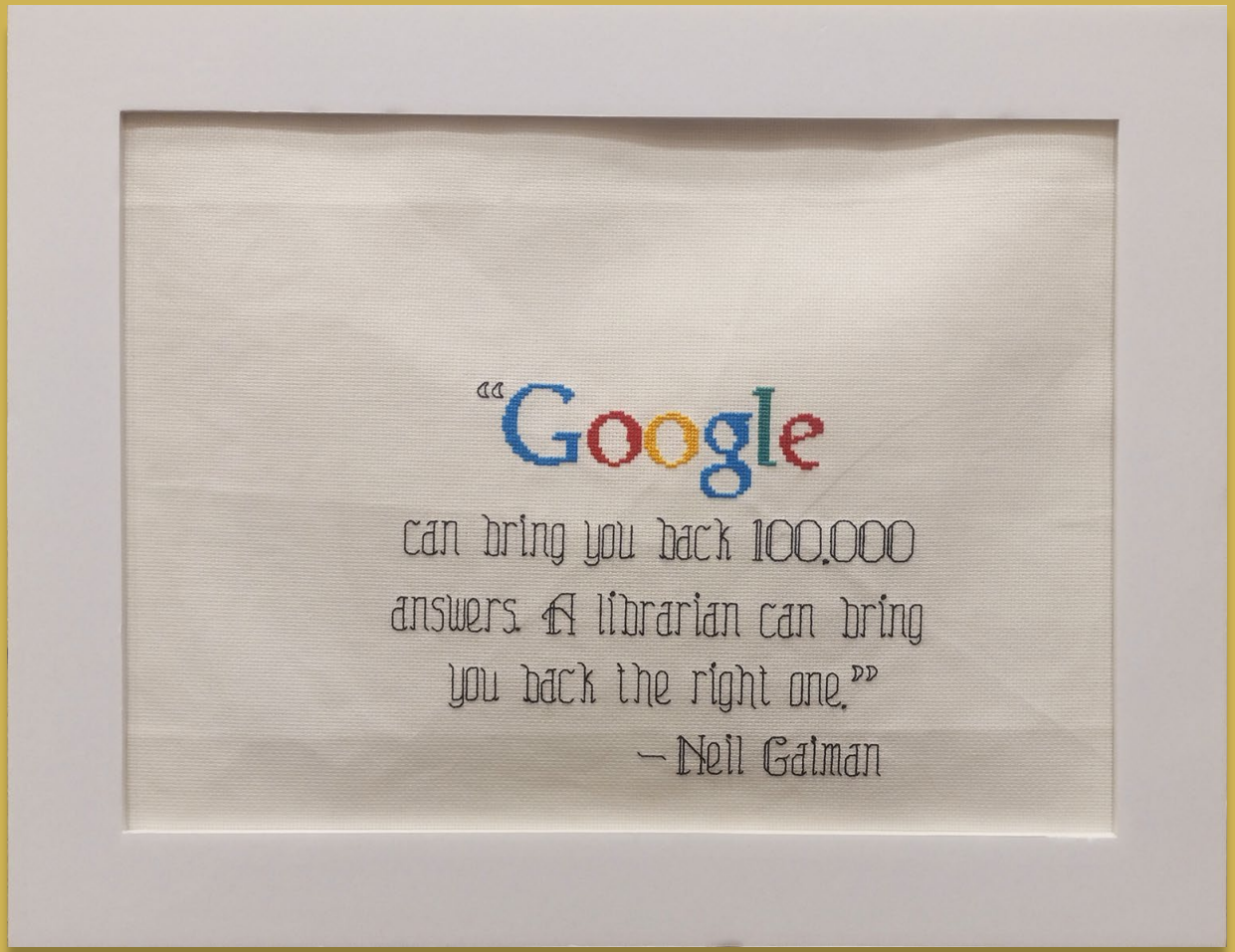
Embroidery

Designed and stitched by Amy B. Rachuba, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota and Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota

"InvISible"

Cross stitch

Designed and stitched by Laura Taylor, University of New England, Portland, Maine



"(Librarians) NOT (Google)"

Cross stitch and embroidery

Stitched by Tricia Jauquet, Purdue University Northwest, Hammond, Indiana / Designed by Pretty Witty

"What's in Your Catalog?"

Cross stitch

Stitched by Ruth Elder, Troy University, Troy, Alabama/

Collaboratively designed by Ann Kardos & Ruth Elder

"A Few Inches of Something"

Embroidery

Designed and stitched by Lindsey Ryer, South Portland Public Library, South Portland, Maine / Ossuary design is adapted from a pattern from the crypt in Igreja de São Francisco in Évora, Portugal

"This is the Library Now"

Cross stitch

Designed and stitched by Gretchen Neidhardt, Chicago, Illinois /

Story and experience from Tina Gross, Moorehead, Minnesota

"Code"

Cross stitch

Designed and stitched by Elliot Williams, Texas Digital Library, Austin, Texas

"Enveloping"

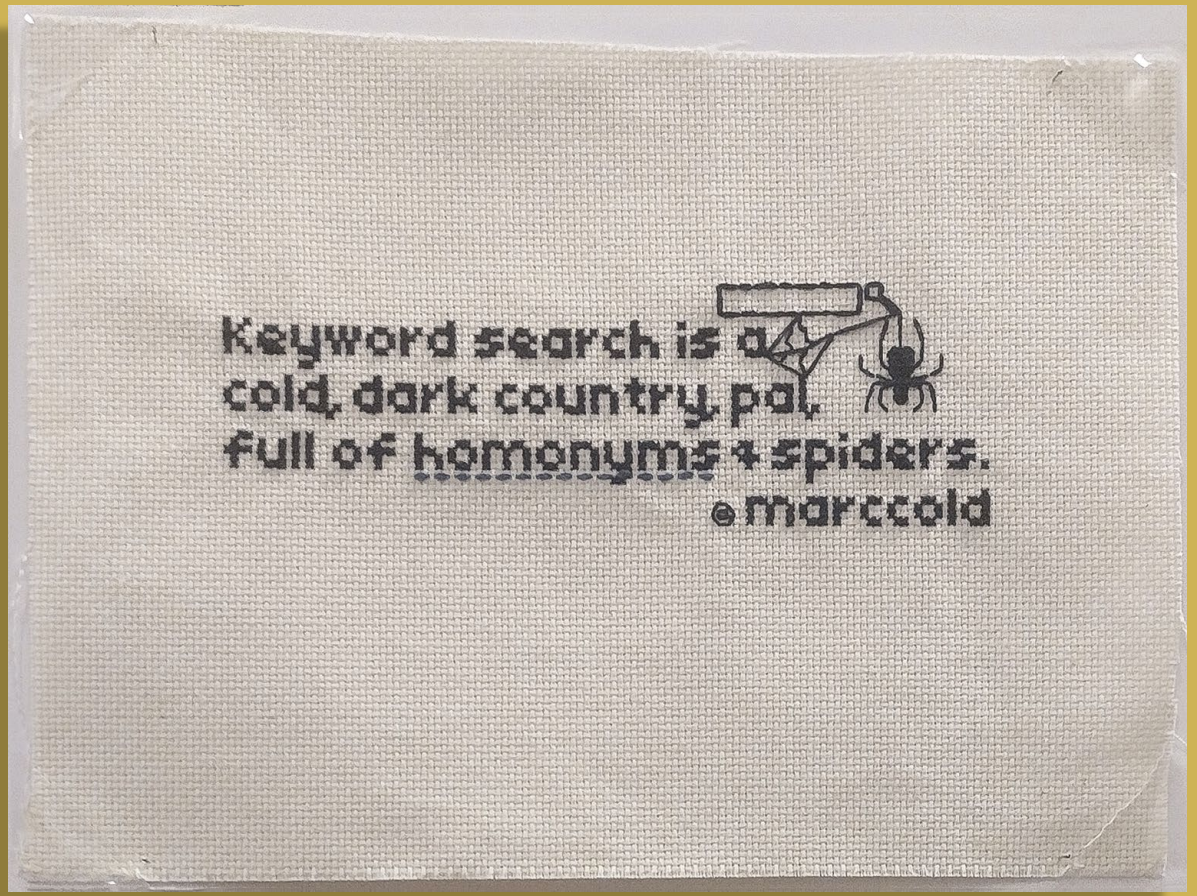
Embroidery

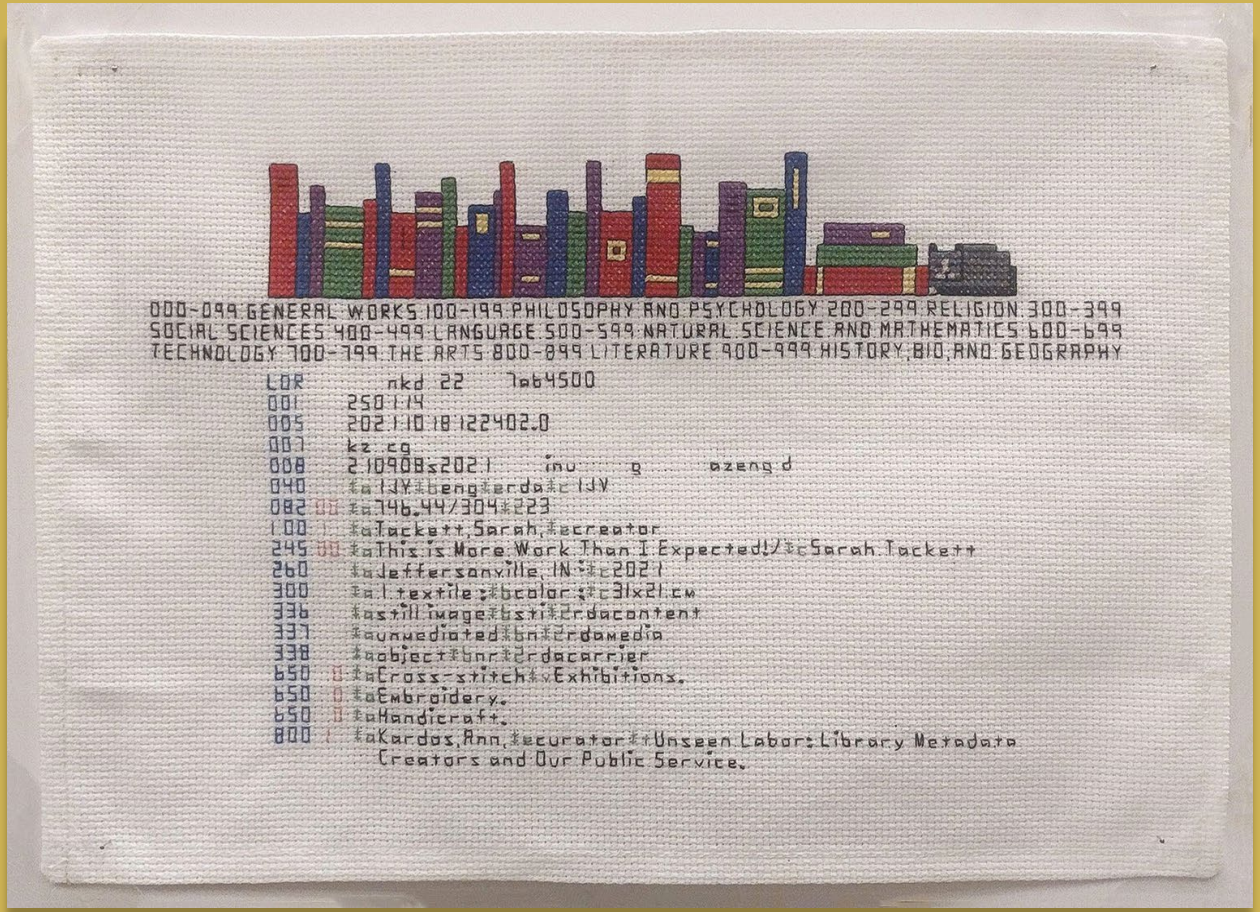
Designed and stitched by Michelle Paquette, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts

"Homonyms and Spiders"

Cross stitch

Designed and stitched by Ruth Kitchin Tillman, Pennsylvania State University / Tweet by Marc in a Cold Climate @marccold (anonymous)





"This is More Work Than I Expected!"

Cross stitch

Designed and stitched by Sarah Tackett, Jeffersonville Township Public Library, Jeffersonville, Indiana

"From Chaos to Order"

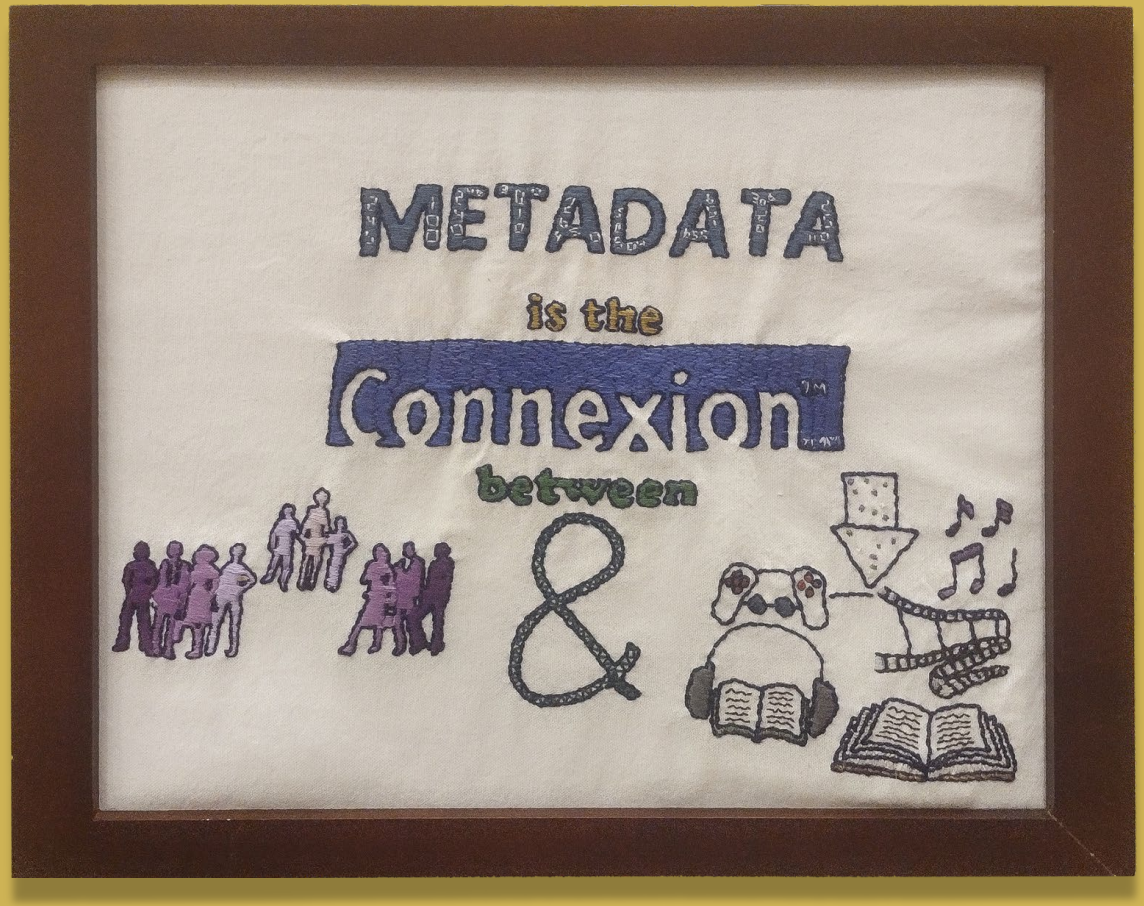
Embroidery and beadwork

Designed and stitched by Lynn E. Gates, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, Colorado

"There's Always More Coming Down the Track"

Embroidery

Designed and stitched by Ann Kardos, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts



"Metadata is the Connexion Between People and Stuff"

Embroidery

Designed and stitched by Tina Marie Maes, Madison Public Library, Madison, Wisconsin

"Less is Not More"

Cross stitch diptych

Stitched by Ruth Elder, Troy University, Troy, Alabama/

Collaboratively designed by Ann Kardos & Ruth Elder

"I Werk $2 homoit Up!"

Embroidery and beadwork

Designed and stitched by Bobby Bothmann, Minnesota State

University, Mankato

"U.M.M...‡?"

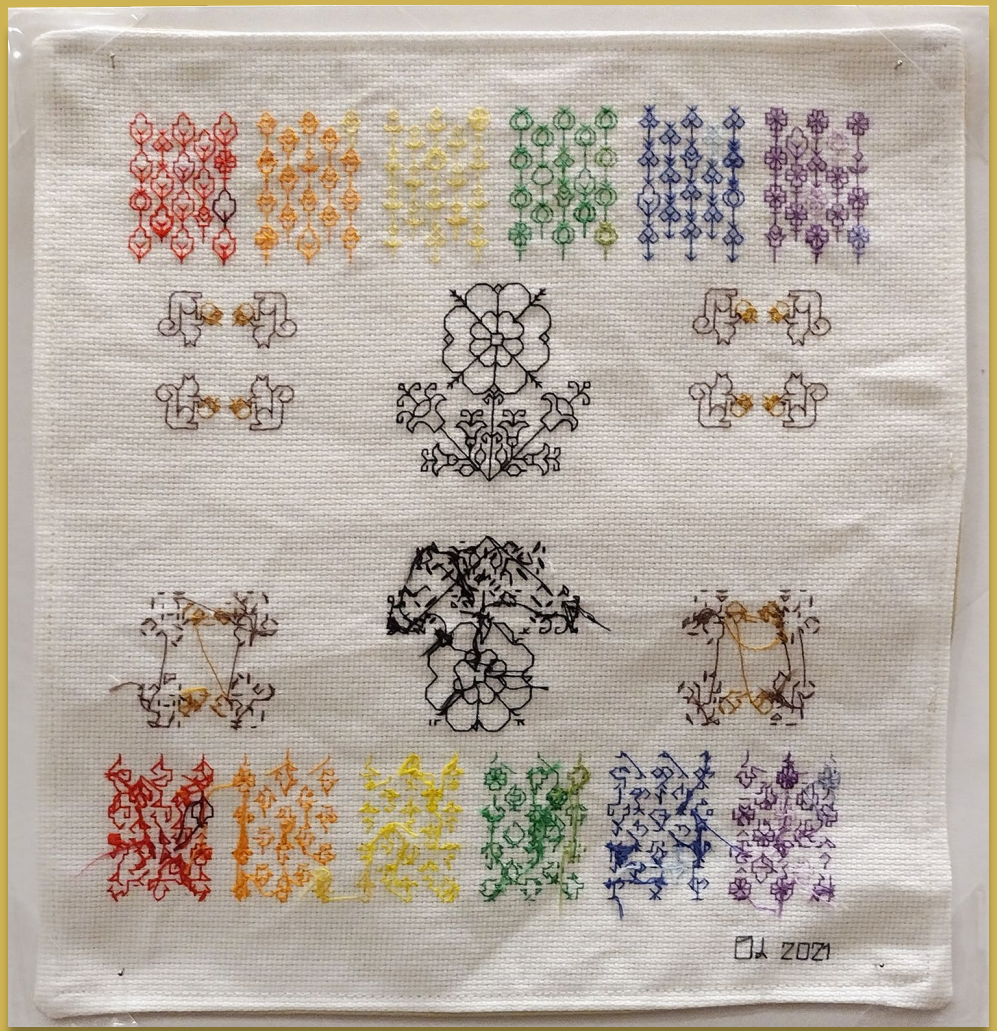
Cross stitch

Stitched and lettered by Tricia Jauquet, Purdue University Northwest, Hammond, Indiana / Cauldron pattern designed by Charlotte Alexander

"Drowning at Sea"

Embroidery with cotton floss on cotton shirting and quilting cotton

Designed and stitched by Elena Colón-Marrero, Bentley Historical Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan



"Collocated Foliage"

Blackwork

Designed and stitched by Dai Newman, Ohio State University at Newark/Central Ohio Technical College, Newark, Ohio

"Bad Character"

Cross stitch

Stitched by Nicola C., Wellcome Collection, London, UK/

Pattern and font chart designed by Kate J. Blandford,

Bristol, UK

"Mysteries of Discoverability"

Embroidery

Stitched and lettered by Erin Jerome, University of

Massachusetts Amherst / Mystic Sky (PAT0724S) pattern

available from DMC

"X Marks the Spot"

Embroidery

Designed and stitched by Emily Nimsakont, Amigos Library Services

"See What I Did There"

Embroidery

Designed and stitched by Rachel Ivy Clarke, Syracuse University School of Information Studies, Syracuse, New York

"Homosaurus"

Cross stitch

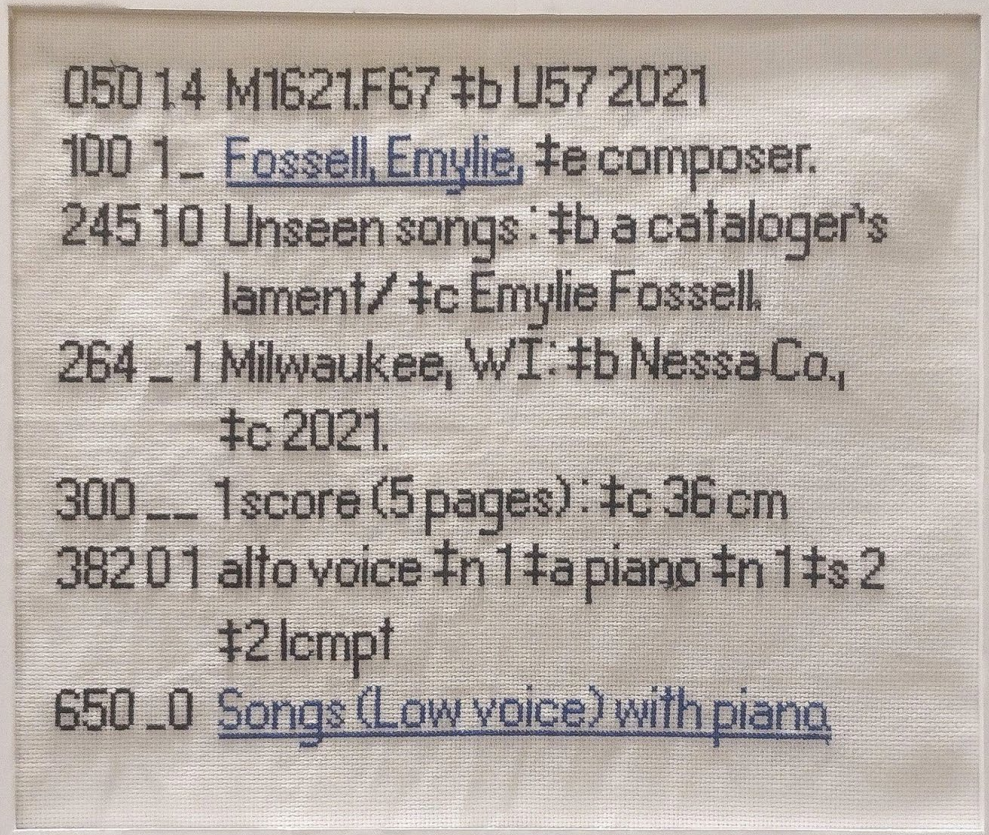
Designed and stitched by Miranda Nero, Ocean State Libraries,

Warwick, Rhode Island

"651 $a Minnesota"

Embroidery

Designed and stitched by Bobby Bothmann, Minnesota State University, Mankato / Images adapted from SuperColoring.com



"A Cataloger's Lament"

Cross stitch

Designed and stitched by Emylie Fossell, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

"This is My Job"

Embroidery

Stitched and lettered by Ann Kardos, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts / Juggling Ostrich (PAT1307S) pattern available from DMC

"Ritual for Visibility"

Watercolor, graphite and cotton thread on canvas

Designed, painted and stitched by Misty Alvaro, Columbus

Metropolitan Library, Columbus, Ohio / Tweet by Fobazi Ettarh

@fobattarh

"Same Old Message, Different Day"

Cross Stitch

Designed and stitched by Ann Kardos, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts

Words Matter

The Inclusive Cataloging Movement Takes Flight

An Exhibition Curated by the
Special Collections Research Center
in the Fresno State Library
South Wing, 4th Floor

August 28, 2023 - May 17, 2024

Words Matter

The Inclusive Cataloging Movement Takes Flight

This exhibit is about the library catalog and the systems that catalogers use to describe and present library materials in a manner that is respectful and representative of our diverse user population.

Catalog librarians are in the midst of a revolutionary change in the way we approach cataloging as we strive to reform long-standing, established standards that sometimes perpetuate systems of oppression. The words we use to describe the materials in our catalogs matter.

Critical catalogers seek to find and correct problematic subject headings and systems, using principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and social justice. This exhibit is about the importance of critical/inclusive cataloging. We strive to make the catalog as welcoming and useful as possible ... to ALL of our diverse library users.

Words Matter!

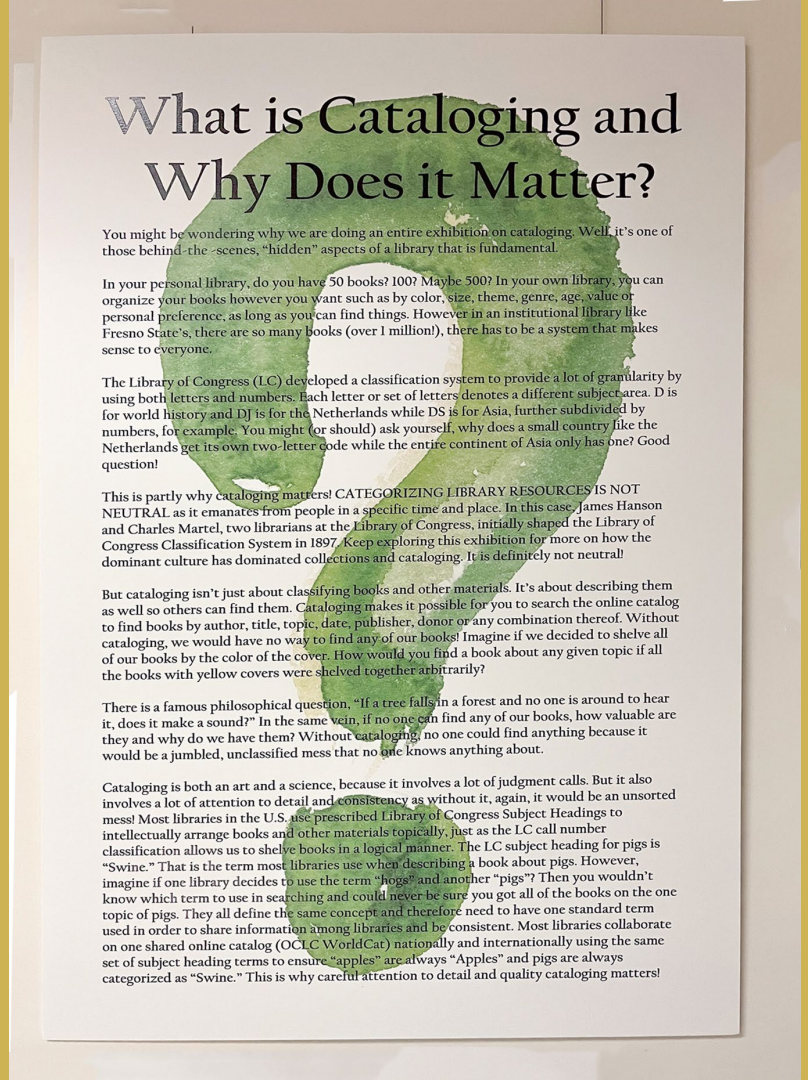
The Inclusive Cataloging Movement Takes Flight

This exhibit is about the library catalog and the systems that catalogers use to describe and present library materials in a manner that is respectful and representative of our diverse user population.

Catalog librarians are in the midst of a revolutionary change in the way we approach cataloging as we strive to reform long-standing, established standards that sometimes perpetuate systems of oppression. The words we use to describe the materials in our catalogs matter.

Critical catalogers seek to find and correct problematic subject headings and systems, using principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and social justice. This exhibit is about the importance of critical/inclusive cataloging. We strive to make the catalog as welcoming and useful as possible ... to ALL of our diverse library users.

Words Matter
The Inclusive Cataloging Movement Takes Flight
An Exhibition Curated by the Special Collections Research Center in the Fresno State Library
August 28, 2023 – May 17, 2024
Words Matter
The Inclusive Cataloging Movement Takes Flight
This exhibit is about the library catalog and the systems that catalogers use to describe and present library materials in a manner that is respectful and representative of our diverse user population.
Catalog librarians are in the midst of a revolutionary change in the way we approach cataloging as we strive to reform long standing, established standards that sometimes perpetuate systems of oppression. The words we use to describe the materials in our catalogs matter.
Critical catalogers seek to find and correct problematic subject headings and systems, using principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and social justice. This exhibit is about the importance of critical/inclusive cataloging. We strive to make the catalog as welcoming and useful as possible for all of our diverse library users.



What is Cataloging and Why Does it Matter?

You might be wondering why we are doing an entire exhibition on cataloging. Well, it's one of those behind-the-scenes, "hidden" aspects of a library that is fundamental.

In your personal library, do you have 50 books? 100? Maybe 500? In your own library, you can organize your books however you want such as by color, size, theme, genre, age, value or personal preference, as long as you can find things. However in an institutional library like Fresno State's, there are so many books (over 1 million!), there has to be a system that makes sense to everyone.

The Library of Congress (LC) developed a classification system to provide a lot of granularity by using both letters and numbers. Each letter or set of letters denotes a different subject area. D is for world history and DJ is for the Netherlands while DS is for Asia, further subdivided by numbers, for example. You might (or should) ask yourself, why does a small country like the Netherlands get its own two-letter code while the entire continent of Asia only has one? Good question!

This is partly why cataloging matters! CATEGORIZING LIBRARY RESOURCES IS NOT NEUTRAL as it emanates from people in a specific time and place. In this case, James Hanson and Charles Martel, two librarians at the Library of Congress, initially shaped the Library of Congress Classification System in 1897. Keep exploring this exhibition for more on how the dominant culture has dominated collections and cataloging. It is definitely not neutral!

But cataloging isn't just about classifying books and other materials. It's about describing them as well so others can find them. Cataloging makes it possible for you to search the online catalog to find books by author, title, topic, date, publisher, donor or any combination thereof. Without cataloging, we would have no way to find any of our books! Imagine if we decided to shelve all of our books by the color of the cover. How would you find a book about any given topic if all the books with yellow covers were shelved together arbitrarily?

There is a famous philosophical question, "If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?" In the same vein, if no one can find any of our books, how valuable are they and why do we have them? Without cataloging, no one could find anything because it would be a jumbled, unclassified mess that no one knows anything about.

Cataloging is both an art and a science, because it involves a lot of judgment calls. But it also involves a lot of attention to detail and consistency as without it, again, it would be an unsorted mess! Most libraries in the U.S. use prescribed Library of Congress Subject Headings to intellectually arrange books and other materials topically, just as the LC call number classification allows us to shelve books in a logical manner. The LC subject heading for pigs is "Swine." That is the term most libraries use when describing a book about pigs. However, imagine if one library decides to use the term "hogs" and another "pigs"? Then you wouldn't know which term to use in searching and could never be sure you got all of the books on the one topic of pigs. They all define the same concept and therefore need to have one standard term used in order to share information among libraries and be consistent. Most libraries collaborate on one shared online catalog (OCLC WorldCat) nationally and internationally using the same set of subject heading terms to ensure "apples" are always "Apples" and pigs are always categorized as "Swine." This is why careful attention to detail and quality cataloging matters!

What is Cataloging and Why Does it Matter?

You might be wondering why we are doing an entire exhibition on cataloging. Well, it's one of those behind-the-scenes, "hidden" aspects of a library that is fundamental.

In your personal library, do you have 50 books? 100? Maybe 500? In your own library, you can organize your books however you want such as by color, size, theme, genre, age, value or personal preference, as long as you can find things. However, in an institutional library like Fresno State's, there are so many books (over 1 million!), there has to be a system that makes sense to everyone.

What is Cataloging and Why Does it Matter?

The Library of Congress (LC) developed a classification system to provide a lot of granularity by using both letters and numbers. Each letter or set of letters denotes a different subject area. D is for world history and DJ is for the Netherlands while DS is for Asia, further subdivided by numbers, for example. You might (or should) ask yourself, why does a small country like the Netherlands get its own two-letter code while the entire continent of Asia only has one? Good question!

This is partly why cataloging matters! CATEGORIZING LIBRARY RESOURCES IS NOT NEUTRAL as it emanates from people in a specific time and place. In this case, James Hanson and Charles Martel, two librarians at the Library of Congress, initially shaped the Library of Congress Classification System in 1897. Keep exploring this exhibition for more on how the dominant culture has dominated collections and cataloging. It is definitely not neutral!

But cataloging isn't just about classifying books and other materials. It's about describing them as well so others can find them. Cataloging makes it possible for you to search the online catalog to find books by author, title, topic, date, publisher, donor or any combination thereof. Without cataloging, we would have no way to find any of our books! Imagine if we decided to shelve all of our books by the color of the cover. How would you find a book about any given topic if all the books with yellow covers were shelved together arbitrarily?

What is Cataloging and Why Does it Matter?

There is a famous philosophical question, "If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?" In the same vein, if no one can find any of our books, how valuable are they and why do we have them? Without cataloging, no one could find anything because it would be a jumbled, unclassified mess that no one knows anything about.

Cataloging is both an art and a science, because it involves a lot of judgment calls. But it also involves a lot of attention to detail and consistency as without it, again, it would be an unsorted mess! Most libraries in the U.S. use-prescribed Library of Congress Subject Headings to intellectually arrange books and other materials topically, just as the LC call number classification allows us to shelve books in a logical manner. The LC subject heading for pigs is "Swine." That is the term most libraries use when describing a book about pigs. However, imagine if one library decides to use the term "hogs" and another "pigs"? Then you wouldn't know which term to use in searching and could never be sure you got all of the books on the one topic of pigs. They all define the same concept and therefore need to have one standard term used in order to share information among libraries and be consistent. Most libraries collaborate on one shared online catalog (OCLC WorldCat) nationally and internationally using the same set of subject heading terms to ensure "apples" are always "Apples" and pigs are always categorized as "Swine." This is why careful attention to detail and quality cataloging matters!

The Library Card Catalog

The main reason for cataloging books and other materials is to organize a library's collections so that library users can find the materials.

Before online catalogs, there were card catalogs like this.

Usually, there were three different sections of the card catalog:

1. One section for author (Each card in this index was an author card – the first line of the card started with the author.)
2. One section for title (Each card in this index was a title card – the first line of each card started with the title.)
3. One section for subject (Each card in this index was a subject card – the first line of each card started with a Library of Congress Subject Heading.)

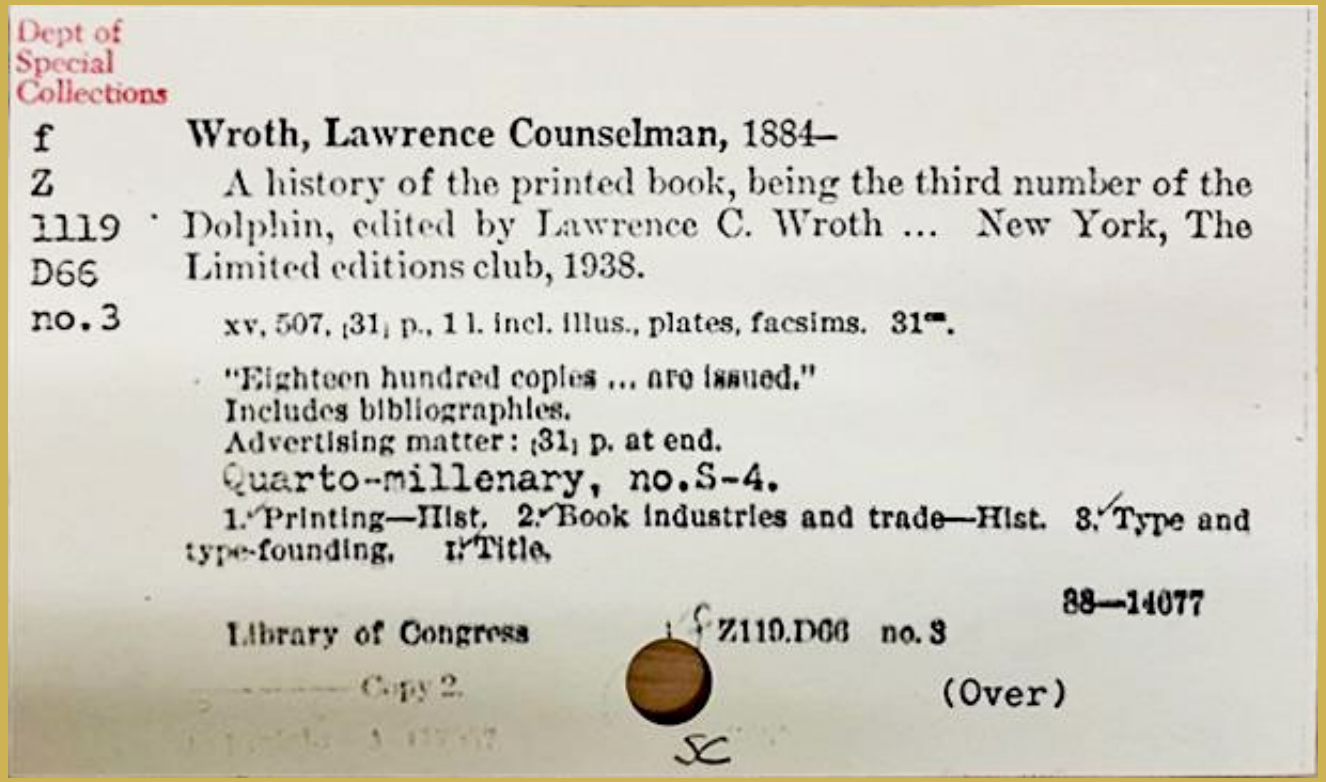
The cards were filed in alphabetical order in each section.

A typical card in the catalog had the complete, concise bibliographic information about the item. This would usually include author, title, place of publication, publisher, and date of publication, physical description, and Library of Congress Subject Headings.

In the upper left corner of each card was the Library of Congress Call Number, an arrangement of letters and numbers assigned to an item, which groups like-items together. The call number was on the label of the book. The call number shows the library user where to find the book on the shelves of the collection.

Card catalogs were in use for more than 150 years before the Internet Era took over. OCLC printed its last library catalog cards on October 1, 2015.

Example of an Author Card



Dept of Special Collections

f Z 1119 D66 no. 3

Wroth, Lawrence Counselman, 1884–

A history of the printed book, being the third number of the Dolphin, edited by Lawrence C. Wroth ... New York, The Limited editions club, 1938.

xv, 507, [31] p., 1 l. incl. illus., plates, facsims. 31cm.

"Eighteen hundred copies ... are issued."
Includes bibliographies.
Advertising matter: [31] p. at end.
Quarto-millenary, no.S-4.

1. Printing—Hist. 2. Book industries and trade—Hist. 3. Type and type-founding. I. Title.

38—14077

Library of Congress Z119.D66 no. 3

Copy 2.

(Over)

Library of Congress Classification System

A – GENERAL WORKS

B – PHILOSOPHY. PSYCHOLOGY. RELIGION

C – AUXILIARY SCIENCES OF HISTORY

D – HISTORY: GENERAL AND OLD WORLD

E – HISTORY: AMERICA

F – HISTORY: AMERICA

G – GEOGRAPHY. ANTHROPOLOGY. RECREATION

H – SOCIAL SCIENCES

J – POLITICAL SCIENCE

K – LAW

L – EDUCATION

M – MUSIC AND BOOKS ON MUSIC

N – FINE ARTS

P – LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Q – SCIENCE

R – MEDICINE

S – AGRICULTURE

T – TECHNOLOGY

U – MILITARY SCIENCE

V – NAVAL SCIENCE

Z – BIBLIOGRAPHY. LIBRARY SCIENCE.

INFORMATION RESOURCES (GENERAL)

Library Catalogers

Library catalogers, keepers of books,
Their knowledge and skills, such invaluable nooks.

With patience and care, they classify each tome,
Making knowledge accessible, a treasure to roam.

They know every author, every title and theme,
Organizing a vast collection, like a dream.

Their work, though unseen, is a great delight,
Helping readers find just what they need, day and night.

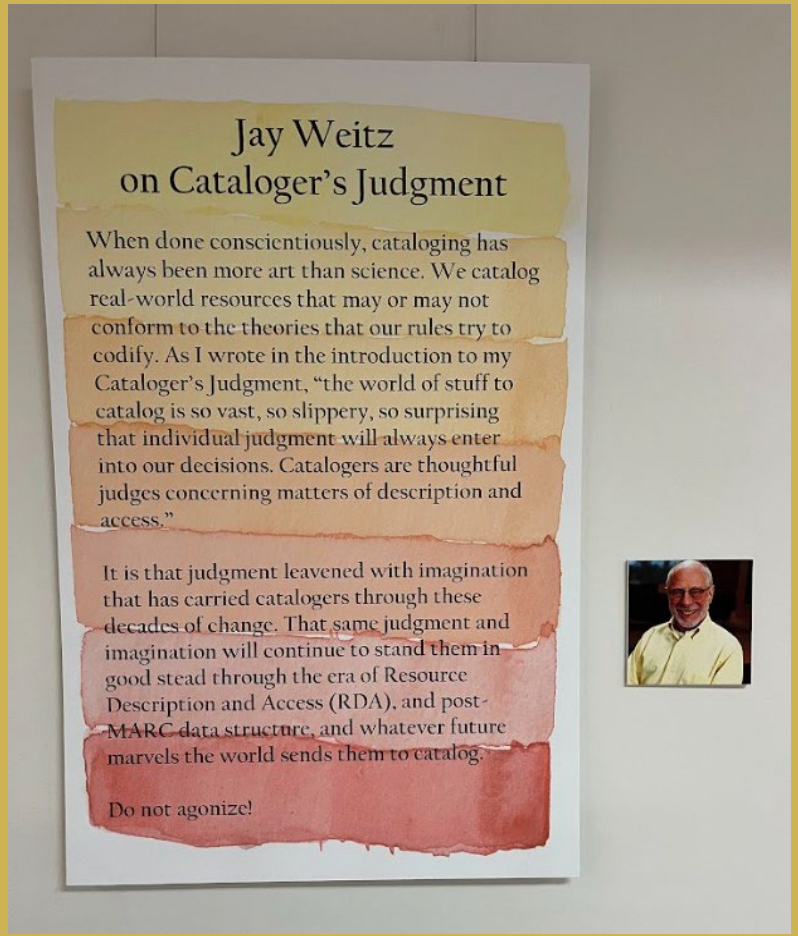
No challenge too great, no task too small,
They work with dedication, giving their all.

Their love of books, a passion that shines,
Bringing order to chaos, so knowledge can climb.

So here's to the catalogers, the unsung heroes,
Their work so crucial, so vital, so brilliant and true.

Their knowledge and skills, a treasure untold,
For a library's strength lies in their cataloging hold.

Verse written by a chatbot, ChatGTP by openAI
https://chat.openai.com/chat



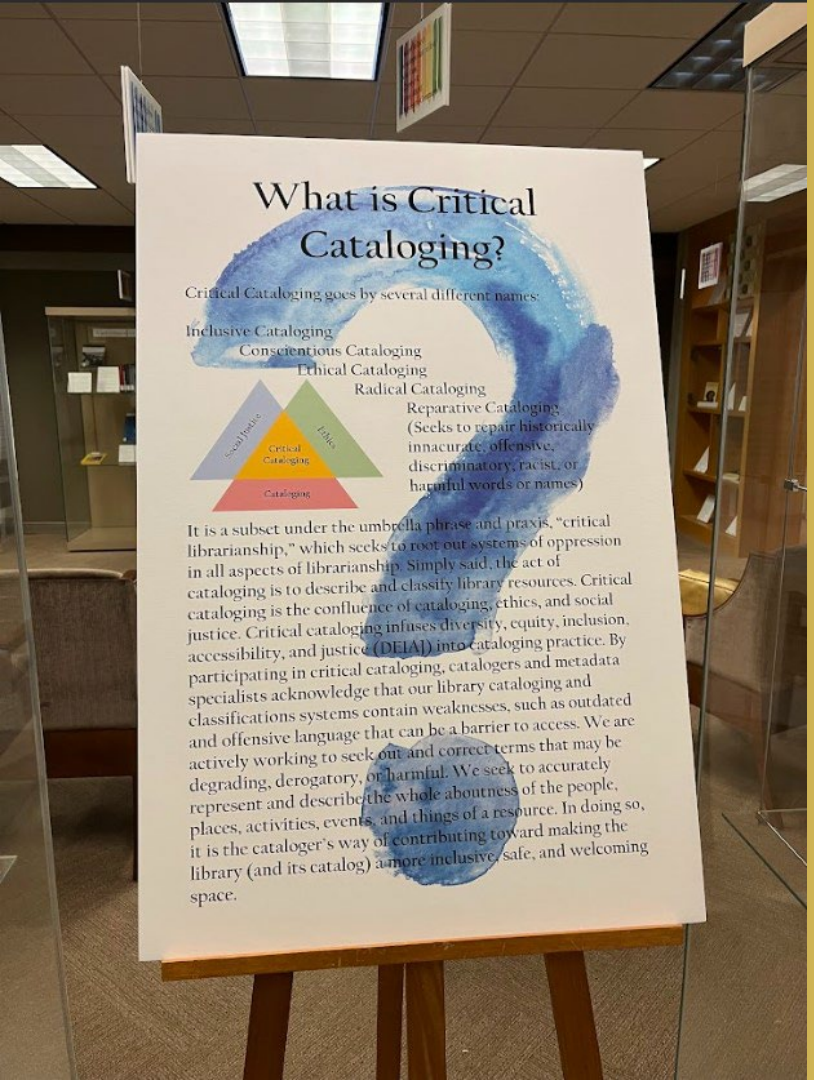
Jay Weitz
on Cataloger's Judgment

When done conscientiously, cataloging has always been more art than science. We catalog real-world resources that may or may not conform to the theories that our rules try to codify. As I wrote in the introduction to my Cataloger's Judgment, "the world of stuff to catalog is so vast, so slippery, so surprising that individual judgment will always enter into our decisions. Catalogers are thoughtful judges concerning matters of description and access."

It is that judgment leavened with imagination that has carried catalogers through these decades of change. That same judgment and imagination will continue to stand them in good stead through the era of Resource Description and Access (RDA), and post-MARC data structure, and whatever future marvels the world sends them to catalog.

Do not agonize!

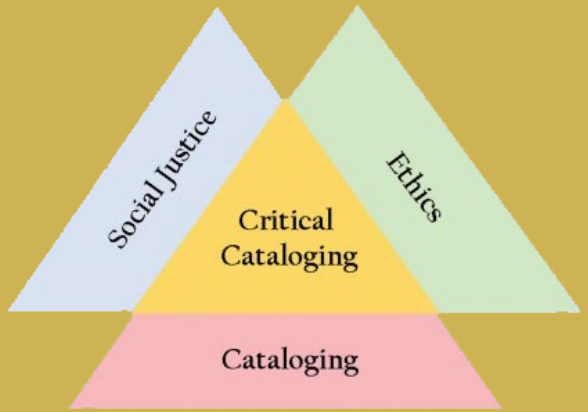
Weitz, Jay. Cataloger's Judgment: Musci Cataloging Questions and Answers from the Music OCLC Users Group Newsletter, Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2014.
Weitz, Jay. "Judgment and Imagination Carrying Cataloging Through times of Change," in Sanchez, Conversations with Catalogers, Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2010.



What is Critical Cataloging?

Critical Cataloging goes by several different names:

Inclusive Cataloging
Conscientious Cataloging
Ethical Cataloging
Radical Cataloging
Reparative Cataloging
(Seeks to repair historically inaccurate, offensive, discriminatory, racist, or harmful words or names)



What is Critical Cataloging?

It is a subset under the umbrella phrase and praxis, "critical librarianship," which seeks to root out systems of oppression in all aspects of librarianship. Simply said, the act of cataloging is to describe and classify library resources. Critical cataloging is the confluence of cataloging, ethics, and social justice. Critical cataloging infuses diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and justice (DEIAJ) into cataloging practice. By participating in critical cataloging, catalogers and metadata specialists acknowledge that our library cataloging, and classifications systems contain weaknesses, such as outdated and offensive language that can be a barrier to access. We are actively working to seek out and correct terms that may be degrading, derogatory, or harmful. We seek to accurately represent and describe the whole aboutness of the people, places, activities, events, and things of a resource. In doing so, it is the cataloger's way of contributing toward making the library (and its catalog) a more inclusive, safe, and welcoming space.

The Power to Name

"... naming matters; the words used to describe people and events affect perceptions and, in turn, those perceptions have concrete implications for social justice."

-University of Oklahoma Libraries LCSH Change Proposal Task Force

The Power to Name

The Power to Name

This three-dimensional object appeared on Julie Moore's cataloging desk waiting to be cataloged with no documentation or notes, a common scenario for three-dimensional objects. In order to provide a title, it is the cataloger's job to name it. What is this? (This requires some research.)

The Power to Name

We can see that it is a hat.

- But what kind of a hat?
- Who might wear it?
- On what occasions would one wear it?

After researching, the cataloger found that it is a hat of many names.

First of all, I tend to see what local people would call this hat (in English). At least in Fresno, “coolie hat” seemed to be the #1 answer. Having never heard of that word, I researched it … only to find that this is a racist/offensive/pejorative word. (Note to self: Need to find a better term!)

The Power to Name

Research

Miriam Webster definition of *coolie:*
usually offensive (Note to self: Need to find a better term!)
an unskilled laborer or porter usually in or from the Far East hired for low or subsistence wages.

First known use of *coolie:* 1622

The word coolie is thought to come from Urdu, a language spoken in India. The original word was "*kuli*" and dates back to the mid-16th century, meaning a laborer or person for hire.

The Power to Name

Research

This is style of hat is associated with East, South, and Southeast Asia, especially worn by people from areas such as Vietnam, China, Japan, Korea, Cambodia, Philippines, India, Bangladesh, and Indonesia. (Of course, each language has their own words for this hat.) The style is very good at protecting the wearer from sun and rain.

The Power to Name

Research

The derogatory term “coolie” refers to a low-wage laborer (in California usually associated with a worker of Chinese descent in the nineteenth century.) The word has etymological roots in the Hindustani word for slave, *qulī.*

Thousands of workers were recruited from China before the Chinese Exclusion Act was enacted in 1882. This was the very first racially defined immigrant and naturalization policy that codified Anti-Asian racism into law which had an impact for generations, until the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 opened the doors to immigration from places other than Western Europe and Northern Europe.

The hat itself is very practical and is still used today. It protects against both sun and rain and in very hot weather, can be dipped in water for an evaporative cooling effect.

The Power to Name

Title Naming Possibilities from Research

Asian rice hat	East Asian conical hat
Asian straw hat	Farmer's hat
Bamboo hat	Leaf hat
Chinaman's hat	Oriental hat
Chinese bamboo coolie hat	Paddy hat
Chinese hat	Pointed hat
Conical hat	Rice paddy hat
Coolie hat	Sedge hat

The Power to Name

Discussion on Wikipedia (talk page) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk:Asian_conical_hat (last edited August 2, 2022):

- Asian straw hat - not all are straw
- Conical Asian hat - not a bad choice
- Conical hat - maybe the best choice with a note to pointed hat
- Conical straw hat - not all are straw
- Coolie hat - would be considered pejorative (although "coolie hat" is the widely known term for this style of hat in the West.)
- Rice paddy hat - could be considered racist and too specific

The Power to Name

Decision for title: 245 00 Asian conical hat.

The Power to Name

Surprise! See the LCSH Authority Record

Authority Record Number 11962062

040 DLC ǂb eng ǂc DLC
150 Asian conical hats **(This is the authorized subject heading)**
450 Asian rice hats
450 Conical hats, Asian
450 Farmer's hats (Asian conical hats)
450 Non la (Asian conical hats)
450 Rice farmers' hats (Asian conical hats)
450 Rice hats (Asian conical hats)
450 Sedge hats (Asian conical hats)
550 ǂw g ǂa Hats
670 Work cat.: 2016335222: Đời nón-đời người = Life of conical hats-life of wearers.

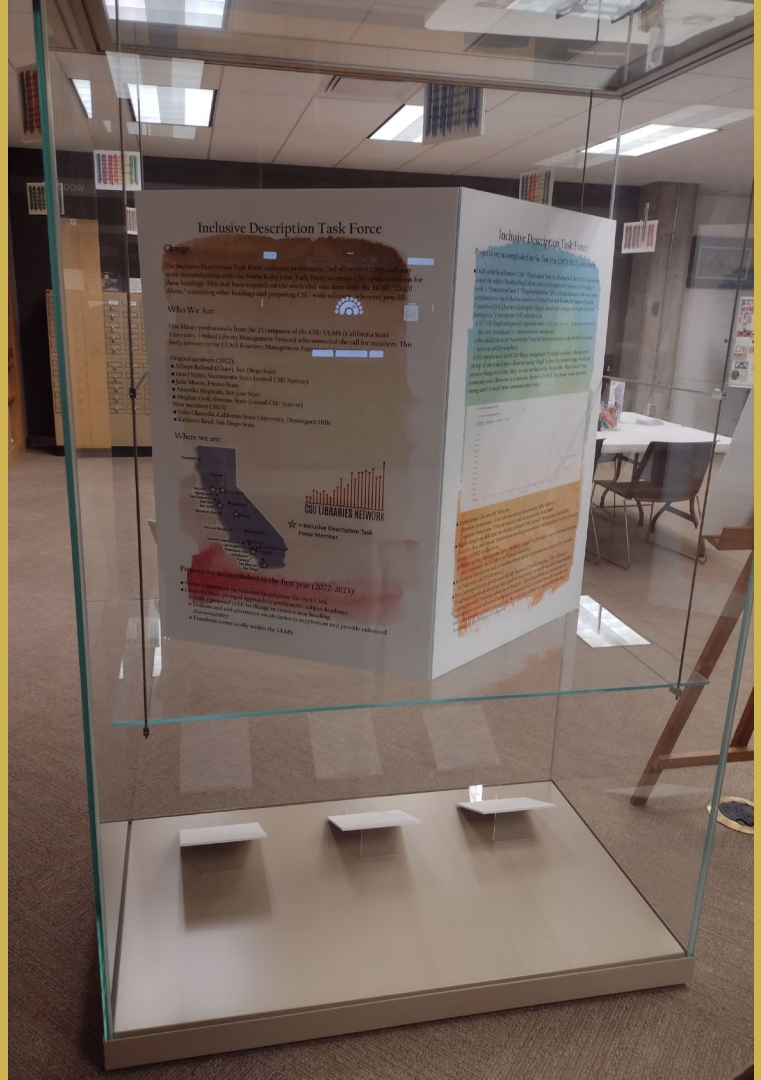
ULMS Inclusive Description Task Force

Charge:

The Inclusive Description Task Force evaluates problematic and offensive LCSH, and maw work in coordination with the Norm Rules Joint Task Force to create CSU-wide solutions for these headings. This task force expands on the work that was done with the LCSH "Illegal Aliens," examining other headings and proposing CSU-wide solutions wherever possible.

Who We Are:

Five library professionals from the 23 campuses of the CSU ULMS (California State University, Unified Library Management System) who answered the call for members. This body answers to the ULMS Resource Management Functional Committee.



ULMS Inclusive Description Task Force

Original members (2022):

- Allison Bailund (Chair), San Diego State
- Israel Yáñez, Sacramento State (exited CSU System)
- Julie Moore, Fresno State
- Anamika Megwalu, Sanjose State
- Meghan Croll, Sonoma State (exited CSU System)

New members (2023):

- Yoko Okunishi, California State University, Dominguez Hills
- Kathleen Boyd, San Diego State

Where we are:

CSU LIBRARIES NETWORK

☆ = Inclusive Description Task Force Member

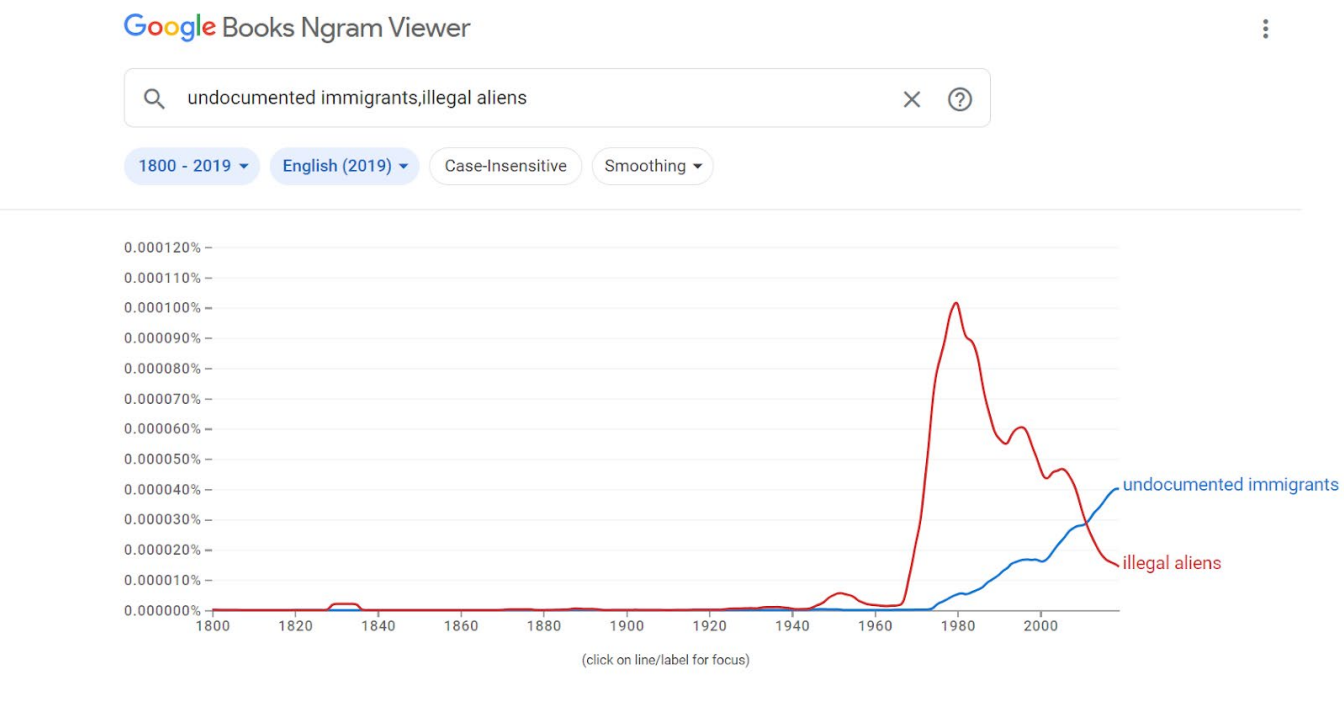
ULMS Inclusive Description Task Force

Projects we accomplished in the first year (2022-2023):

- Wrote a Statement on Inclusive Description for the ULMS.
- Created a three-pronged approach to problematic subject headings:
    - Draft a proposal to LC to change or create a new heading;
    - Evaluate and add alternative vocabularies to supplement and provide enhanced discoverability;
    - Transform terms locally within the ULMS.
- Dealt with the offensive LCSH: "Illegal aliens" and the aftermath of the 2021 LC decision to cancel the subject heading Illegal aliens, and LC catalogers were instructed to replace it with: 1. "Noncitizens" and 2. "Illegal immigration." (For critical catalogers, this was a poor conclusion to a battle that has lasted over 9 years! For over 9 years, the Subject Analysis Committee (SAC) has been fighting for "Illegal aliens" to be changed to "Undocumented immigrants.") Our current IDTF solution is to:
    - If LCSH "illegal immigration" is present with LCSH "noncitizens," then we transformed the term "noncitizens" to "undocumented immigrants."
    - We added the term "Noncitizens" from the Sears vocabulary to the WorldCat records (so it can still be searched.)
    - We transformed the LCSH "Illegal immigration" to display as simply "Immigration."

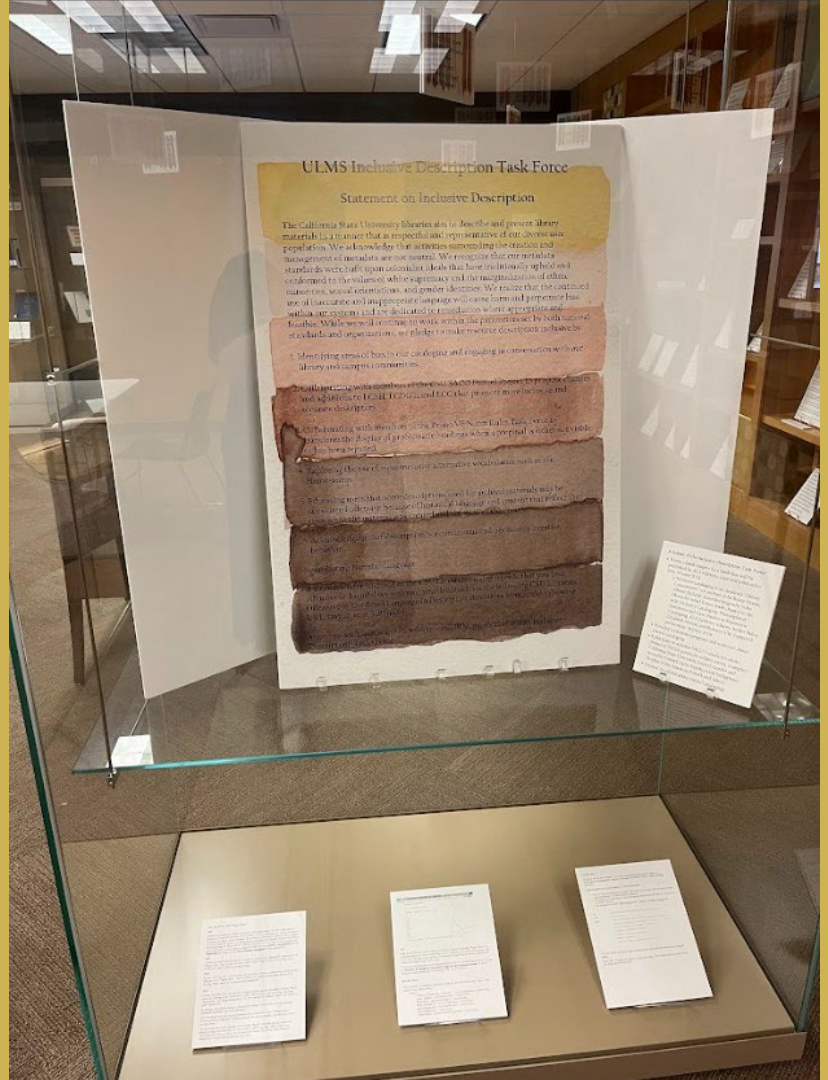
ULMS Inclusive Description Task Force

On top of the ethical piece about not using "illegal" to describe human beings, words and phrases change over time. Here, we can see that in the 70s and 80s, "Illegal aliens" was commonly used. However, it is now in a downward trend. The phrase "undocumented immigrants" is much more commonly used today.



ULMS Inclusive Description Task Force

- Transformed the new LCSH term
  Japanese Americans - Forced removal and internment, 1942---1945 to
  Japanese Americans - Forced removal and incarceration, 1942---1945
- Began using two different vocabularies from LCSH, namely: Homosaurus and GSSO (Gender, Sex, and Sexual Orientation ontology) to enhance bibliographic records especially for our LGBTQ+ collections.
  - Began adding Homosaurus term "LGBTQ+ people" to WorldCat records in our database that contained the LCSH term "Sexual minorities."
- Reparative description and reclassification projects for problematic cutters, for example:
  .N (Negroes) and .O (Orientals.)
- New initiative for the problematic LCSH "Indians of North America." The Library of Congress is currently investigating a path forward with counsel from tribal communities, keeping in mind, "Nothing about us without us." This brings forth an opportunity for catalogers to work with local indigenous communities to find out how the members of these communities prefer to be named. We will then submit the appropriate heading proposals to the Library of Congress.



ULMS Inclusive Description Task Force

Statement on Inclusive Description

The California State University libraries aim to describe and present library materials in a manner that is respectful and representative of our diverse user population. We acknowledge that activities surrounding the creation and management of metadata are not neutral. We recognize that our metadata standards were built upon colonialist ideals that have traditionally upheld and conformed to the values of white supremacy and the marginalization of ethnic minorities, sexual orientations, and gender identities. We realize that the continued use of inaccurate and inappropriate language will cause harm and perpetuate bias within our systems and are dedicated to remediation where appropriate and feasible. While we will continue to work within the parameters set by both national standards and organizations, we pledge to make resource description inclusive by:

ULMS Inclusive Description Task Force

1. Identifying areas of bias in our cataloging and engaging in conversation with our library and campus communities;
2. Collaborating with members of the CSU SACO Funnel Project to propose changes and additions to LCSH, LCDGT, LCGFT, and LCC that promote more inclusive and accurate descriptors;
3. Collaborating with members of the Primo VE Norm Rules Task Force to transform the display of problematic headings when a proposal is either not viable or has been rejected;
4. Exploring the use of more inclusive alternative vocabularies such as the Homosaurus;
5. Educating users that some descriptions used for archival materials may be considered offensive because of historical language and content that reflect the time when the material was created and the view of the creator;
6. Acknowledging that description is a continuous and necessarily iterative endeavor.

Remediating Harmful Language

If you encounter language in the CSU Libraries catalog records that you find offensive or harmful we welcome your feedback via the following CSU Libraries Offensive or Outdated Language in Descriptive Resources form at the following URL:

https://calstate.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/URM/pages/2557181953/Inclusive+Description+Task+Force

The Case of the LCSH "Illegal Aliens"

2014

Students at Dartmouth College noticed the LCSH "Illegal aliens." In 2014, a small group of students at Dartmouth protested the use of this LCSH and petitioned the Library of Congress to change the subject. In the meantime, the cataloger at Dartmouth contacted other catalogers to try to change the subject. A working group was formed, SAC (Subject Analysis Committee) Working Group on "Illegal Aliens" to find an alternative term. A report of their findings came out in July 2016, recommending to change the subject heading ***Aliens*** to ***Noncitizens*** and that ***Illegal aliens*** be replaced with ***Undocumented immigrants*** where appropriate.

2016

In 2016, the House of Representatives overturned the decision, requiring the continued use of "Illegal aliens." This was the first time in history that Congress had ever interfered with a Library of Congress Subject Heading Change.

2020

In early 2020, the CSU ULMS became one of the first consortia to implement a solution to the offensive LCSH "Illegal aliens." They transformed (or "masked") the public display of the heading "Illegal aliens" to "Undocumented immigrants."

The Case of the LCSH “Illegal Aliens”

2021

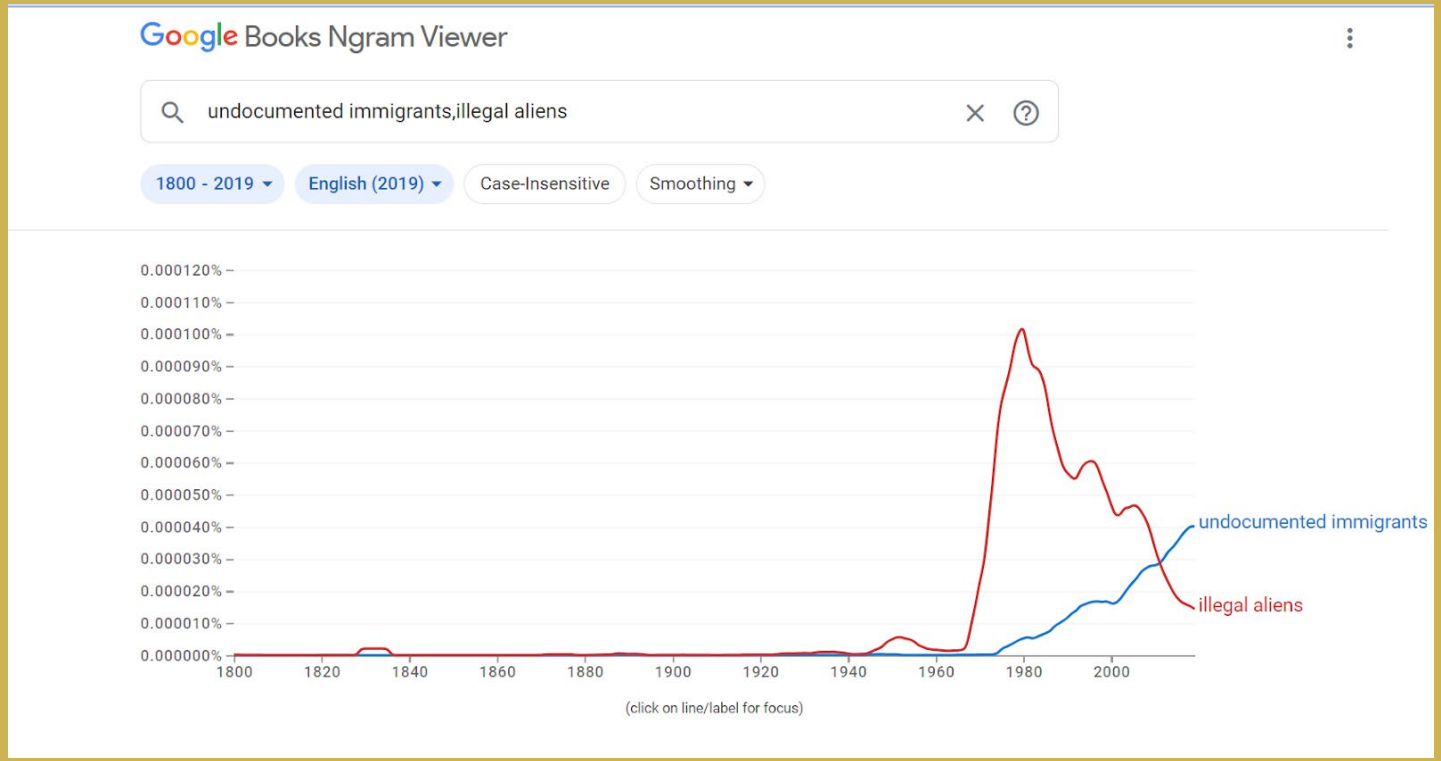
Then in November 2021, the Library of Congress finally canceled the subject heading “Illegal aliens. LC catalogers were instructed to replace “Illegal aliens” with two subject headings: “Noncitizens” and “Illegal immigration.” LC also canceled the heading “Aliens” and replaced it with “Noncitizens.”

At the time, many library leaders celebrated the change. However, the critical cataloging community members were less enthusiastic.

SAC Working Group had already provided a better alternative term to “Illegal aliens,” “Undocumented immigrants” which is currently the more commonly used and more widely accepted term.

On top of the ethical piece (being averse to using “illegal” to describe people), words and phrases change over time. Here, we can see that in the 70s and 89s, “Illegal aliens” was commonly used. However, it is now in a downward trend. The phrase “undocumented immigrants” is much more commonly used today.

The Case of the LCSH “Illegal Aliens”



The Case of the LCSH "Illegal Aliens"

2022

Right around the time that the Library of Congress canceled the heading "Illegal aliens," our consortium put out a call for membership in a new task force, the Inclusive Description Task Force. Part of the role of this task force is to research and put forward our best solutions for inclusive description issues such as this.

This is how one particular record displayed publicly after LC canceled "Illegal aliens." The title is: ***Dreamers: An Immigrant Generation's Fight for their American Dream***. It is about Dreamers, young people who were brought to the U.S. as children.

BEFORE 2020…

Title: Dreamers : an immigrant generation's fight for their American dream / Eileen Truax. Author: Truax, Eileen, author.

Subjects:

- Children of illegal aliens – Education – Law and legislation – United States.
- Aliens' children – Government policy – United States.
- Illegal aliens – Education (Higher) – United States.
- Illegal immigration – Law and legislation – United States.
- Illegal immigration – Government policy – United States.
- Illegal immigration – United States.
- United States – Emigration and immigration – Social aspects.

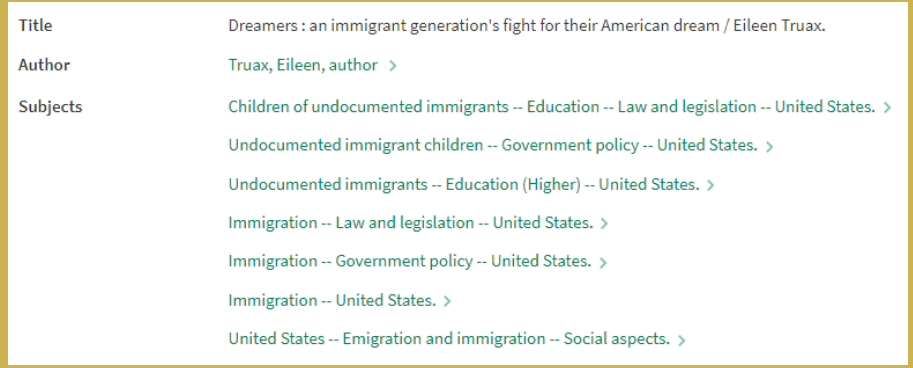
The Case of the LCSH “Illegal Aliens”

AFTER 2022 …

Of course, we are still waiting for LC to do the right thing and change the subject to “Undocumented immigrants” …but that will require yet another round of subject heading proposals.

In the meantime, our current solution is to do the following:

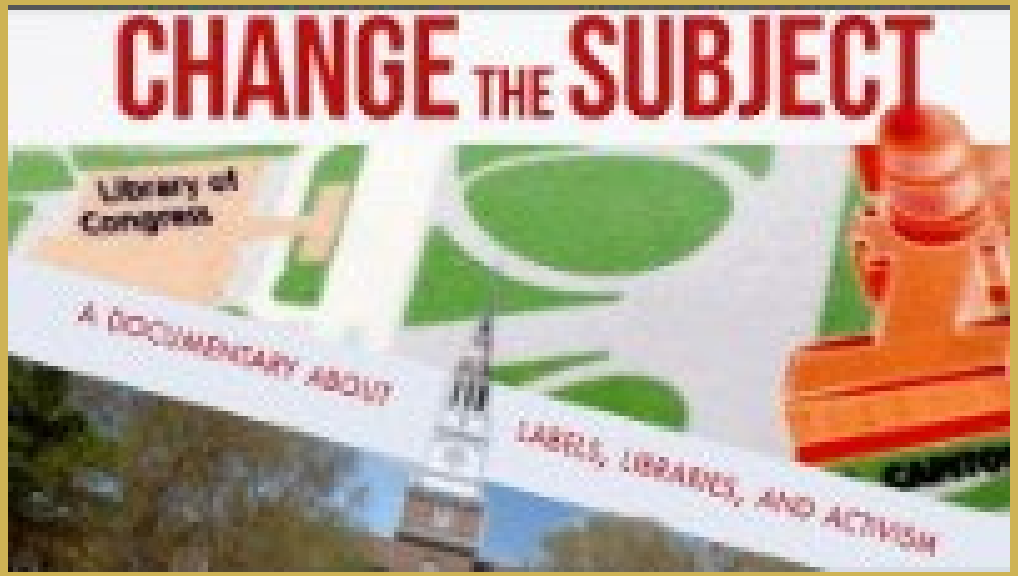
1. If LCSH "illegal immigration" is present with LCSH "noncitizens," then we transform the term "noncitizens" to "undocumented immigrants.“
2. We add the term “Noncitizens” from the Sears vocabulary to the WorldCat records (so it can still be searched).
3. We transform the LCSH “Illegal immigration” to display as simply “Immigration.”



Title	Dreamers : an immigrant generation's fight for their American dream / Eileen Truax.
Author	Truax, Eileen, author ›
Subjects	Children of undocumented immigrants -- Education -- Law and legislation -- United States. ›
	Undocumented immigrant children -- Government policy -- United States. ›
	Undocumented immigrants -- Education (Higher) -- United States. ›
	Immigration -- Law and legislation -- United States. ›
	Immigration -- Government policy -- United States. ›
	Immigration -- United States. ›
	United States -- Emigration and immigration -- Social aspects. ›

The Case of the LCSH “Illegal Aliens”

For more on this particular subject heading, please check out the documentary, *Change the Subject*.

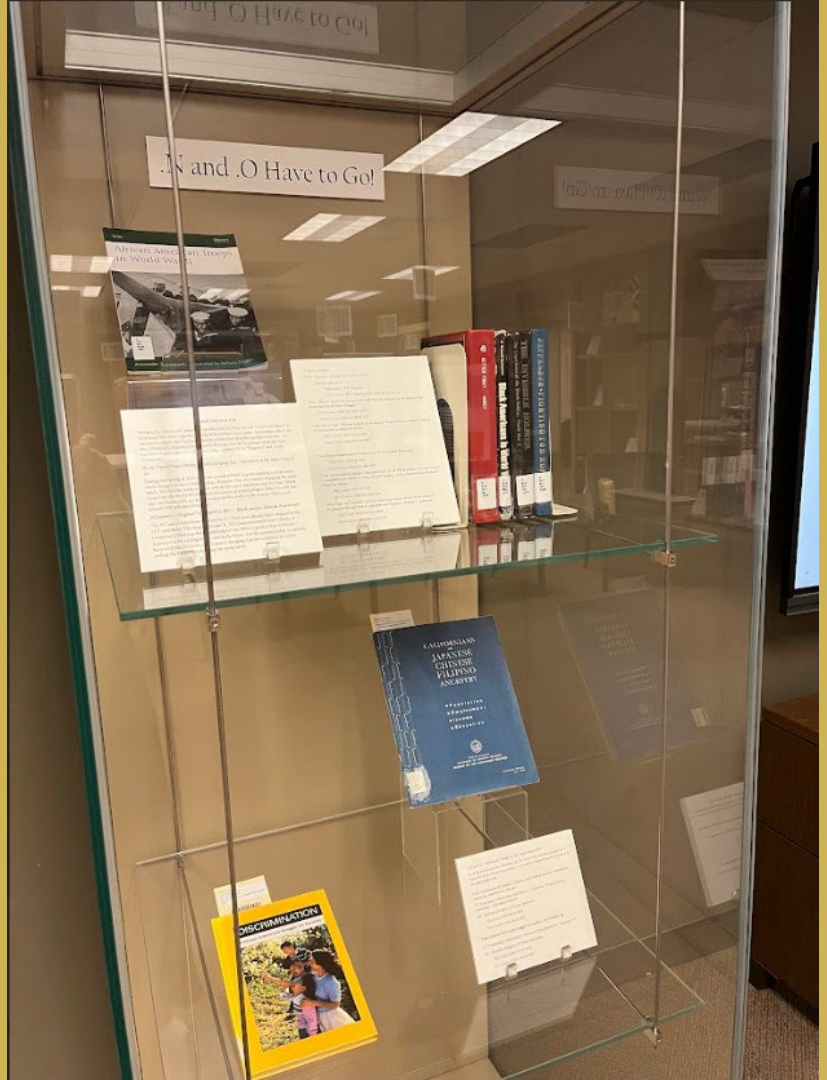


Baron, Jill E. "Change the subject." Change the Subject, 2019. Digital by Dartmouth Library, n2t.net/ark:/83024/d4hq3s42r.

A Subset of the ULMS Inclusive Description Task Force

- Wrote a book chapter for a book that will be published by ALA Editions, expected publication date: Winter 2024.
    - “Inclusive cataloging in an Academic Library Consortium” / co-authors: Julie Renee Moore; Allison Bailund; Anamika Megwalu; Yoko Okunishi; Israel Yáñez; book chapter in the title: Inclusive Cataloging: Philosophical Questions and Case Studies in Reparative Cataloging, ALA Editions, editors, Amber Billey, Elizabeth Nelson, and Rebecca Uhl. Expected publication: Winter 2024.

- Provided conference programs and webinars about critical cataloging.
- Participate in national SACO Funnels (to create proper LCSH for particular subject areas); examples: California State University Funnel; Gender and Sexuality Funnel; Latin American and Indigenous Peoples of the Americas Funnel, and others.
- Created an exhibit about critical cataloging!



.N and .O Have to Go!

.N and .O Have to Go!

Within the Library of Congress Classification System, we use “Cutter numbers” to help keep like titles together, arranged by author’s last name. Sometimes, there are situations where the Cutters stand for words that describe groups of people. In the Library of Congress Classification System, two of the groups of people have had historical Cutters for offensive terms, namely .N for “Negroes” and .O for “Orientals.”

At the Fresno State Library, we are changing that … because it is the right thing to do.

During the Spring of 2021, we were awarded PRSCA grant funding to help make these changes in our ULMS catalog. Of course, this also means changing the spine labels. We did the work on these only in Special Collections and the Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children’s Literature as a pilot project. Since we still had time and money left, we began to also do this work in the Stacks. There were around 1300 volumes altogether.

.N and .O Have to Go!

.N Cutters = "Negroes" Changed to .B53 = "Black people, African Americans"

The .N Cutters have been codified by LC. They have already been changed in the LCC schedules. This happened June 21, 2021 (announcement from Library of Congress). (That was before applying for our PRSCA grant.) That works for resources to be cataloged now and in the future. For the resources that we already have with the .N Cutter, this requires changing it in the computer as well as pulling the books and changing the spine labels.

In these examples:

D 810 = History – World War II (1939-1945)

Special topics A-Z

Old Cutter: .N4 = Negroes

New Cutter: .B53 = Black people, African Americans

Title: African American troops in World War II / Alexander M. Bielakowski ; illustrated by Raffaele Ruggeri.

Old Cutter: D810.N4 B384 2007

New Cutter: D810.B53 B384 2007

.N and .O Have to Go!

Title: Bitter fruit : African American women in World War II / edited with an introduction by Maureen Honey.

Old Cutter: D810.N4 B4 1999

New Cutter: D810.B53 B4 1999

Title: Black Americans in World War II / A. Russell Buchanan. Old Cutter: D810.N4 B82

New Cutter: D810.B53 B82 1977

Title: The invisible soldier : the experience of the Black soldier, World War II / compiled and edited by Mary Penick Motley ; with a foreword by Howard Donovan Queen.

Old Cutter: D810.N4 I58

New Cutter: D810.B53 I58 1975

Title: Fighting for hope : African American troops of the 93rd Infantry Division in World War II and postwar America / Robert F. Jefferson.

Old Cutter: D810.N4 J44 2008

New Cutter: D810.B53 J44 2008

.N and .O Have to Go!

.O Cutters = "Orientals" change to .A8 "Asian Americans"

As of the creation of this exhibition, the .O Cutters have not been changed by LC. However, at the Fresno State Library, we decided to begin doing this because it is the right thing to do.

Title: Californians of Japanese, Chinese, and Filipino ancestry : population, education, employment, income

LCCS meaning: United States local history – California – Elements in the population – Individual elements

.O6 = Orientals change to .A8 Asian Americans

Old Cutter: F870.O6 A5 1965

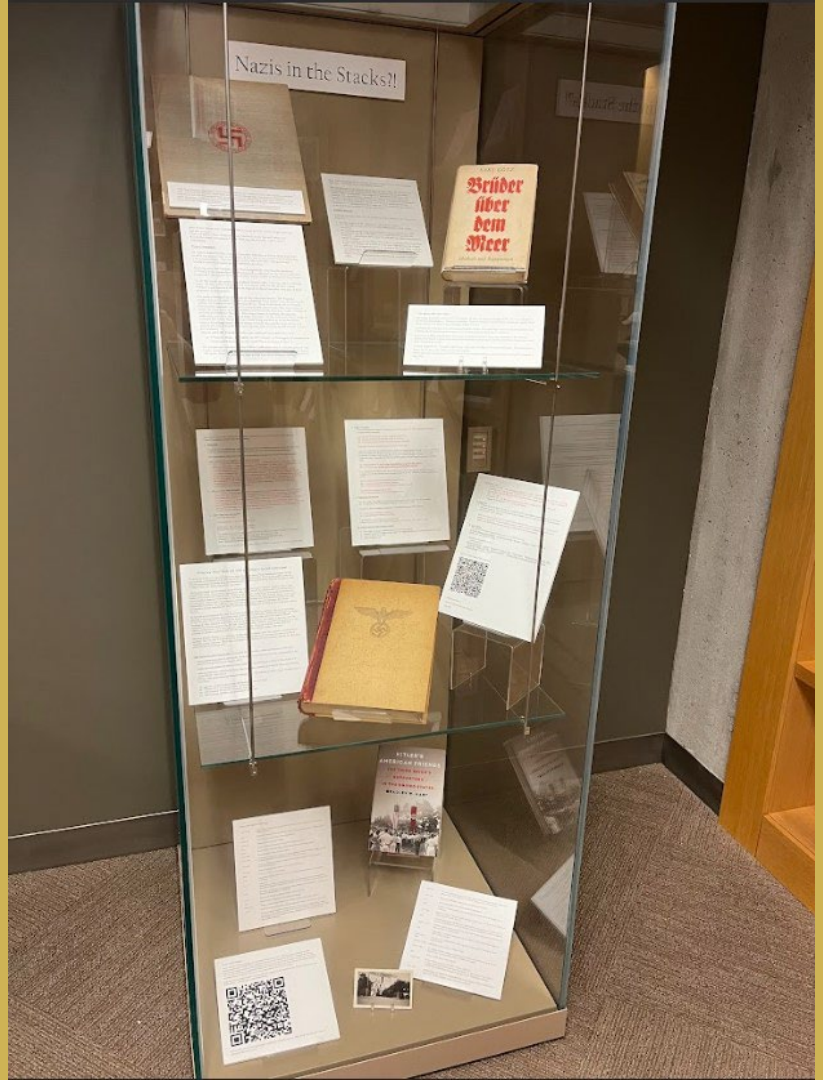
New Cutter: F870.A8 A5 1965

Title: Chinese Americans struggle for equality / by Franklin Ng. LCCS meaning: United States – Elements in the population – Elements, A-Z .O6 = Orientals change to .A8 Asian Americans

Old Cutter: E184.O6 N42 1992

New Cutter: E184.A8 N42 1992

Nazis in the Stacks?!



Nazis in the Stacks?!

Henry Miller Madden: Henry Madden's Nazi sympathies were brought to light in the fall of 2021 by a group of history students reading Bradley Hart's book Hitler's American Friends in a class taught by Jill Fields. Although the Special Collections Research Center had had Madden's personal papers for decades, it had been officially closed until 2007 and his interest in and support for Nazism was largely undiscovered until 2021 when President Jiménez-Sandoval created a campus task force to do a comprehensive review of the matter. After months of extensive review, the task force recommended that Madden's name be removed from the name of the Library. The full report can be found online:

Anyone interested in viewing Madden's papers are welcome to do so. They are all available in the Special Collections Research Center.

Nazis in the Stacks?!

What is a “Nazi” book and what is it doing in Special Collections?

We found this book (Bayern im ersten Vierjahresplan, Denkschrift der Bayerischen Landesregierung zum 9. März 1937) in our Special Collections about a four-year plan to “make Bavaria great again.” Bavaria used to be its own kingdom but became part of the German empire in 1871. The book was published by the NSDAP (Nationalsozialistische deutsche Arbeiterpartei), which translates to the "National Socialist German Workers' Party," the official name of the Nazi party.

This book was likely just one of many acquired for the Library by former University Librarian, Henry Miller Madden (1912-1982), a known Nazi sympathizer. After World War II, Dr. Madden often took buying trips to Europe (only Europe) and shipped back container loads of books for the library that would later become the Henry Madden Library at Fresno State. It was likely sent to Fresno in the 1950s although there is no record of its acquisition, which is odd considering how meticulous Dr. Madden was about most everything, especially keeping library records. According to a long-time retired employee in Special Collections, these books purchased in Europe, including the “Nazi” books were kept separate but not cataloged for a long time, another mystery.

Nazis in the Stacks?!

By the time we encountered this book, it had been cataloged but there was nothing in the record that shows that this is Nazi propaganda, approved by Nazi censors as evidenced by the stamp on the title page. As a matter of fact, the word “Nazi” was nowhere in the record at all. According to the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH), Nazism is a 450 field (a *see from* tracing), which means that Nazism is <u>not</u> to be used. The authorized LCSH to be used is in the 150 field, "National socialism." However, even that was not present in the original catalog record. There were only three subject headings: Germany–Economic policy–1933-1945, Germany–Economic conditions–1918-1945 and Germany–Politics and government–1933-1945.

This book has been hiding in our collection “in plain sight” for decades under these general, innocuous, bland headings. There are only 32 holdings for this record worldwide, but no one has taken the time to catalog it comprehensively, until now. ***This*** is why cataloging is never neutral and why cataloging matters! An omission is a decision that has consequences.

Once again, this situation provides the critical cataloger plenty of food for thought.

Nazis in the Stacks?!

Title: Bayern im ersten Vierjahresplan, Denkschrift der Bayerischen Landesregierung zum 9. März 1937.

[Approximate translation of title by Julie Moore: Bavaria in the first four-year plan, memorandum by the Bavarian state government on March 9, 1937.]

Publication information: Bavaria (Germany) (München, Zentralverlag der NSDAP, F Eher Nachf, 1937.

Note on publication: Published by "Franz Eher Nachfolger, *Zentralverlag der NSDAP*" (the central publisher of the NSDAP = Nazi Party.)
NSDAP = Nationalsozialistische deutsche Arbeiterpartei = the National Socialist German Workers' Party = Nazi Party.

The ***only*** three LCSHs in the existing bibliographic record were these:
651 #0$aGermany $xEconomic policy $y1933-1945.
651 #0$aGermany $xEconomic conditions $y1918-1945.
651 #0$aGermany $xPolitics and government $y1933-1945.

After much research (and reaching out to a number of cataloging experts), I decided to add the following Critical Cataloging to provide better discoverability.

Nazis in the Stacks?!

I. Aboutness:

This book is a Nazi publication, showing how much better everything has become from the time the Nazis took over in 1933 until 1937 (from their point of view). (How the Nazis made Bavaria great again.)

I decided to add the following to bring this out, keeping in mind that the notes are keyword searchable:

1. **Add contents note as it appears on the item in German.**

505 0_ 1. Politische und Staatsrechtliche Entwicklung -- 2. Aufbau der Landesverwaltung -- 3. Die Polizei im neuen Staat -- 4. Die Nationalsocialistiche Gemeinde -- 5. Landes und Gemeindesteuern -- 6. Vier Jahre Bayerischer Landeshauhalt -- 7. Volk und Gesundheit -- 8. Deutsche Jugend nationalsozialistich erzogen -- 9. Turnen und Sport -- 10. Neuaufbau der Lehrerbildung -- 11. Die Gewerbliche Wirtschaft Bayerns vor und nach dem Umbruch -- 12. Gestaltung des Fremdenverkehts -- 13. Der neue Staat baut -- 14. Die Kunst im nationalsozialistischen Staat -- 15. Das Land im Kampf gegen die Arbeitslosigkeit -- 16. Bayern betreut Grenzmarken -- 17. Bauernstand - Nährstand -- 18. Wohnungs und Siedlungsbau -- 19. Die ländliche Diedlung in Bayern -- 20. Vier Jahre nationalsozialistiche Forstwirtschaft -- 21. Landeskultur -- 22. Das Land als Unternehmer -- 23. Das Land als Hüter geschichtlicher Bau und Kulturdenkmaeler.

Nazis in the Stacks?!

2. **Add a summary note in English.**

520 __ This is a Nazi propaganda publication showing the progress made in Bavaria during the period from 1933 to 1937. Published by the central publisher of the Nazi Party. Included are photographs of Nazi leaders, photographs of crowds doing the Nazi salute, and photographs of buildings with swastikas. Included are the following topics: Politics, Structure of the State Administration, The Police, State buildings, Healthcare, German Youth Being Brought Up as National Socialists, Sports, The Reorganization of Teacher Education, The Commercial Economy of Bavaria, Architecture and Art in the National Socialist State, Unemployment, Borders, Housing and Construction, Forest Management, Entrepreneurship, Historical Buildings and Cultural Monuments.

3. **Addressing Nazi propaganda**

Added the following:

LCSH genre: 655 _7 Nazi propaganda. $2 lcsh

RBMS genre: 655 _7 Nazi works. $2 rbmscv
RBMS genre: 655 _7 Propaganda. $2 rbmscv

The RBMS (Rare Books & Manuscript Section of ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries)) vocabularies has the following words that I decided to use: “Propaganda" https://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/rbmscv/cv01786.html and "Nazi works" https://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/rbmscv/cv02101.html

We have not yet opened up our ULMS catalog for RBMS vocabularies, we should recommend this.

Nazis in the Stacks?!

4. Subject Headings

The book is about the impact of Nazism on Bavaria, so I brought that out by adding these Library of Congress Subject Headings:

651 _0 Bavaria (Germany) ǂx Economic conditions $y 1933-1945.
651 _0 Bavaria (Germany) ǂx Economic policy $y 1933-1945.
651 _0 Bavaria (Germany) ǂx Politics and government $y 1933-1945.

Kept 651 _0 Germany $x Politics and government $y 1933-1945.

Note: The word "Nazi" or "Nazism" is not a Library of Congress Subject Heading. The only possibility is Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter-Partei. Since it is unlikely that most of our users would search by this title, I needed a work-around. Since researchers would probably use "Nazi" or "Nazism" in searching for this, I also added the following GSSO (Gender, Sex, and Sexual Orientation Ontology) terms:

651 _7 Nazi Germany. $2 gsso $0 http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/GSSO_001493
650 _7 Nazism. $2 gsso $0 http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/GSSO_002290

It was important to bring out that this is both about the Nazi Party (and the effect of Naziism on Germany, specifically, Bavaria) and is coming from the Nazi Party. Therefore, I added the following LCSHs:

610 20 Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter-Partei.
650 _0 National socialism ǂz Germany $z Bavaria.
650 _0 National socialism $x Social aspects ǂz Germany $z Bavaria.

As well as the corporate body heading:
710_20 Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter-Partei.

Nazis in the Stacks?!

II. Publication Information

The 264 includes the publication information which shows that it comes from the Nazi party:
264 _1 |a München, |b Zentralverlag der NSDAP, F. Eher Nachf., |c 1937.

I decided to add the publisher information as authorized Corporate Body headings:

710 2_ Franz Eher Nachfolger, $e publisher
710 2_ Zentralverlag der NSDAP, $e publisher

I also decided to add a creator characteristic note.
Creator Characteristics Note from LC Demographic Group Terms: 386 __ Nazis $2 lcdgt

III. Other interesting characteristics of note:

1. Nazi Eagle clutching a swastika symbol on front cover (in gold)
2. Official Nazi censor's stamps on title page (Nazi Eagle clutching the swastika symbol in black ink)
3. Censor's stamp: "F.V.I. 268"
4. Text is Fraktur script.

I added these notes:

1. Binding note: 563 Gilt Nazi Eagle clutching a swastika -- front cover.
2. Local Note: 590 |3 SCRC copy: |a Official Nazi censor's stamp depicting the Nazi Eagle clutching the swastika symbol in the center with "Bezicksaml Rottenburg" on the outside of the circle (black ink) – title page.
3. Local Note: 590 |3 SCRC copy: |a Official Nazi censor's stamp: "F.V.I. 268" -- title page.
4. Language Note/Alphabet: 546 German; $b Fraktur.

Nazis in the Stacks?!

IV. Clean Up!

1. Cleaned up the title field. I decided to move Denkschrift … [in English: memorandum by the Bavarian state government on March 9, 1937] from being a subtitle to the $c for the statement of responsibility and remainder of the title page.

Bayern im ersten Vierjahresplan / $c Denkschrift der Bayerischen Landesregierung zum 9. März 1937.

2. Updated the record from being an AACR2 record to an RDA (current cataloging standard) record.
3. Added an 041 field to show that the text is in German, and it is not a translation.

V. Call Number

The original call number assigned to this book was: HC287.B3 A5 1937
Economic history and conditions—By region or country—Europe—Germany—Local—States, A-Z
(In this case, .B3 stands for Bavaria.)

I decided to relocate this book to:

DD253.B38 1937
History of Germany—History—By period—Modern, 1519-—20th century—Revolution and Republic, 1918-—By period—Hitler, 1933-1945. National socialism—The Nazi Party (Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter-Partei)—General works

Nazis in the Stacks?!

You can see the results of this work here:

Nazis in the Stacks?!

Other Examples

Title: Neue Deutsche Baukunst (= New German Architecture), is adorned with a Nazi swastika on the front cover. This book was edited by Albert Speer, as indicated on the title page. Speer was the Minister of Armaments and War Production in Nazi Germany, and he was within Hitler's inner circle. (Speer was found guilty during the Nuremberg Trials.) This book was published by Volk und Reich, a publishing house well known for publishing Nazi propaganda.

Title: Brüder über dem Meer
The author, Karl Götz, served in the Wehrmacht Air Force for two years during WWII. He was a member of the SS-Sturmbannführer. (= Protection Squadron. This was a high level paramilitary organization under Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party in Nazi Germany during WWII.)
"Following the Holocaust and a hypothetical German victory, Götz and other Nazis intended to relocate tens of thousands of Mennonites from overseas to a racially cleansed Third Reich." (Goossen)
Götz wrote in *Brüder über dem Meer*: "The era in which they [the pure 'Aryan race' members of the German Empire] were forced to bleed out in the service of foreign peoples, the era in which Germans forgot about each other, has come to an end."
Goossen, Benjamin W. "'A Small World Power': How the Nazi Regime Viewed Mennonites." *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, vol. 92, no. 2, Apr. 2018, pp. 173+. *Gale Academic OneFile*, link.gale.com/apps/doc/A553003451/AONE?u=csufresno&sid=googleScholar&xid=225cc1f2. Accessed 4 Aug. 2023.

Nazis in the Stacks?!

Henry Miller Madden Chronology

June 17, 1912	Henry Miller Madden born in Oakland, California to Joseph Madden and Martha Ann (Miller) Madden
1917	Joseph Madden dies in the flu epidemic leaving Martha to raise Henry as a single parent.
1925-1929	Attends and graduates from Galileo High School.
1929-1931	Attends San Mateo Junior College
1931	Starts at Stanford University as a junior and majors in History
1933	Graduates from Stanford magna cum laude and elected to Phi Beta Kappa
1933-1934	Begins graduate history work at Stanford
1934-1936	Transfers to Columbia University to continue graduate studies in History. Begins learning Hungarian in addition to his proficiency in French and German.
1936-1937	Studies at the Royal Hungarian University of Budapest as Fellow at the Institute of International Education
1937-1942	Madden employed as an Instructor in History at Stanford
1942	Volunteers for U.S. Naval Reserve
1943	Studies at U.S. Navy School of Military Government & Administration at Columbia University

Nazis in the Stacks?!

Henry Miller Madden Chronology

1944	Earns M.A. Appointed as secretary of American Delegation on the Tripartite Naval Commission to apportion remnants of German navy between the U.S., Great Britain and the Soviet Union
1945	Discharged by Navy as a Lt. Commander with a Bronze star commendation. Enrolls in the School of Librarianship at UC Berkeley.
1947	Receives his Master's in Library Studies from UC Berkeley.
1948	Receives Ph.D. in History from Columbia University
1948-1949	Serves as official of the International Refugee Organization in Linz, Austria
1949	Madden's doctoral dissertation, *Xantus, Hungarian Naturalist in the Pioneer West* published While in Austria, appointed College Librarian of Fresno State College Library after the retirement of Agnes Tobin at the behest of President Arnold Joyal through Dean Mitchell Pirie Briggs upon recommendation of Professor Ralph Haswell Lutz of the History department at Stanford.

Nazis in the Stacks?!

Henry Miller Madden Chronology

1949-1979	Serves as University Librarian of Fresno State Library. Increases collection from 67,000 volumes with 20+% duplicates to 600,000+ volumes with 2.5% duplicates
1953-1954	Selected as Fulbright lecturer in the Austrian National Library
1957	Serves as president of the California Library Association
1958	Madden's *German Travelers in California* bibliography published by Roxburghe Club of California
1963-1965	Serves as editor of California Librarian journal which wins H.W. Wilson award for best library journal in North America
1978	Receives travel grant from Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst to do research on definitive bibliography of works by and about German speaking travellers to California
August 31, 1979	Madden retires as University Librarian. Given title of University Librarian Emeritus and Adjunct Professor of Bibliography
1979	Campaign by Madden's friends and associates begins to name Fresno State Library in honor of Henry Madden
September 24, 1980	Trustees of The California State University and Colleges approves naming of Henry Madden Library

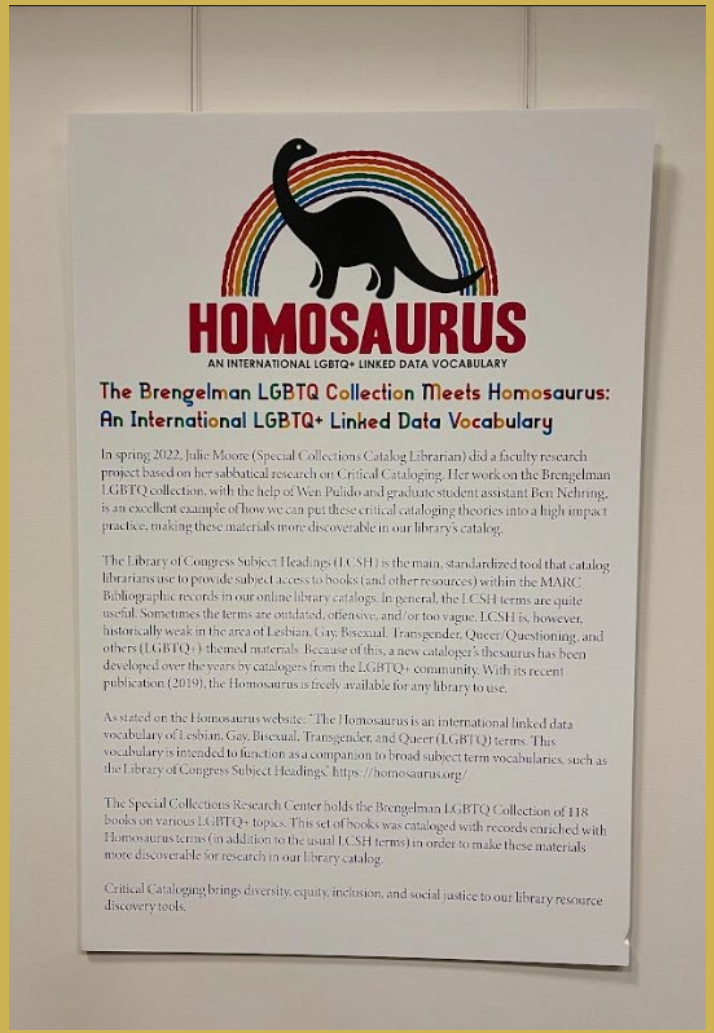
Nazis in the Stacks?!

Henry Miller Madden Chronology

October 11, 1980	Official dedication of Henry Madden Library
January 1982	Dr. Madden decides to donate his personal papers to Special Collections at the Fresno State Library. Written confirmation is available in his papers.
1982	Henry Madden dies of a heart attack.
August 2007	Per his will, his papers are closed for 25 years, until 2007 Madden's personal papers become open for research. No photocopies or any kind of reproduction is allowed according to the gift agreement. Notetaking is allowed.
2014-2016	Madden Papers are organized and described following national archival standards at the folder level. Finding aid/guide to the collection is produced.

The Brengelman LGBTQ Collection Meets Homosaurus: An International LGBTQ+ Linked Data Vocabulary

In spring 2022, Julie Moore did a faculty research project based on her sabbatical research on Critical Cataloging. Her work on the Brengelman LGBTQ collection, with the help of Wen Pulido and graduate student assistant Ben Nehring, is an excellent example of how we can put these critical cataloging theories into a high impact practice, making these materials more discoverable in our library's catalog.



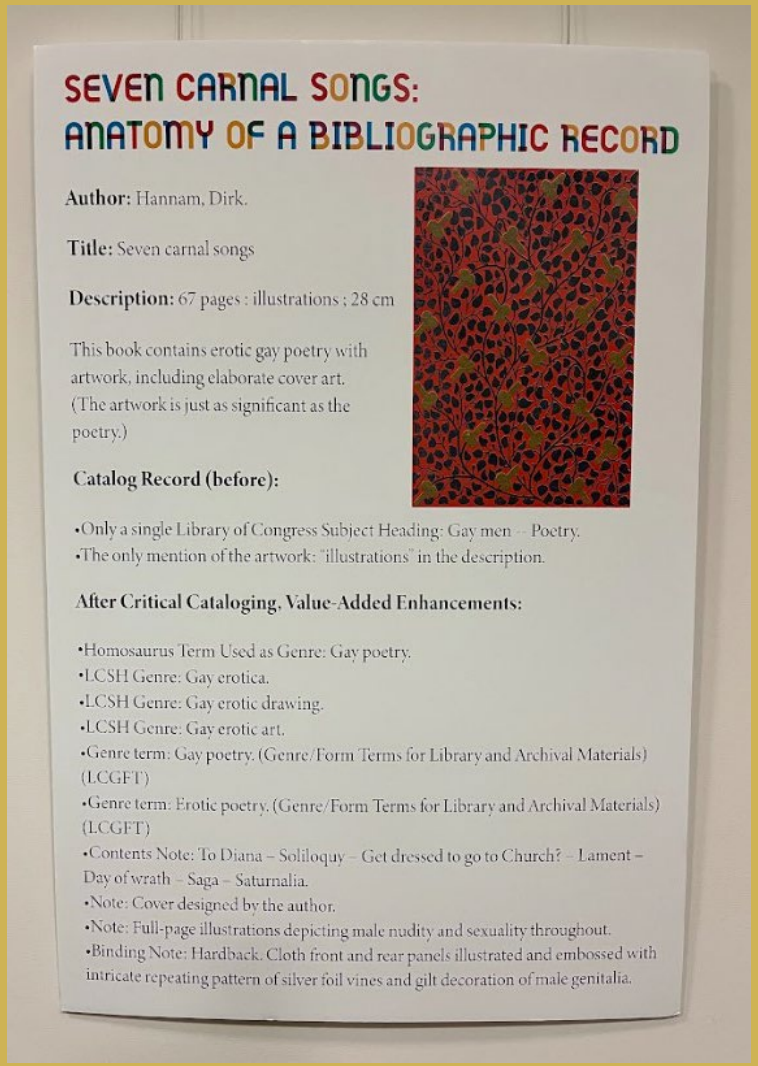
The Brengelman LGBTQ Collection Meets Homosaurus: An International LGBTQ+ Linked Data Vocabulary

The Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) is the main, standardized tool that catalog librarians use to provide subject access to books (and other resources) within the MARC Bibliographic records in our online library catalogs. In general, the LCSH terms are quite useful. Sometimes the terms are outdated, offensive, and/or too vague. LCSH is, however, historically weak in the area of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, and others (LGBTQ+)-themed materials. Because of this, a new cataloger's thesaurus has been developed over the years by catalogers from the LGBTQ+ community. With its recent publication (2019), the Homosaurus is freely available for any library to use.

As stated on the Homosaurus website: "The Homosaurus is an international linked data vocabulary of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) terms. This vocabulary is intended to function as a companion to broad subject term vocabularies, such as the Library of Congress Subject Headings." https://homosaurus.org/

The Special Collections Research Center holds the Brengelman LGBTQ Collection of 118 books on various LGBTQ+ topics. This set of books was cataloged with records enriched with Homosaurus terms (in addition to the usual LCSH terms) in order to make these materials more discoverable for research in our library catalog.

Critical Cataloging brings diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice to our library resource discovery tools.



SEVEN CARNAL SONGS: ANATOMY OF A BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

Author: Hannam, Dirk

Title: Seven carnal songs

Description: 67 pages : illustrations ; 28 cm

This book contains erotic gay poetry with artwork, including elaborate cover art. (The artwork is just as significant as the poetry.)

Catalog Record (before):

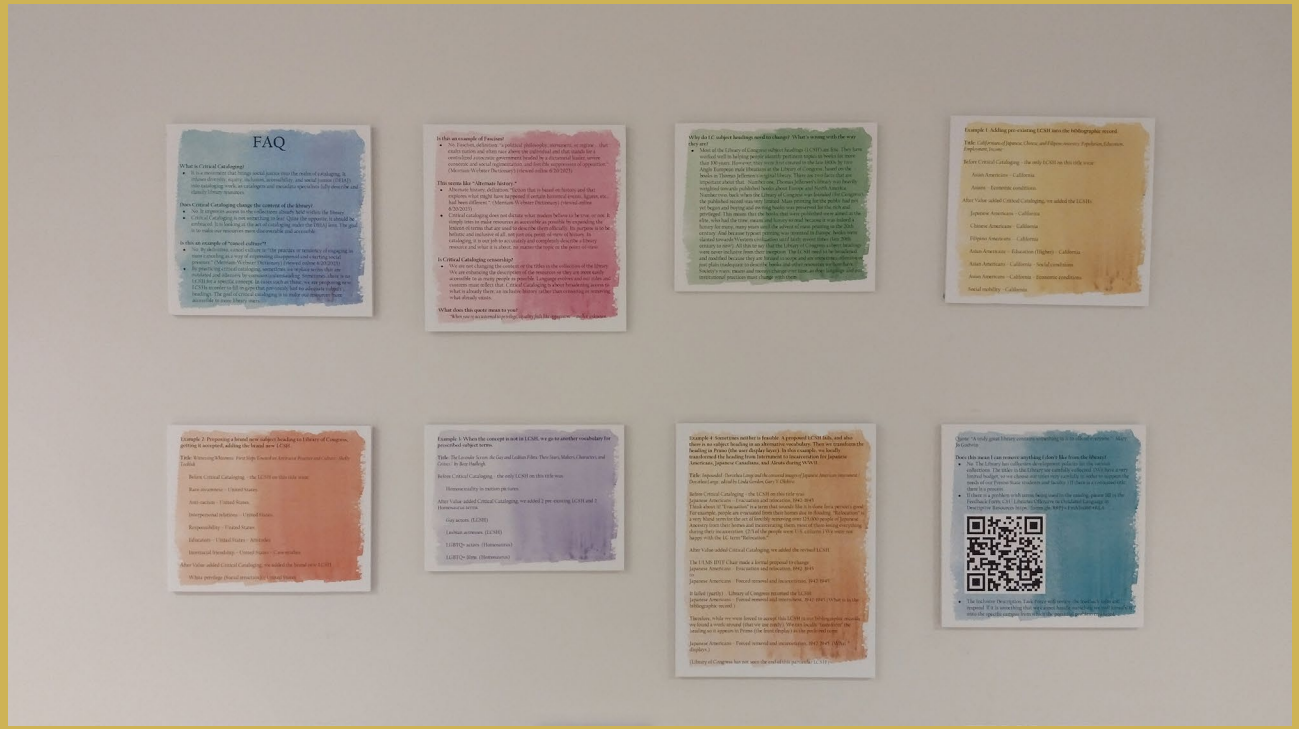
- Only a single Library of Congress Subject Heading: Gay men -- Poetry.
- The only mention of the artwork: "illustrations" in the description.

SEVEN CARNAL SONGS: ANATOMY OF A BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

After Critical Cataloging, Value-Added Enhancements:

- Homosaurus Term Used as Genre: Gay poetry.
- LCSH Genre: Gay erotica.
- LCSH Genre: Gay erotic drawing.
- LCSH Genre: Gay erotic art.
- Genre term: Gay poetry. (Genre/Form Terms for Library and Archival Materials) (LCGFT)
- Genre term: Erotic poetry. (Genre/Form Terms for Library and Archival Materials) (LCGFT)
- Contents Note: To Diana - Soliloquy - Get dressed to go to Church? - Lament - Day of wrath - Saga - Saturnalia. e author.
- Note: Cover designed by the author.
- Note: Full-page illustrations depicting male nudity and sexuality throughout.
- Binding Note: Hardback. Cloth front and rear panels illustrated and embossed with intricate repeating pattern of silver foil vines and gilt decoration of male genitalia.

FAQ


FAQ
What is Critical Cataloging?
Does Critical Cataloging change the content of the library?
Is this an example of "cancel culture"?
Is this an example of Fascism?
This seems like "Alternate history."
Is Critical Cataloging censorship?
What does this quote mean to you?
Why do LC subject headings need to change? What's wrong with the way they are?
Example 1: Adding pre-existing LCSH into the bibliographic record.
Example 2: Proposing a brand new subject heading to Library of Congress, getting it accepted, adding the brand new LCSH.
Example 3: When the concept is not in LCSH, we go to another vocabulary for prescribed subject terms.
Example 4: Sometimes neither is feasible. A proposed LCSH fails, and also there is no subject heading in an alternative vocabulary. Then we transform the heading in Prime (the next display here). In this example, we hardly transformed the heading from Internment to Incarceration for Japanese Americans, Japanese Canadians, and Alaska during WWII.
Some "A truly great library consists something in the ideal sense." Mary Jo Gadwin
Does this mean I can remove anything I don't like from the library?

FAQ

What is Critical Cataloging?

It is a movement that brings social justice into the realm of cataloging. It infuses diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and social justice (DEIAJ) into cataloging work, as catalogers and metadata specialists fully describe and classify library resources.

Does Critical Cataloging change the content of the library?

No. It improves access to the collections already held within the library.
Critical Cataloging is not something to fear. Quite the opposite; it should be embraced.
is looking at the act of cataloging under the DEIAJ lens. The goal is to make our resources more discoverable and accessible.

Is this an example of "cancel culture"?

- No. By definition, cancel culture is: "the practice or tendency of engaging in mass canceling as a way of expressing disapproval and exerting social pressure." (Merriam- Webster Dictionary) (viewed online 6/20/2023)

FAQ

Is this an example of "cancel culture"?

- By practicing critical cataloging, sometimes we replace terms that are outdated and offensive by common understanding. Sometimes, there is no LCSH for a specific concept. In cases such as those, we are proposing new LCSHs in order to fill in gaps that previously had no adequate subject headings. The goal of critical cataloging is to make our resources more accessible to more library users.

Is this an example of Fascism?

No. Fascism, definition: "a political philosophy, movement, or regime … that exalts nation and often race above the individual and that stands for a centralized autocratic government headed by a dictatorial leader, severe economic and social regimentation, and forcible suppression of opposition." (Merriam-Webster Dictionary) (viewed online 6/20/2023)

This seems like "Alternate history."

- Alternate history, definition: "fiction that is based on history and that explores what might have happened if certain historical events, figures, etc., had been different." (Merriam-Webster Dictionary) (viewed online 6/20/2023)

FAQ

This seems like "Alternate history. "

- Critical cataloging does not dictate what readers believe to be true, or not. It simply tries to make resources as accessible as possible by expanding the lexicon of terms that are used to describe them officially. Its purpose is to be holistic and inclusive of all, not just one point-of-view of history. In cataloging, it is our job to accurately and completely describe a library resource and what it is about, no matter the topic or the point-of-view.

Is Critical Cataloging censorship?

We are not changing the content or the titles in the collection of the library. We are enhancing the description of the resources so they are more easily accessible to as many people as possible. Language evolves and our rules and customs must reflect that.
Critical Cataloging is about broadening access to what is already there; an inclusive history rather than censoring or removing what already exists.

What does this quote mean to you?

"*When you're accustomed to privilege, equality feels like oppression.*" – author unknown

FAQ

Why do LC subject headings need to change? What's wrong with the way they are?

Most of the Library of Congress subject headings (LCSH) are fine. They have worked well in helping people identify pertinent topics in books for more than 100 years. However, they were first created in the late 1800s by two Anglo European male librarians at the Library of Congress, based on the books in Thomas Jefferson's original library. There are two facts that are important about that. Number one, Thomas Jefferson's library was heavily weighted towards published books about Europe and North America. Number two, back when the Library of Congress was founded (for Congress), the published record was very limited. Mass printing for the public had not yet begun and buying and owning books was preserved for the rich and privileged. This means that the books that were published were aimed at the elite, who had the time, means and luxury to read because it was indeed a luxury for many, many years until the advent of mass printing in the 20th century. And because typeset printing was invented in Europe, books were slanted towards Western civilization until fairly recent times (late 20th century to now). All this to say that the Library of Congress subject headings were never inclusive from their inception. The LCSH need to be broadened and modified because they are limited in scope and are sometimes offensive or just plain inadequate to describe books and other resources we now have. Society's ways, means and morays change over time, as does language and our institutional practices must change with them.

FAQ

Example 1. Adding pre-existing LCSH into the bibliographic record.

Title: *Californians of Japanese, Chinese, and Filipino Ancestry: Population, Education, Employment, Income*

Before Critical Cataloging – the only LCSH on this title were:

Asian Americans – California.
Asians – Economic conditions.

After Value-added Critical Cataloging, we added the LCSHs:

Japanese Americans – California
Chinese Americans – California
Filipino Americans -- California
Asian Americans -- Education (Higher) – California
Asian Americans – California – Social conditions
Asian Americans – California – Economic conditions
Social mobility – California.

FAQ

Example 2: Proposing a brand new subject heading to Library of Congress, getting it accepted, adding the brand new LCSH.

Title: *Witnessing Whiteness: First Steps Toward an Antiracist Practice and Culture* / Shelly Tochluk.

Before Critical Cataloging – the LCSH on this title were:

Race awareness – United States.
Anti-racism – United States.
Interpersonal relations – United States.
Responsibility – United States.
Educators – United States – Attitudes.
Interracial friendship – United States – Case studies.

After Value-added Critical Cataloging, we added the brand new LCSH:

White privilege (Social structure) – United States.

FAQ

Example 3: When the concept is not in LCSH, we go to another vocabulary for prescribed subject terms.

Title: *The Lavender Screen: the Gay and Lesbian Films: Their Stars, Makers, Characters, and Critics* / by Boze Hadleigh.

Before Critical Cataloging – the only LCSH on this title was:

Homosexuality in motion pictures.

After Value-added Critical Cataloging, we added 2 pre-existing LCSH and 2 Homosaurus terms.

Gay actors. (LCSH)
Lesbian actresses. (LCSH)
LGBTQ+ actors. (Homosaurus)
LGBTQ+ films. (Homosaurus)

Example 4: Sometimes neither is feasible. A proposed LCSH fails, and also there is no subject heading in an alternative vocabulary.

Then we transform the heading in Primo (the user display layer). In this example, we locally transformed the heading from Internment to Incarceration for Japanese Americans, Japanese Canadians, and Aleuts during WWII.

Title: *Impounded : Dorothea Lange and the censored images of Japanese American internment* / Dorothea Lange ; edited by Linda Gordon, Gary Y. Okihiro.

FAQ

Before Critical Cataloging – the LCSH on this title was:

Japanese Americans – Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945
Think about it! "Evacuation" is a term that sounds like it is done for a person's good. For example, people are evacuated from their homes due to flooding.

"Relocation" is a very bland term for the act of forcibly removing over 125,000 people of Japanese Ancestry from their homes and incarcerating them, most of them losing everything during their incarceration. (⅔ of the people were U.S. citizens.) We were not happy with the LC term "Relocation."

After Value-added Critical Cataloging, we added the revised LCSH.

The ULMS IDTF Chair made a formal proposal to change
Japanese Americans – Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945
to
Japanese Americans – Forced removal and incarceration, 1942-1945.

FAQ

It failed (partly) … Library of Congress returned the LCSH:

Japanese Americans – Forced removal and internment, 1942-1945
(What is in the bibliographic record.)

Therefore, while we were forced to accept this LCSH in our bibliographic records; we found a work-around (that we use rarely). We can locally "transform" the heading so it appears in Primo (the front display) as the preferred term:

Japanese Americans – Forced removal and incarceration, 1942-1945.
(What displays.)

(Library of Congress has not seen the end of this particular LCSH!)

Quote: "A truly great library contains something in it to offend everyone."- Mary Jo Godwin

FAQ

Does this mean I can remove anything I don't like from the library?

- No. The Library has collection development policies for the various collections. The titles in the Library are carefully collected. (We have a very limited budget, so we choose our titles very carefully in order to support the needs of our Fresno State students and faculty.) If there is a contested title, there is a process.
- If there is a problem with terms being used in the catalog, please fill in the Feedback Form: CSU Libraries Offensive or Outdated Language in Descriptive Resources
  https://forms.gle/R9PJwFmA3ud6P4RLA

- The Inclusive Description Task Force will review the feedback form and respond. If it is something that we cannot handle ourselves, we will forward it onto the specific campus from which the potential problem emanated.

Catalogers worldwide responded to the query:

“What is critical cataloging, and why is it important to you?”

More quotes to follow!

Cataloging is power.

As catalogers, we have the power to name and to make resources findable. The catalog, in its present state, can convey to users that they are outsiders or unwelcome. Critical cataloging allows us to redress these harms and let everyone know that they are welcome and seen.

-Elizabeth Hobart
Penn State (Pennsylvania)

Words matter! Critical cataloging means to have a commitment to describe our resources with compassion. Critical cataloging invokes practices of diversity, equity, and inclusion. This especially improves access and discoverability of resources by and about members of marginalized communities.

-Julie Renee Moore
Fresno State Library

Channeling my favorite fandom, Star Trek--Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations (IDIC). There are many ways of seeing, many ways of being, and the vast majority of that is not reflected in our value systems. Everything we can do to diversify our descriptions is critical to a healthy society.

-Bobby Bothmann
Minnesota State University, Mankato

We can only experience what we can find. For those of us on the margins, finding ourselves in the stacks is a bit more complicated and critical cataloging allows me to care for, attend to, and prioritize making connections for myself and users we wouldn't get otherwise.

-Dai Newman
Ohio State University Newark & Central Ohio Technical College

Not everyone speaks English. Having subjects and genres in main languages spoken in the area vastly increases everyone's access -- especially for works in those languages! **Words matter!**

-Tina Marie Maes
Madison Public Library (Wisconsin)

All descriptive work should be done by or in collaboration with the people and communities being described. It's about respect. It's about responsibility. The power inherent in description and naming isn't something to be used lightly or with disregard for the great harm or great healing it can do.

-Brinna Michael
Pitts Theology Library, Emory University (Georgia)

Representation matters! I might look at the record for a DVD and notice the Turkish actor doesn't have a name authority record. It might be their first film (but usually not). I create the record so others can use it and patrons can more easily find that person's body of work. Our diverse patron groups can't find things if the data isn't there.

-Ann Kardos
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Critical cataloging is important because it allows people to decide what is best for themselves. As a queer librarian, and especially as a trans librarian, critical cataloging is personal to me because I want subject headings that reflect who I am.

-Zephyr R.
Texas A&M University-Commerce

Critical cataloging is important to me because it gives us the tools to accurately and ethically describe the materials in our collections in ways that highlight the diversity of our collections while also pointing out the potentially harmful material in our collections.

-Ann Myers
Stanford University (California)

Many years ago, as a new cataloger, I saw a cartoon which I still find amusing and inspirational. It depicts a guy holding a copy of AACR2 in his hand with the caption: “Each day, Arnie had to decide whether to use his vast cataloging powers for good or evil.” Amusing because we catalogers don't necessarily think of ourselves as powerful. Inspirational because indeed we are!

-Margaret Hughes
Stanford University (California)

Showing respect to other people and their thoughts and cultures improves my quality of life. It is actively doing what I consider to be an ethical imperative.

-Sarah Theimer
University of New Hampshire

Critical cataloging means that we not only acknowledge that our library catalogs contain outdated and offensive language that can be a barrier to access, but we are actively working to correct terms that may be degrading, derogatory, or harmful.

-Julie Renee Moore,
Fresno State Library

I am so happy to finally see the field prioritize reparative description. Acknowledging and correcting biased and inaccurate metadata ensures equitable access to information, builds online spaces that are safe and welcoming, and counteracts the harmful effects of historical exclusion and discrimination in our collections.

-Melissa De Fino
Rutgers University Libraries (New Jersey)

How we describe the world matters. We decide the shape of our world by the words we use to describe it. We can change the terms to better reflect the world we live in.

-Ted Simonds
Lambeth Palace Library (London, England)

As more patrons and staff ask about "questionable" terms in our catalog, I can let them know that we are working on updating and enhancing our titles and making our catalog more user-friendly for them.

-Mary Kocman
Palos Verdes Library District (California)

People deserve to see themselves reflected respectfully and accurately in cataloging records, and anyone who is interested should be invited to the table to share their perspective. We only grow through dialogue based in active listening!

-Margaret Breidenbaugh
SACO Gender and Sexuality Funnel (Cincinnati, Ohio)

When I create descriptive metadata, I want to highlight the marginalized people and voices who have been ignored or white washed out of history.

-Dana Caudle
Auburn University Libraries (Alabama)

Cataloging gives information value.
If you can't find it, it doesn't exist for practical purposes.

-Kyle Banerjee
EBSCO Portland, Oregon (remote)

Languages, cultures, and identities constantly evolve, and if we disregard that information, we do a disservice to the communities we serve. It is vital that we continually re-examine our standards, our practices, and our values so that we can meet people where they are.

-Lauren Wallace
University of Alaska Anchorage/Alaska Pacific University Consortium Library

The catalog is sometimes the first--or only--place our users interact with the library. It should use language that is as welcoming and respectful as we aim to make our physical spaces be.

-Laura Daniels
Cornell University (New York)

Because with critical cataloging, we see representation in a respectful framework. We are cataloging without shaming, and ridding our systems of centuries of oppressive language.

-Terry Lewis
Fresno State Library

Critical Cataloging Speaks
Truth to Power.

-Catherine Tedford
St. Lawrence University (New York)

It gives meaning to my job and it makes me feel more important as an employee. The pen is mightier than the sword, or words can cause trauma. I'd never thought of myself as a curator before.

-Elisavet Chantavaridou
University of Macedonia (Thessaloniki, Macedonia, Greece)

Cataloging standards and specifically controlled vocabularies reflect all the biases endemic in our society. Critical cataloging is part of the work we (especially those of us who hold privileged classes and positions) need to do to dismantle systematic oppression and injustice.

-Laura Daniels
Cornell University (New York)

Cataloging is both observation and description. First you see an artifact as accurately as possible, then transcribe your observations as accurately as possible in the current format used for bibliographic data. The result is a bibliographic poem suggesting the essence of the artifact.

-Blake Walter
Illinois Heartland Library System

Naming matters: the words used to describe people and events affect perceptions and, in turn, those perceptions have concrete implications for social justice.

-The Learning & Working Group on Metadata Justice, The University of Oklahoma Libraries

Language, including the language of our resource descriptions, shapes who we are and how we experience the world.

-Laura Daniels
Cornell University (New York)

Libraries are places where social justice should be promoted enthusiastically and unapologetically in every aspect of our work. Each person who works in a library has a responsibility to those who use our catalogs to ensure our terminology and classification structures promote equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

-Violet Fox
Northwestern University (Illinois)

Words matter. Expecting patrons to use outdated or racist terms to find information sends a message that this isn't a space for everyone.

-Saralynne
Dawson College (Montreal, Quebec, Canada)

The goal of critical cataloging is to accurately represent and describe the whole "aboutness" of the people, places, activities, events, and things of the work.

-Julie Renee Moore
Fresno State Library

It may be simplistic, but to me it comes down to respect and the Golden Rule. Respect for all individuals or communities, and “do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” If you want to be respected, in word or deed, respect others. In all you do.

-Rebecca Uhl
Arizona State University

It's important to challenge the systems we all work with and within. Classification systems and subject headings are products of the culture that created them as all things are. The messages in our cataloging are as important as the messages in the resources we collect.

-Jes Mattera
Champlain College (Vermont)

Critical cataloging is important to me because it gives a voice to people like me, who for so long were not heard or represented by library professionals. Our patrons deserve language that they would choose for themselves. Critical cataloging acknowledges that we have the power to enact change.

-Lia Ryland
San Francisco Public Library

We deter our users by using offensive or harmful language. Cataloging systems and practices need to allow for the rapidity of societal and language change. We can’t be beholden to excessive gatekeeping, lack of community input, or previous practice. All people deserve agency over how they are described.

-Erin Grant
University of Washington

I come to this from a simple place: No individual, or group of people, should see themselves described in library resources using terms they find pejorative. We cannot undo the past, but we can work to ameliorate harms going forward. It is the right thing to do.

-Jackie Magagnosc
Cornell Law Library (New York)

I think critical cataloging is important because the standards we use to determine data points, and the vocabularies we use as content for them, are not and cannot be neutral. Like all technologies, cataloging is a practical application of moral philosophy. We make decisions that ultimately affect people and must do so critically.

-Mike Monaco
University of Akron (Ohio)

CritCat matters because cataloging needs a serious rethink–we can't just be doing business as usual, and making incremental changes. We need to think big, and that's what this does!

-Anonymous

Dealing with the LCSH "Sexual Minorities" subject heading is a struggle every single time. I feel like I'm compromising my professional and personal standards by using it, and it hurts that just doing my job necessitates reminding myself of how much some people hate me for existing.

-Abby Springman
University of Minnesota

Words matter. I am passionate about describing people and concepts in an equitable and inclusive manner within metadata. Reflecting the rich diversity of people in our catalogs in order that everyone feels welcome is important. Words matter.

-Cynthia M. Whitacre
OCLC (Ohio)

Critical cataloging is a chance to change the old practices so that we can create inclusivity. It helps us challenge Eurocentric and Western-centric perspectives that have dominated cataloging practices. By recognizing and valuing diverse knowledge systems, critical cataloging contributes to the decolonization of libraries, archives, and information institutions.

To me inclusivity is particularly important because it helps create a society where everyone feels a sense of belonging, where their identities are affirmed, and where they have equal opportunities to thrive and participate fully in all aspects of life.

-Heyrling Oropeza
Brooklyn Public Library (New York)

Critical cataloging brings social justice to the work we do as catalogers.

-Julie Renee Moore
Fresno State

Critical cataloging comes down to two important factors to me, the idea of reflecting the world as it is with precision and (therefore) making materials accessible for people. Ultimately, where materials end up on the shelf and how they appear there speaks to humanity and its recognisability.

-Lauren Kelley

We are mapmakers to the informative universe. We name the stars, describe what they're about and set their coordinates, and from our words, people decide where they want to travel.

-Marianne Swierenga
Western Michigan University

It’s important because cataloging (both the act and the field) needs more social justice and less complacency.

-K.R. Roberto
(Woodstock, Illinois)

I engage in inclusive metadata work to foster a sense of belonging for all users. Individuals can feel valued, acknowledged, and included by seeing their identities, experiences, and viewpoints reflected in the metadata and the library.

-Nicole Lewis
Brigham Young University (Utah)

The most important thing we cataloguers can do is make sure resources are findable. And when we do this work critically, you create resources that are not only passively findable, but shout their own dignity and importance.

-Nina Whittaker
State Library Victoria
(Melbourne, Australia)

The library catalog is the reflection of the intellectual and cultural life of the university. The diversity of our campus needs to be shown in our catalog.

-Eric Willey
Milner Library, Illinois State University

The power of human rights movements is deeply tied to the power of the words we use, and in turn to the ways in which libraries reflect the world they seek to describe. We cannot engage in this work without acknowledging the ways in which we are indebted to and interwoven with broader social justice work. Feeling myself a part of something larger is essential to my engagement with critical cataloging and metadata justice.

-Bailey Hoffner
Oklahoma State University

Through our work, knowledge is built. Those terms that are most successful at surfacing relevant records are the ones deemed "appropriate" or "academic", regardless of the damage they may cause. Without critical cataloging, libraries are simply perpetuating generations of inequity and passing the blame.

-Meghan Kwast
California Lutheran University

Because no library patron should be confronted with prejudice and oppression just by simply using the systems librarians create to find information.

-Amber Billey
Bard College (New York)

Critical cataloging is important to me because it means not being complacent. It's such a useful and interesting framework for questioning our systems, and I think it's vital to interrogate these systems so that we may ensure our information is as inclusive as possible.

-Gretchen Neidhardt
Northwestern University
(Illinois)

Common humanity and intellectual honesty require us to repair generations worth of existing cataloging, to reduce harm for current library users, to re-imagine descriptive workflows, and to ensure that future catalogers remain alert to and aware of constantly evolving knowledge and expression.

-Jay Weitz
OCLC (Ohio)

Traditional cataloging often falls short on describing (and classifying) various groups of people – we should be using the terms that groups of people name themselves.

-Julie Renee Moore
Fresno State Library

We want to treat others we represent in our cataloging and metadata work with respect, dignity and understanding; the same way we want to be seen and understood by others. That's the commonsense approach I use with my own work in cataloging and identity management.

-Joy Panigabutra-Roberts
The University of Tennessee

All people deserve to see their history, language and culture described in ways that are respectful and inclusive, using words they would use to describe themselves to enable and support discovery. Additionally, library workers should not be harmed by having to engage in inappropriate descriptive practices.

-Merrilee Proffitt
OCLC (California)

Critical cataloging tries to reduce harm by certain ideologies that have historically shown up in library cataloging (homophobia, etc.) For me, critical cataloging is important as it broadens equality and inclusivity for our patrons. I want to enhance DEI in cataloging and the discoverability it provides. Everyone deserves a voice and representation in our cataloging practices.

-Richard Lee Guinn
Westchester Library System (New York)

Discover, access ...
Welcoming and inclusive,
I create for you.
(a cataloger's haiku)

-Dana Hanford
Central Connecticut State University

With Gratitude

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the following people:

Fresno State Library's Special Collections Team, without whom, these exhibitions would not have materialized.
Special Collections Team Members include:
Tammy Lau, Head of Special Collections and University Archivist
Adam Wallace, Lead Special Collections & Digital Archives Specialist
Suzanne Lopez, Special Collections and Archives Assistant
Ben Nehring, Special Collections Cataloging and Archives Assistant
Sara Pineda, Emmy Delgado, and Eduardo Espinoza-Gonzalez, SCRC Student Assistants

Ann Kardos, University of Massachusetts, Amherst (the instigator of the ***Unseen Labor*** traveling exhibition) … along with all of the stitchers (from The Library Guild) who submitted their textile pieces into the exhibition

All of the critical catalogers, worldwide, who submitted their thoughtful quotes for the ***Words Matter!*** exhibition.

Julie

The End

Thank you for visiting!
For more information, please contact:

Julie Renee Moore
jumoore@csufresno.edu

or the SCRC Team
scrc@mail.fresnostate.edu

phone: 559.278.2595