

WebEx • Thursday 4 March 2021

OCLC and EDI work



Merrilee Proffitt

Senior Manager
OCLC Research



Mercy Procaccini

Program Officer
OCLC Research

***We acknowledge and celebrate
the Indigenous people on whose
traditional land and airways we
meet, and pay our respect to the
elders past and present***

*If you are unsure whose land you are currently residing
upon, we encourage you to visit [native-land.ca](https://www.native-land.ca)*

OCLC Research Library Partnership

- Transnational network of research libraries (120+)
- Research, programming and peer-lead learning
 - Research support
 - Unique and distinctive collections
 - Resource sharing
 - Next generation metadata

Across these four areas, the RLP seeks to support libraries through the ***challenges of COVID-19*** and ***to advance equity, diversity and inclusion efforts.***

Racial and social justice: A blueprint for constructive conversations



Pilar Martinez • 18 February 2021 • Community Engagement



Learning together

Umbra Search African American History (2017)

Decolonizing Descriptions: Finding, Naming and Changing the Relationship between Indigenous People, Libraries and Archives (2017)

Dynamics of change—continuing the conversation on library naming, finding, and relationship-building with Indigenous peoples (2020)

This wasn't for you yesterday, but it will be tomorrow—Digitization policy to counteract histories of exclusion (2020)

Operationalizing the CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance (2020)

Survey

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the OCLC Research Library Partnership (2017)

Most changed (ranked)

- Activities and events
- Recruitment and retention
- Outreach to marginalized communities
- Collection building
- Selection of materials for digitization
- Institutional website
- Metadata descriptions for archival materials
- Space allocation

Most planned (ranked)

- Search and discovery interfaces
- Metadata descriptions in library catalogs
- Metadata descriptions in digital/digitized collections
- Terminologies and/or vocabularies

Changing our practices

OCLC RESEARCH POSITION PAPER

Research and Learning Agenda
for Archives, Special, and
Distinctive Collections in Research
Libraries

Chela Scott Weber
Practitioner Researcher in Residence



“In order to **respectfully and responsibly work with marginalized communities** and those who have been working to document their own histories outside of institutional structures, **we need to examine and reconsider institutional and interpersonal relationships.** This work should include recognition of power dynamics and identify methods of working that acknowledge and mitigate power imbalances.”

Changing our practices

OCLC RESEARCH POSITION PAPER

Responsible Operations:
Data Science, Machine Learning,
and AI in Libraries

Thomas Padilla
Practitioner Researcher in Residence



“No discussion of technology or ethics is complete without critical historical context (e.g., algorithmic bias as a phenomenon with historical precedent and the potential to negatively impact marginalized communities). Refracting potential library effort through these lenses can only serve to increase the efficacy of responsible operations.”

Hanging Together

the OCLC Research blog

≡ MAIN MENU

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION (EDI) / METADATA

Towards respectful and inclusive description

December 17, 2020 - by Merrilee Proffitt - [Leave a Comment](#)

Because of this and other learning opportunities, I have been reflecting on the land I live on, which is the unceded territory of the Chochenyo Ohlone. If you are curious about the land you are on a good starting point is the [Native Lands website](#).

As we have been engaged in conversations about the difficulty of cataloging topics relating to Indigenous peoples in respectful ways, OCLC Research has sought to better understand the issues through readings, presentations, and structured conversations with library staff. This post attempts to bring some of these learnings together.



Distinguished Seminar Series



“To begin decolonizing libraries and archives, to undo the territorial and cultural dispossessions upon which they are built, we must start by changing the structures we have at all levels to reflect **accountability, engagement, and reciprocity.**”

— **Dr. Kimberly Christen**

2017

**"We Have Never
Been Neutral:
Search, Discovery,
and the Politics of
Access"**

Centered on community values



Digital Stewardship Training Courses for Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums, and Small Public Libraries

- Center community values
- Respond to tribal histories and needs
- Respect Indigenous ways of knowing
- Collaborate with the community

