Using Homosaurus in a Public Library Consortium

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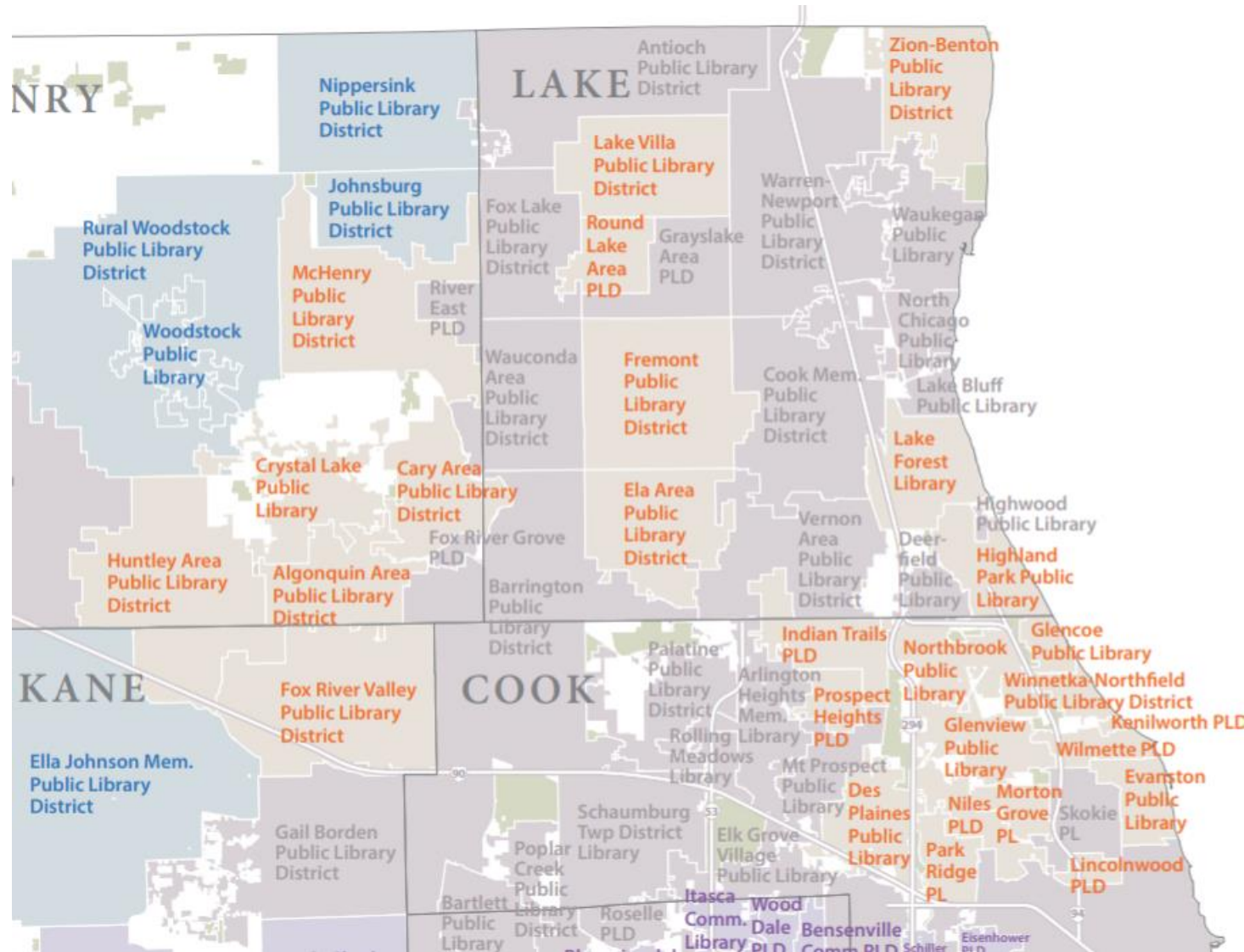
Member Services Librarian – Technical Services

Cooperative Computer Services

Arlington Heights, IL

Core Cataloging & Classification Research Interest Group Meeting Virtual Interest Group Week

July 28, 2021

CCS

- 28 member libraries in the Northern and Northwestern suburbs of Chicago, IL.

- On May 19th, the Cataloging and Metadata Management (or CAMM) Technical Group passed a motion to allow Homosaurus terms to be added to the catalog.

- Land Acknowledgement: This area is located on the ancestral lands of indigenous tribes, such as the Council of the Three Fires--comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations--as well as the Miami, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac, Fox, Kickapoo, and Illinois Nations.

What is Homosaurus?

- [Homosaurus](#) is an international linked data vocabulary of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) terms.

- This vocabulary is intended to supplement other controlled vocabularies.

- It's maintained by the [Digital Transgender Archive](#).

- It has been assigned the source code homoit ($2) for use in OCLC records.

- Example:

    650 _7 ‡a Non-binary people. ‡2 homoit

Why are libraries using Homosaurus?

- Gender and Sexuality terms have evolved over the last 20 years.

- LCSH subject headings for LGBTQ+ topics do not properly represent all of the current terms being used.

- Adding inclusive subject headings creates a more supportive environment and educates the public on the proper terms to use.

- Adding additional terms allows more items to be discoverable that were previously difficult to find.
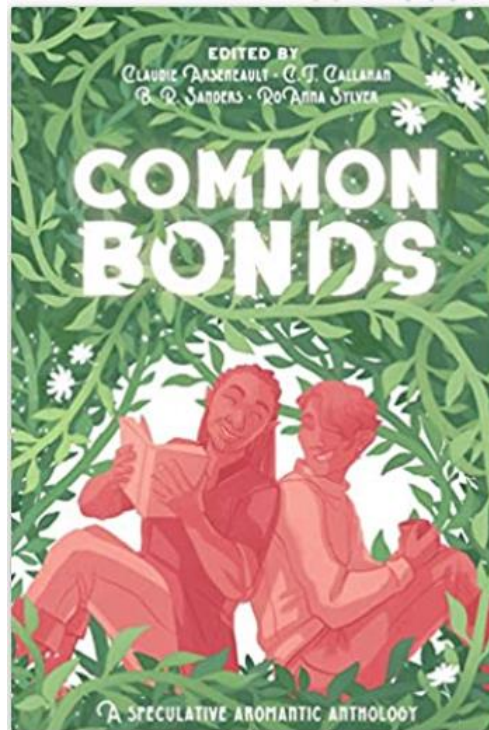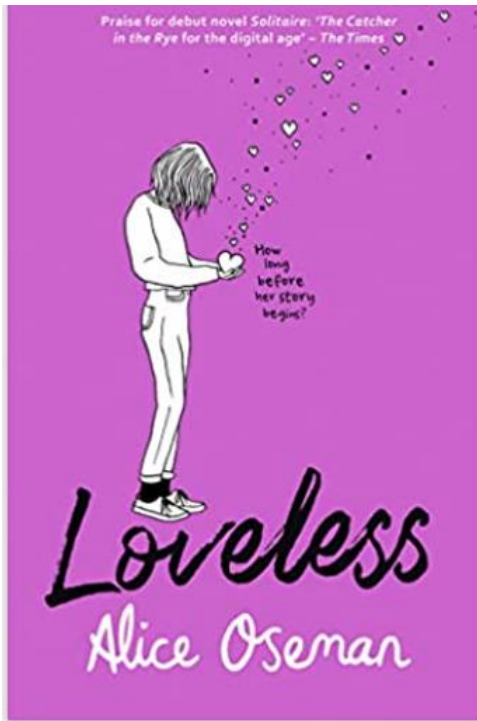
Example: Aromantic people

- LCSH includes the subject headings for asexuality, but not for aromantic people.

- Loveless can be discovered as a book that includes the topic of asexuality. However, it also includes the topic of aromanticism.

- Common Bonds does not have an accurate LCSH term available, because it is only an aromantic anthology.

- Homosaurus term:
  - Aromantic people
  - Possible additions in the future: Asexual fiction and Aromantic fiction

Example: Pansexual people

- Some books with pansexual characters are completely hidden or only have the term in a summary.

- There is no equivalent LCSH term.

- The only indicator that In The Ravenous Dark by A.M. Strickland includes pansexual characters and polyamorous relationships is on the Goodreads.com page.

- Homosaurus terms:
  - Pansexual people
  - Polyamory
  - Fantasy fiction (LGBTQ)
  - Romance fiction (LGBTQ)
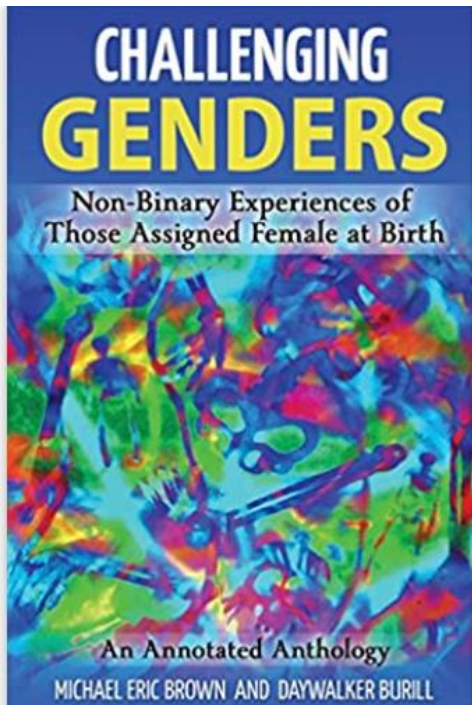
Example: Non-Binary People

- Although transgender subject headings exist, the current LCSH terms for non-binary people are not the currently preferred term:
  - Gender-nonconformity
  - Gender-nonconforming people

- Gender-nonconformity depicts a bias that believes in the adherence to gender stereotypes of a binary gender system.

- Non-Binary is the term most used by CCS library patrons.

- Homosaurus terms:
  - Non-binary people
  - Assigned female
  - Assigned male
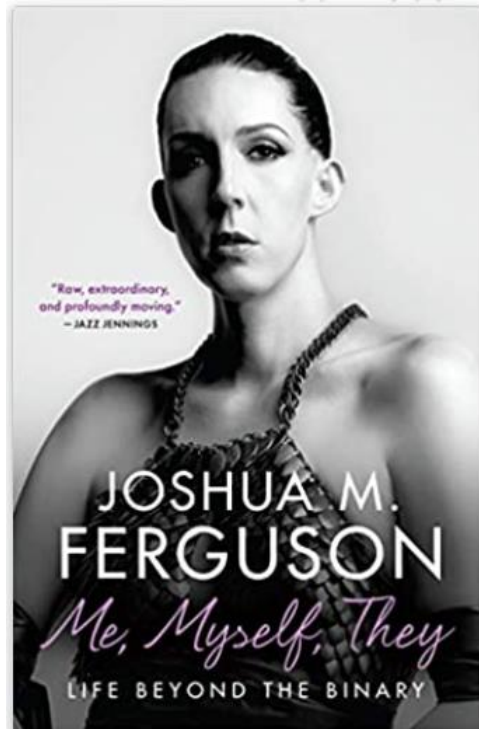
Additional Homosaurus terms to highlight

- Birth certificate amendments
- Corrective rape
- Genderqueer people
- Genderfluid
- Latinx
- Common slang
- Foreign terms that may be used by immigrants:
  - Hijra

More detailed genre terms:
- Bisexual horror fiction
- Bisexual fantasy fiction
- Transgender horror fiction
- Potential future terms:
  - Asexual fiction
  - Aromantic fiction

How do CCS patrons search?

Terms (including part of known titles)	Number of Searches (2018-2021)
Gender-nonconforming people	11
Non-binary (with or without hyphen)	65
Polyamory	34
Non-monogamous	5
Trans	63
Transgender	1606
Queer	163
Sexual minorities	20
LGBTQ	104

The Decision-Making Process at CCS

	Advisory Group	CCS Staff	Technical Group	Governing Board
No change to workflow AND No financial or HR impact	Recommend	Approve	Informed	Informed
Change to workflow AND No financial or HR impact	Recommend		Approve	Informed
Financial or HR Impact OR Addition of service OR Policy change	Recommend		Recommend	Approve

The Executive Committee Opinion

- Executive Committee is a subset of the Governing Board.

- Adding new terms or correcting existing terms increases access points.

- It is appropriate for CCS to work with library staff to move forward with allowing terms from additional thesauri without approval.

- EC approval is only necessary when LCSH terms are replaced.

SCRAP Advisory Group's Original Opinion

- SCRAP (Standard Cataloging Rules and Practices Advisory Group) members voiced their concern over vocabulary that contradicts LCSH or common meanings, as well as sexually explicit terms.

- SCRAP recommended reviewing Homosaurus to select the most appropriate terms for CCS.

- After SCRAP makes a policy recommendation, a technical group needs to approve it.

- Homosaurus terms that are contradictory:
  - Bears – LCSH term for an animal
  - Cubs – not LCSH but animal related
  - Faeries – not LCSH, but mythical creature
  - Goldilocks – not LCSH but fictional character
  - Metis – Metís is a tribe's name
  - Pups – not LCSH but animal related
  - Slaves (as a BDSM role) – LCSH, should be used for actual slavery
  - Sodomites – not LCSH, but biblical
  - Ali – a common name

CCS Staff Members' Opinion

- CCS staff discussed the SCRAP opinion to make a recommendation to the technical group.

- CCS's preference was to vote on a motion to allow all terms from Homosaurus in the CCS database.

- CCS is interested in adding the vocabulary to be more inclusive and doesn't want to limit terms.

- Objectionable Homosaurus terms are more relevant to archives and special libraries than public libraries.

- The workload required to review and select terms, and maintain the list is not the best use of SCRAP's time.

- We analyzed a list of commonly used search terms and compared them to Homosaurus to identify problematic terms.

- A catalog handbook page includes guidance on how to best use your Cataloger's judgement when applying terms.

CAMM Technical Group Approved the Motion

- After SCRAP approves a recommendation, Cataloging and Metadata Management Technical Group (CAMM) votes to approve the policy change.

- My presentation included an explanation of how the cataloging handbook could include guidance on applying Homosaurus terms.

- The motion passed to allow all Homosaurus terms within the guidelines of the catalog manual (Catalog Wiki).

- CCS also announced the plan to provide Homosaurus training with a member of the editorial board.

CCS Local Practices

- Homosaurus Subject Headings Draft Page: http://www.ccslib.org/Catalogers/index.php/Homosaurus_Subject_Headings

- Homosaurus does not label genre headings, but CCS places subject headings in 650 and genre headings in 655. The 2nd indicator should be 7. The source could should be included in $2.
  - Examples:

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650  7 ‡a Non-binary people. ‡2 homoit
655  7 ‡a Bisexual horror fiction. ‡2 homoit
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- In discussion: literary form subdivisions that match LCSH subdivision.

- Terms with contradictory meanings should be avoided. A list of terms is included on the page.

- New authority records are added when a new term is added. Procedures for requesting the creation of an authority record are documented on the page.

Homosaurus Usage in the CCS Catalog

Within two months of approval:

- 29 authority records were created for Homosaurus terms

- Homosaurus terms were added to 222 bibliographic records.

2021

Title:	¡Hola Papi! : how to come out in a Walmart parking lot and other life lessons
Author:	Brammer, John Paul, 1991- author.
Edition:	First Simon & Schuster hardcover edition.
Format:	Book
Publisher, Date:	New York : Simon & Schuster, 2021.
Description:	212 pages ; 22 cm
Summary:	The popular LGBTQ advice columnist and writer presents a memoir-in-essays chronicling his journey growing up as a queer, mixed-race kid in America's heartland to becoming the "Chicano Carrie Bradshaw" of his generation.
Subjects:	Brammer, John Paul, 1991-
	Advice columnists -- Biography.
	Gay men -- United States -- Biography.
	Racially mixed people -- United States -- Biography.
	Hispanic Americans -- Biography.
	Gay men -- Oklahoma -- Biography.
	LGBTQ biracial people.
	Latinx (LGBTQ)
Genre:	Autobiographies.
	Essays.
	Anecdotes.
	Humor.
Other Author:	Container of (work): Brammer, John Paul, 1991- How to answer a letter, part 1.
	Container of (work): Brammer, John Paul, 1991- How to lose rabbit.
	Container of (work): Brammer, John Paul, 1991- How to kiss your girlfriend.
	Container of (work): Brammer, John Paul, 1991- How to be a real Mexican.
	Container of (work): Brammer, John Paul, 1991- How to come out to your boyfriend in a Walmart parking lot.
	Container of (work): Brammer, John Paul, 1991- How to fall in and out of love.
	Container of (work): Brammer, John Paul, 1991- How to chat with your childhood bully over a gay dating app.
	Container of (work): Brammer, John Paul, 1991- How to describe a dick.
	Container of (work): Brammer, John Paul, 1991- How to dress yourself in silks and linens.
	Container of (work): Brammer, John Paul, 1991- How to disagree with who you used to be.
Other Title:	Essays. Selections
ISBN	9781982141493

2021

Title: Queer : powerful voices, inspiring ideas

Author: Romack, Coco, author.

Format: Book

Publisher, Date: Seattle : Spruce Books, [2021]

Description: 158 pages : illustrations ; 19 cm.

Summary: "Queer offers thought-provoking passages from the writings and speeches of acti the LGBTQIA+ community, with a focus on diverse and previously unheard voice intended to enlighten, to prompt change, to provide encouragement, and to mov action"-- Provided by publisher.

Series: Words of change; 3
Words of change (Sasquatch Books (Firm))

Subjects: Sexual minorities.
Sexual minorities – Identity.
Sexual minorities – Social conditions.
{ Queer people. }
Queer activism.

Genre: Quotations.

ISBN *9781632173775*

2021

Title: Continuum

Author: Man, Chella, 1998- author.

Format: Book

Publisher, Date: New York : Penguin Workshop, [2021]

Description: 64 pages : illustrations ; 16 cm.

Series: Pocket change collective
Pocket change collective.

Subjects: Man, Chella, 1998-
Gender-nonconforming people -- United States -- Biography.
Transgender people -- United States -- Biography.
Deaf -- United States -- Biography.
Asian American Jews -- United States -- Biography.
Minorities -- United States -- Biography.
Identity (Psychology) -- United States.
Prejudices -- United States.
Genderqueer people.
Transgender Asian Americans.
Transgender Jews.
Asian Americans (LGBTQ)
Jews (LGBTQ)
LGBTQ deaf people.

Genre: Autobiographies.

ISBN *9780593223482*

Authority Records

MARC AUTHORITY RECORD

HOMOSAURUS RECORD

Recommendations for Getting Buy-In

- Create a presentation with examples to demonstrate how beneficial Homosaurus will be to the catalog.

- Create a couple examples in your catalog of records with Homosaurus terms and authority records for those terms.

- Feel free to use the CCS PAC for demonstrations of searching for items with these Homosaurus terms in them.

- Include ideas for the cataloging handbook section in the presentation.

- Feel free to use the CCS cataloging handbook page on Homosaurus as an example of cataloging policy.

- Create a report of search terms to compare the number of times that users searched with Homosaurus terms compared to the equivalent LCSH term.

- Create a training plan.

Resources

Homosaurus

CCS Catalog Wiki Page on Homosaurus

Terry Reese's Documentation on MarcEdit:

Converting all Homosaurus records into MARC Authority Records - MarcEdit Blog Post

Converting all Homosaurus records into MARC Authority Records - Github