

CATALOGER'S JUDGEMENT:

BRINGING ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS INTO A FLUID SPACE

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ALCTS CAMMS CATALOG MANAGEMENT INTEREST GROUP PRESENTATION, ALA MIDWINTER MEETING

JANUARY 25, 2020



Cataloger's Judgement: The Fluid Space

H 180 (Assigning and Constructing Subject Headings)

“Individual cataloger knowledge and judgment inevitably play a role in assessing what is significant in a work's contents, but headings should not be assigned that reflect a cataloger's opinion about the contents.”



How do we use this fluid space?

Should ethical considerations play a role in 'cataloger's judgement'?

OUTLINE

- Problematic headings, ethical subject heading choices
- Changes implemented or sought
- Recommendations
- Concerns

EAST INDIANS

Subject Heading Browse

east indians



Subject heading ▾



East Indians (May Subd Geog)

Here are entered works on the inhabitants of India in general. Works on the aboriginal peoples of the Western Hemisphere, including Eskimos, are entered under Indians.

UF Asian Indians

Indians, East

Indic peoples

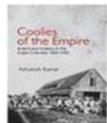
BT [Ethnology—India](#)

SA individual ethnic groups, e.g. [Bhil \(Indic people\)](#); [Dravidians](#)

NT [Peranakan \(Asian people\)](#)



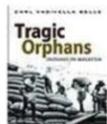
The other one percent : Indians in America
by Sanjoy Chakravorty; Devesh Kapur; Nirvikar Singh
Print book
Language: English
Publisher: New York, NY : Oxford University Press, [2017]
My Note: [Edit Note](#)



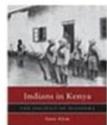
Coolies of the empire : indentured Indians in the sugar colonies, 1830-1920
by Ashutosh Kumar
eBook : Document
Language: English
Publisher: Cambridge Cambridge University Press 2017.
My Note: [Edit Note](#)



Indians and the antipodes : networks, boundaries, and circulation
by Śekhara Bandyopādhyāya; Jane Buckingham;
Print book
Language: English
Publisher: New Delhi, India : Oxford University Press, 2018.
My Note: [Edit Note](#)



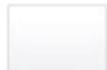
Tragic orphans : Indians in Malaysia
by Carl Vadivella Belle; Institute of Southeast Asian Studies,
Print book
Language: English
Publisher: Singapore : Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2015.
My Note: [Edit Note](#)



Indians in Kenya : the politics of diaspora
by Sana Aiyar
Print book
Language: English
Publisher: Cambridge, Massachusetts : Harvard University Press, [2015]
My Note: [Edit Note](#)



Indians in Singapore, 1819-1945 : diaspora in the colonial port-city
by Rajesh Rai
Print book
Language: English
Publisher: New Delhi : Oxford University Press, 2015.
My Note: [Edit Note](#)



Indians
by Ajay Jain
Print book : Biography
Language: English

WorldCat Search Results

CONSIDER WHAT WE HAVE: CAN WE CATALOG DIFFERENTLY?

Can we be more precise,
less prejudicial?

Ethnology—India

RT Caste—India

NT Adi (Indic people)

Adiwasi Garasia (Indic people)

Agaria (Indic people)

Ahirs

Ahoms (Indic people)

Akas

Alu Kurumba (Indic people)

Ambastha Kayasthas

Ambattans

Anal (Indic people)

Anavil Brahmans

Andamanese (Indic people)

Angami (Indic people)

Anwal (Indic people)

Ao (Indic people)

Apatani (Indic people)

Arains

Arunthathiyars

Assamese (South Asian people)

Asur (Indic people)

Audumbara (Indic people)

Babars (South Asian people)

Badaga (Indic people)

Baḍaganāḍḍu Brāhmanas

Bagals (Indic people)

Bagdis

Bagga (Indic people)

Bagta (Indic people)

Baiga (Indic people)

Bailpattars

Bairwas

Bairwa Khatris

"Houston - an American capital of Gujarati activities" : historic Gujarati events of Gujarati Sahitya Sarita

Author: [Navin Banker](#)

Publisher: [United States] : CreateSpace, [2015]

Edition/Format:  Print book : Gujarati

Rating: ☆☆☆☆ (not yet rated) [0](#) with reviews - Be the first.

Subjects: [Gujaratis \(Indic people\) -- Texas -- Houston -- History.](#)
[East Indians -- Texas -- Houston -- History.](#)
[East Indians.](#)

[View all subjects](#)

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LCSH for GUJARATIS:

Gujaratis (Indic people)

(May Subd Geog)

[DS432.G85]

UF Gujaratees (Indic people)

Gujratis (Indic people)

BT Ethnology—India

The Gujaratis of San Francisco

Author: [Usha R Jain](#)

Publisher: New York, N.Y. : AMS Press, ©1989.

Series: [Immigrant communities et ethnic minorities in the United States et Canada](#), 48.

Edition/Format:  Print book : English

Rating: ☆☆☆☆ (not yet rated) [0](#) with reviews - Be the first.

Subjects: [Gujarati Americans -- California -- San Francisco -- Social conditions.](#)
[San Francisco \(Calif.\) -- Social conditions.](#)
[Gujarati.](#)

[View all subjects](#)

More like this [Similar Items](#)

DO WE LOSE ANYTHING BY NOT INCLUDING THE HEADING “EAST INDIANS”?

Instead of the heading **East Indians**, use headings that are inclusive whenever possible:



The image shows a screenshot of the WorldCat website. The top left features the WorldCat logo and a search bar with 'Advanced Search' and 'Find a Library' links. Below the search bar, there are navigation links: '<< Return to Search Results', 'Add to list', 'Add tags', 'Write a review', and 'Rate this item: ☆☆☆☆'. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column displays the book 'The Gujaratis: the people, their history, and culture' by Krishanlal Mohanlal Jhaveri, published in 2003 by Cosmo Publications. It is part of the 'Peoples of India' series and is available as a print book in English. The book has a rating of four stars (☆☆☆☆) and is noted as 'not yet rated' with '0 with reviews - Be the first'. The subjects listed are 'Gujaratis (Indic people) -- Social life and customs', 'Gujaratis (Indic people) -- History', and 'Gujari literature -- History and criticism'. The right column displays the book 'Gujaratis in Fiji Islands: personal glimpses' by Kanti Jinna and Francis Mangubhai, published by [Flynn] in 2008. It is a print book in English, categorized as a biography. The summary states: 'This book focuses on the early history and arrival of Gujaratis. The book is divided into two parts: the first with the early history and arrival of Gujaratis; the second with the socio-cultural photographic history of Gujaratis grouped into family, business, social special section on two leading Gujarati women of'. The book has a rating of five stars (☆☆☆☆) and is noted as 'not yet rated' with '0 with reviews - Be the first'. The subjects listed are 'Gujaratis (Indic people) -- Fiji', 'Gujaratis (Indic people) -- Fiji -- Biography', and 'Gujaratis (Indic people) -- Fiji -- Ethnic identity'. There is a 'View all subjects' link at the bottom of the right column.

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The Gujaratis : the people, their history, and culture :

Author: [Krishanlal Mohanlal Jhaveri](#)

Publisher: New Delhi : Cosmo Publications, 2003.

Series: [Peoples of India.](#)

Edition/Format:  Print book : English

Rating: ☆☆☆☆ (not yet rated)  0 with reviews - Be the first

Subjects: [Gujaratis \(Indic people\) -- Social life and customs.](#)
[Gujaratis \(Indic people\) -- History.](#)
[Gujari literature -- History and criticism.](#)

Gujaratis in Fiji Islands : personal glimpses

Author: [Kanti Jinna](#); [Francis Mangubhai](#)

Publisher: [Flynn] : [Gujarat Samaj of Fiji], [2008?]

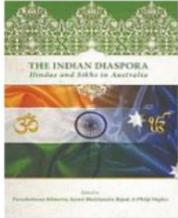
Edition/Format:  Print book : Biography : English [View all editions and formats](#)

Summary: This book focuses on the early history and arrival of Gujaratis. The book is divided into two parts: the first with the early history and arrival of Gujaratis; the second with the socio-cultural photographic history of Gujaratis grouped into family, business, social special section on two leading Gujarati women of [Read more...](#)

Rating: ☆☆☆☆ (not yet rated)  0 with reviews - Be the first

Subjects: [Gujaratis \(Indic people\) -- Fiji.](#)
[Gujaratis \(Indic people\) -- Fiji -- Biography.](#)
[Gujaratis \(Indic people\) -- Fiji -- Ethnic identity.](#)

[View all subjects](#)



The Indian diaspora : Hindus and Sikhs in Australia

Author: [Purusottama Billimoria](#); [Jayant Bhalchandra Bapat](#); [Philip Hughes](#)
Publisher: Melbourne, Australia : Manticore Press, 2019.

Edition/Format: Print book : English [View all editions and formats](#)

Summary: "Since the late 1990s, the Indian community in Australia has grc substantial contributions to the multi-ethnic and multi-religious d temples, yoga and rituals of many kind has brought new colours

Rating: (not yet rated) 0 with reviews - [Be the first.](#)

Subjects: [East Indian diaspora -- History.](#)
[Hindus -- Australia -- History.](#)
[Sikhs -- Australia -- History.](#)
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Reviews

Tags

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Related Subjects: (17)

[East Indian diaspora -- History.](#)

[Hindus -- Australia -- History.](#)

[Sikhs -- Australia -- History.](#)

[Hindus -- Religious life -- Australia -- History.](#)

[Sikhs -- Religious life -- Australia -- History.](#)

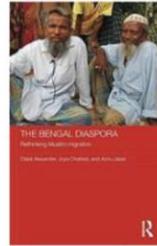
[East Indians -- Australia -- History.](#)

[Australia -- Emigration and immigration -- History.](#)

[India -- Emigration and immigration -- History.](#)

[Fiji -- Emigration and immigration -- History.](#)

The diaspora aspect is covered by these 3 headings



The Bengal diaspora rethinking Muslim migration

Author: [Claire E Alexander](#); [Joya Chatterji](#); [Annu Jalais](#)

Publisher: London ; New York: Routledge, 2016.

Edition/Format: Print book : English [View all editions and formats](#)

Summary: "India's partition in 1947 and the creation of Bangladesh in 1971 saw profound transformations across the region. A third of the region's pc Bengal delta itself. A similar number were internally displaced, while

Rating: (not yet rated) 0 with reviews - [Be the first.](#)

Subjects: [Bengali \(South Asian people\) -- Migrations.](#)
[Muslims -- Migrations.](#)
[Bengali \(South Asian people\) -- Social conditions.](#)
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Reviews

Tags

Similar Items

Related Subjects: (25)

[Bengali \(South Asian people\) -- Migrations.](#)

[Muslims -- Migrations.](#)

[Bengali \(South Asian people\) -- Social conditions.](#)

[Immigrants -- Social conditions.](#)

[Bengali \(South Asian people\) -- Ethnic identity.](#)

[Bengali \(South Asian people\) -- Interviews.](#)

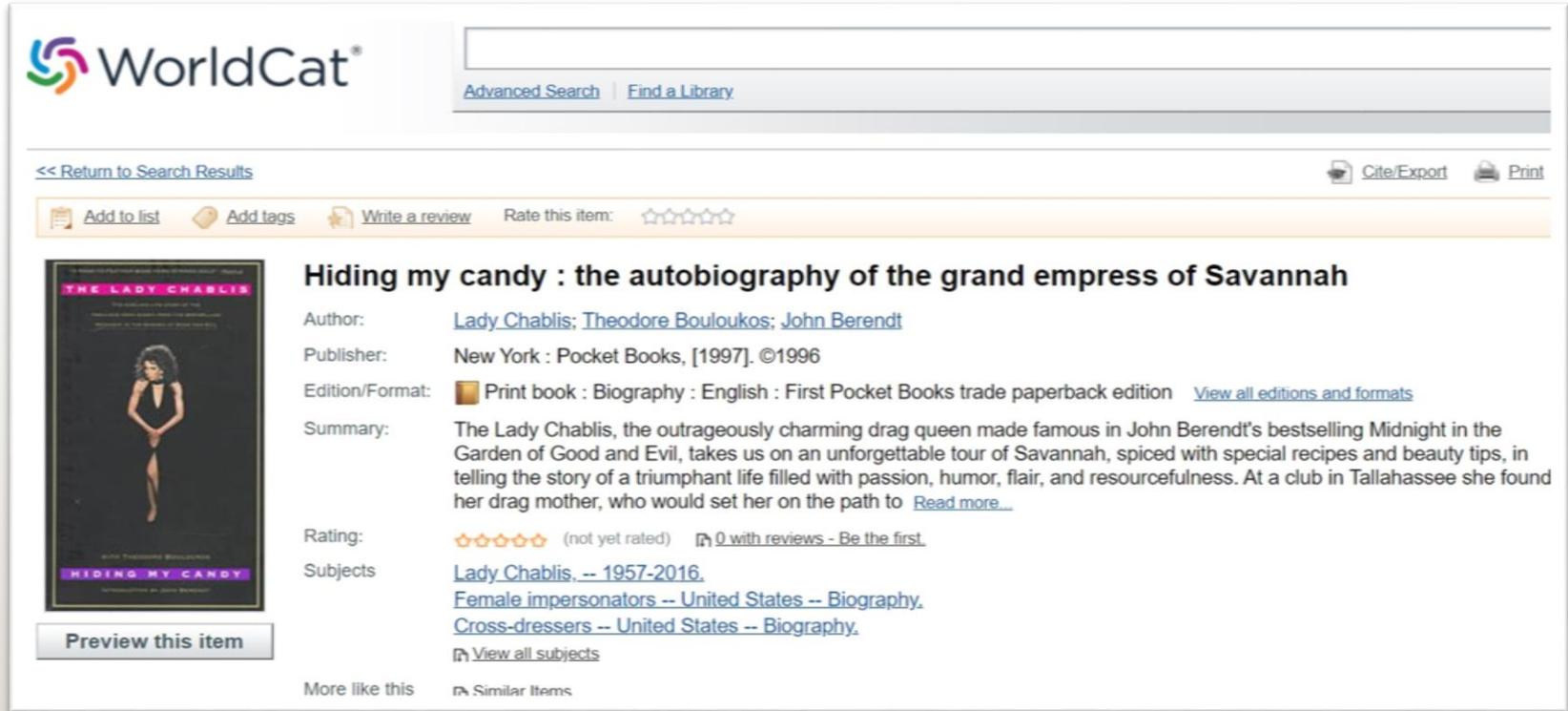
[Bengal \(India\) -- Emigration and immigration -- Social aspects.](#)

[Ganges River Delta \(Bangladesh and India\) -- Emigration and immigration -- Social aspects.](#)

[Great Britain -- Emigration and immigration -- Social aspects.](#)



GENDER - LADY CHABLIS AND DRAG AS EXAMPLES



The screenshot shows the WorldCat website interface. At the top left is the WorldCat logo. To its right is a search bar with links for 'Advanced Search' and 'Find a Library'. Below the search bar is a navigation bar with links: '<< Return to Search Results', 'Cite/Export', and 'Print'. A secondary navigation bar contains 'Add to list', 'Add tags', 'Write a review', and 'Rate this item: ☆☆☆☆☆'. The main content area features a book cover on the left and a detailed description on the right. The book cover is for 'THE LADY CHABLIS HIDING MY CANDY' and shows a woman in a black dress. The title of the book is 'Hiding my candy : the autobiography of the grand empress of Savannah'. The author information is 'Lady Chablis; Theodore Bouloukos; John Berendt'. The publisher is 'New York : Pocket Books, [1997]. ©1996'. The edition/format is 'Print book : Biography : English : First Pocket Books trade paperback edition'. The summary describes the book as an autobiography of a drag queen. The rating is '(not yet rated)'. The subjects are 'Lady Chablis, -- 1957-2016.', 'Female impersonators -- United States -- Biography.', and 'Cross-dressers -- United States -- Biography.'. There are also links for 'View all subjects', 'More like this', and 'Similar Items'.

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[<< Return to Search Results](#) [Cite/Export](#) [Print](#)

[Add to list](#) [Add tags](#) [Write a review](#) Rate this item: ☆☆☆☆☆

Hiding my candy : the autobiography of the grand empress of Savannah

Author: [Lady Chablis](#); [Theodore Bouloukos](#); [John Berendt](#)

Publisher: New York : Pocket Books, [1997]. ©1996

Edition/Format:  Print book : Biography : English : First Pocket Books trade paperback edition [View all editions and formats](#)

Summary: The Lady Chablis, the outrageously charming drag queen made famous in John Berendt's bestselling *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, takes us on an unforgettable tour of Savannah, spiced with special recipes and beauty tips, in telling the story of a triumphant life filled with passion, humor, flair, and resourcefulness. At a club in Tallahassee she found her drag mother, who would set her on the path to [Read more...](#)

Rating: ☆☆☆☆☆ (not yet rated) [Be the first](#) with reviews

Subjects: [Lady Chablis, -- 1957-2016.](#)
[Female impersonators -- United States -- Biography.](#)
[Cross-dressers -- United States -- Biography.](#)
[View all subjects](#)

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LIKELY BETTER HEADING

The screenshot shows the Library of Congress website interface. At the top left is the 'LIBRARY OF CONGRESS' logo. To the right is a search bar with 'Everything' selected and 'Search Loc.gov' entered. Below the search bar is a breadcrumb trail: 'The Library of Congress > Linked Data Service > LC Subject Headings (LCSH)'. The main content area is titled 'Drag shows'. Under 'URI(s)', there are three links: 'http://id.loc.gov/authorities/subjects/sh2006003334', 'info:lc/authorities/sh2006003334', and 'http://id.loc.gov/authorities/sh2006003334#concept'. Under 'Instance Of', there are three links: 'MADS/RDF Topic', 'MADS/RDF Authority', and 'SKOS Concept'. Under 'Scheme Membership(s)', there is one link: 'Library of Congress Subject Headings'. Under 'Collection Membership(s)', there are two links: 'LCSH Collection - Authorized Headings' and 'LCSH Collection - General Collection'. On the right side, there is a 'Subject Of Works' section with '4 resources' and a 'filter' button. Below this is a list of resources: 'Graham, Ronny. Mask and gown', 'Meyer, Moe, 1951- archaeology of posing', 'Schwartz, Selby Wynn, 1975- bodies of others', and 'Schwartz, Selby Wynn, 1975- bodies of others'. At the bottom of this section is a link: 'Suggest Alternative Terminology'.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Everything Search Loc.gov

The Library of Congress > Linked Data Service > LC Subject Headings (LCSH)

Drag shows

URI(s)

- <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/subjects/sh2006003334>
- <info:lc/authorities/sh2006003334>
- <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/sh2006003334#concept>

Instance Of

- [MADS/RDF Topic](#)
- [MADS/RDF Authority](#)
- [SKOS Concept](#)

Scheme Membership(s)

- [Library of Congress Subject Headings](#)

Collection Membership(s)

- [LCSH Collection - Authorized Headings](#)
- [LCSH Collection - General Collection](#)

Subject Of Works

4 resources filter Page 1 of 1

- Graham, Ronny. Mask and gown
- Meyer, Moe, 1951- archaeology of posing
- Schwartz, Selby Wynn, 1975- bodies of others
- Schwartz, Selby Wynn, 1975- bodies of others

[Suggest Alternative Terminology](#)

I used “Suggest Alternative Terminology”!

ANOTHER LIKELY BETTER HEADING OPTION



LIBRARY
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OF CONGRESS

Everything Search Loc.gov

The Library of Congress > Linked Data Service > LC Subject Headings (LCSH)

Performance artists

URI(s)

- <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/subjects/sh99013082>
- <info:lc/authorities/sh99013082>
- <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/sh99013082#concept>

Instance Of

- MADS/RDF Topic
- MADS/RDF Authority
- SKOS Concept

Scheme Membership(s)

- Library of Congress Subject Headings

Collection Membership(s)

- LCSH Collection - Authorized Headings
- LCSH Collection - General Collection

Subject Of Works

1 resources < Page 1 of 1 >

Widrich, Mechtild. Performative monuments

Suggest Alternative Terminology

HEADINGS THAT RESPECT IDENTITY INCREASE ACCURACY

- For example, Brenda Knox (AKA, the Lady Chablis) did not impersonate a female; she lived as a woman and assumed an outlandish role onstage, like many entertainers.
- “Impersonators” wording used mid-20th century when entertainers had to affirm assigned-at-birth gender in order to live and work (e.g., Danny LaRue). In modern entertainment, impersonators often mimic celebrities, and LC has “Celebrity impersonators” heading.
- She was also a civil rights advocate, comedienne, actress, and author. Gender was one part.



Photo used with permission of Dr. Lemuel Watson

EVERY SUBJECT IS INDIVIDUAL

- Drag artists are diverse, like librarians
 - In Brenda Knox's example, she was a woman and also transgender.
 - Famous drag performers RuPaul and Barry Humphries (aka Dame Edna Everage) live their lives as men when not at work.
 - Regarding gender and drag artists, artists are women, men, non-binary. Some were assigned a different gender at birth and some were not.
- If gender identity is a focus
 - Explore available LC headings like "Gender expression" and "Gender identity."
 - Headings for "Gender nonconformity" and "Gender identity disorder" exist, but carry their own baggage.
- Terminology changes over time for many subjects. Implement updates.

PEOPLE WHO WERE OR ARE ENSLAVED

- Term “Slaves” denies personhood.
- LC uses “Slaves” as major heading with variant “Enslaved persons.”
- Other controlled vocabularies replaced “Slaves” with heading like LC variant; terminology recognizes individuals as humans, not property.

The screenshot shows the Library of Congress Linked Data Service interface. At the top, the logo for the Library of Congress is visible. A search bar contains the text "Search Loc.gov" and a search icon. Below the search bar, the text "The Library of Congress > Linked Data Service" is displayed. The search results are refined by "Subject Headings" and show a search for "enslaved". The results table has the following columns: Label, Vocabulary, Concept, Subdivision, and Identifier. The first result is "1. Slaves" with the vocabulary "LC Subject Headings (LCSH)" and the concept "Topic". A second result is "Enslaved persons". The interface also includes a "Refine your results" sidebar with categories like Scheme, Type, Collection, Created Date, and Modified Date, each with a count of 1. A "GO" button and a "RESET" button are also present.

Label	Vocabulary	Concept	Subdivision	Identifier
1. Slaves	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Topic		sh85123347
Enslaved persons				

LIKELY BETTER EXISTING HEADING



Everything

The Library of Congress > Linked Data Service > LC Subject Headings (LCSH)

Slavery

URI(s)

- <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/subjects/sh85123314>
- <info:lc/authorities/sh85123314>
- <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/sh85123314#concept>

Instance Of

- MADS/RDF Topic
- MADS/RDF Authority
- SKOS Concept [↗](#)

Scheme Membership(s)

- [Library of Congress Subject Headings](#)

Collection Membership(s)

- [LCSH Collection - Authorized Headings](#)
- [LCSH Collection - General Collection](#)

Subject Of Works

497 resources [◀ Page 1 of 10 ▶](#)

Abu Muslim Sahafi, 1919- [Ghuʻlu0101mi](#)

Aesop Enterprises. Queen Nzinga

African servitude: when, why, and by whom instituted

Aleksishvili, Mate Mikhailovich Iz glubiny vekov

Alexander, Geo. W. (George William), 1802-1890.
Letters on the slave-trade, slavery and emancipation

Alexander, Geo. W. (George William), 1802-1890.
Letters on the slave-trade, slavery, and emancipation

DOMINO EFFECT?

- If there are options available, why don't catalogers use them?
- Catalogers pull from work of other catalogers in assigning headings.
- As in the case of citations, frequently assigned headings often get more use.

New/more inclusive headings are absolutely necessary:

Changing headings: "East Indians."

Adding new headings when no appropriate headings exist.

- Reference librarian (Ann) searched with “sacred cow” to find literature on outdated practices, practices not based on evidence.
- Noted no heading could be found in CINAHL (nursing and allied health database) or MeSH (used primarily in MEDLINE biomedical database) to locate materials on out of date practices.
- Searched outside healthcare literature and found similar issue.



- In CINAHL, we recommended new heading “Outdated Practice.” Heading was accepted and introduced in 2019.
- In MEDLINE (AKA, PubMed), we recommended new Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) “Outdated Practice” and “Non-Evidence Based.” Awaiting decisions.

The screenshot shows the CINAHL Plus with Full Text search results page. The database is identified as CINAHL Plus with Full Text, hosted by BSCOHST. The search results are for the term 'outdated practice'. A green bar at the top of the results section reads 'Results For: outdated practice'. Below this, there are instructions: 'Check box to view subheadings.' and 'Click linked term for tree view.'. On the right side, there are buttons for 'Explode (+)', 'Major Concept', and 'Scope'. A 'Scope Note' is displayed in a yellow box, stating: 'The continued use of medical practices that are no longer recommended.'. At the bottom left, there is a checkbox next to the link 'Outdated Practice'.

EFFECTIVE CATALOG MANAGEMENT

- Implementing updates (challenging; can be more effective)
 - *Transvestites*: Changed nearly 200 headings
- Including more inclusive headings from different thesauri
 - *Illegal Aliens*:
 - **UCLA**: Adding the MeSH heading “Undocumented Immigrants” in MARC records
 - Adding “Undocumented Immigrants” in digital library projects

Catalog management: Cataloging as a conscious act of ethical choice

Make most of what is already out there (when change is slow):

Employ already available headings that are more accurate, less hurtful.

TRAINING.AWARENESS.INVOLVEMENT

- Training: Cataloging rules & Ethical issues
 - *Design thinking in cataloging*
- Writing/publishing
 - Blogs/Twitter (#critlib)
- Serving on committees and working groups
 - SAC working groups on “illegal aliens”
 - Cataloging Ethics Steering Committee working groups

FURTHER READING

- Billey, Amber. 2019. Just Because We Can, Doesn't Mean We Should: An Argument for Simplicity and Data Privacy With Name Authority Work in the Linked Data Environment. *Journal of Library Metadata*. 19 (1/2): 1–17. doi:10.1080/19386389.2019.1589684.
- Clarke, Rachel Ivy & Dobreski, Brian. 2019. Exploring the Role of Repertoire in Library Cataloging. *Journal of Documentation*, 75(5): 1169–1189. doi.org/10.1108/JD-10-2018-0169.
- Hallyburton, Ann & Biswas, Paromita. 2018. Searching for the 'Sacred Cow': A Conceptual Analysis of the Term in Nursing Literature. *Journal of Documentation*, 74(6): 1134–1148. doi.org/10.1108/JD-05-2018-0070.
- Sandberg, Jane. *Ethical Questions in Name Authority Control*. 2019. Litwin Books & Library Juice Press.



QUESTIONS, COMMENTS?

Please feel free to contact us!

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