Notes from the OCLC Cataloging Community Meeting on 28 January 2022

Access the recordings and presentation slides

Session: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)

Presenters

- Adrian Williams, Cataloging & Metadata Librarian, University of Kentucky Libraries
- Misty Alvaro, Materials Manager, Collection Services, Columbus Metropolitan Library
- Cynthia M. Whitacre, Senior Metadata Operations Manager, OCLC

Presentation summary

Adrian Williams is the Cataloging and Metadata Librarian at the University of Kentucky (UK) Libraries and a member of the Homosaurus editorial board. Homosaurus is a LGBTQ+ international linked data-controlled vocabulary. They gave a brief history of the vocabulary’s development and an overview of how UK’s library system has used it to improve description of the libraries’ collections in both OCLC Connexion and in the local catalog.

Misty Alvaro is the Materials Manager for Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) in charge of cataloging and processing operations. They gave a presentation on promoting DEI in public library consortia through trusting, collaborating, and thriving. They discussed what they have learned while pursuing efforts to implement change in a diverse public library consortium.

Cynthia Whitacre, in addition to her managerial role in metadata operations at OCLC is OCLC’s Liaison to the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) and serves on the PCC Steering Committee, the PCC Policy Committee, as well as the PCC Diversity Equity & Inclusion Advisory Committee. Cynthia discussed OCLC Metadata Quality’s work with DEI, focusing on Library of Congress Subject Headings and OCLC’s efforts to change outdated headings that show up in WorldCat. She also covered developments in the Dewey Decimal Classification® system.

URLs mentioned during the event

- OCLC events, upcoming and on-demand webinars, including OCLC Cataloging Community Meetings: https://www.oclc.org/en/events.html
- OCLC Community Center links
  - Cataloging and metadata community: https://www.oclc.org/community/cataloging-metadata.en.html
  - WorldShare® Record Manager community: https://www.oclc.org/community/record_manager.en.html
  - WorldShare Collection Manager community: https://www.oclc.org/community/collection_manager.en.html
- AskQC: https://help.oclc.org/WorldCat/Metadata_Quality/AskQC
- University of Kentucky Libraries: https://libraries.uky.edu/
- Homosaurus: https://homosaurus.org/
- Mitigating Bias in Metadata: https://ejournals.bc.edu/index.php/ital/article/view/13053
- MARC source codes for vocabularies, rules, and schemes: https://www.loc.gov/standards/sourcelist/
- Columbus Metropolitan Library: https://www.columbuslibrary.org/
- WorldCat® support: https://help.oclc.org/WorldCat
- Metadata quality support: https://help.oclc.org/WorldCat/Metadata_Quality
- OCLC Connexion client macros: https://help.oclc.org/Metadata_Services/Connexion/Connexion_client_version_263/Connexion_client Macros
- FAST (Faceted Application of Subject Terminology): http://fast.oclc.org/
- SACO (Subject Authority Cooperative Program): https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/saco/
- Learn more about the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) and the DDC® Summaries: https://www.oclc.org/research/activities/browser/summaries.html
- Dewey Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee: https://www.oclc.org/en/dewey/resources/epc.html
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiatives, Reimagine Descriptive Workflows: https://www.oclc.org/research/areas/community-catalysts/reimagine-descriptive-workflows.html
- PCC Advisory Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/advisory/dei.html
- PCC SACO Funnel Projects: https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/saco/funnelsaco.html
- African American Subject Funnel Project https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/saco/aframerfun.html
- Library of Congress Subject Headings Approved Monthly List 12a (December 17, 2021), which includes a list of changes to headings for Black people and White people: https://classweb.org/approved-subjects/2112a.html
- Cataloguing Code of Ethics: https://sites.google.com/view/cataloging-ethics
**Audience questions**

The respondent is identified below, but the responses are summarized here. Please see the recording for the full response.

**Is there any plan to make the Homosaurus vocabulary available in other languages?**

[Williams] Yes, we are currently in the planning stages of a grant to work with a few different institutions to do this. The languages that we have as first level priority so far are Spanish, Portuguese, and French. It is currently in English and Dutch.

**How can we use Homosaurus? What do we do?**

[Williams] Any heading can be added to WorldCat records, just like you would with any vocabulary. There's second indicator 7 with the subfield $2 code “homoit,” which is searchable through OCLC’s normal search indexes. The Homosaurus terms will appear with the other things that are retrieved in the indexes.

You can use OCLC’s collection management tools to get updates into your local catalog if you’re not using WorldShare Management Services (WMS) as your integrated library system (ILS). WMS libraries have access to the local bibliographic records in case there are alternative terms or other information you’d like to put into your records. There are multiple ways to use this vocabulary within WorldCat and more specifically with WMS.

WMS uses WorldCat, so you can add the data to the WorldCat record. That gets it into the record for the full community, and you automatically get the changes made by others. Also, you can add local bibliographic data for headings that you want to use for your library only.

**Are there studies on the use of terms from Homosaurus and information retrieval systems, such as catalogs, databases, and digital repositories?**


Also, Rachel Fischer did a presentation during the Cataloging and Classification Research Interest Groups session on ethical cataloging during Core IG Week in 2021. Rachel discussed using Homosaurus in a public library consortium requiring institutional stakeholder support. A recording of this presentation is available online.

**If we use a standard term for a group of people, how do we highlight subgroups? For example, if “astronauts” is used for all astronauts, how do we provide specific access for African Americans and women astronauts? This can be an important research topic.**

[Moderator to Alvaro] Your presentation emphasized that in a conceptual environment or on behalf of a larger group, it can be even more challenging than at a single institution to make these decisions. It takes a lot of time. We’re moving forward quickly with decisions, but there’s a lot of work that causes us to slow it down to have more in-depth conversations.
That’s one of the things that we discussed a lot as we were talking through this for training purposes. Should we include information about someone’s identity if it isn’t relevant to the content of the resource? We want to have ongoing conversations with each other and take in-depth time to think about why we’re adding what we’re adding, and when.

**When will the changes from “Blacks” to “Black people” be implemented in OCLC?**

[Whitacre] The African American Funnel has been working to update “Blacks” to “Black people” in Library of Congress subject headings. Robert Bremer of OCLC noted the change from “Blacks” to “Black people” is already underway in WorldCat.

**Comments from participants during the Q&A chat**

The recent LCSH [Library of Congress Subject Headings] changes to “Drag”-related headings make a good subset of records folks may find in their catalogs that now need LCSH review/changes and can benefit from being supplemented with Homosaurus terms.

There are plans in Canada to replace "Indians of __________" with "Indigenous peoples $z$ United States, etc." And you can subdivide it by a Canadian place. The 680 tag for geographical subdivisions says: $i$ May also be subdivided geographically by Canadian region, province, city or other jurisdiction for collections of literature written in English by Indigenous authors in a particular location e.g.: $a$ Indigenous literature (English)—Ontario--Toronto. Library & Archives Canada (LAC) further changed “Canadian literature (English)—Indigenous authors” to “Indigenous literature (English).”

Since some of the terms being changed may be offensive to some in this meeting, I think it would be appropriate to prepare those attending that they may see some offensive terms on slides or expressed in the audio. For instance, “Indians of North America” is an incredibly racist term in the Canadian context. [OCLC appreciates this suggestion and will take into account for future presentations.]