

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

ALA Executive Director
Tracie D. Hall
and Chair of Subject
Analysis Committee
Amanda Ros

American Librarian
Association
Chicago

7 August 2023

Dear Ms. Ros and Ms. Hall,

On behalf of the World Jewish Congress and our more than 100 Jewish affiliated communities across the globe, I would like to thank you for your thoughtful response to our concerns on the classification of Holocaust denial literature on library shelves and online library catalogs. We commend the various suggestions and recent proposal put forth by the Core Analysis Committee, particularly the proposed initiatives for immediate action by local librarians.

We appreciate your suggestion to remove additional subjects from bibliographic records for Holocaust denial literature in library catalogs, keeping only the subject heading "Holocaust denial literature." This step would help prevent confusion, as it is far too common for Holocaust denial works to have additional subject headings, making it unnecessarily difficult to accurately identify them.

For example, the Holocaust denial book by Germar Rudolf [The Rudolf Report: Expert Report on Chemical and Technical Aspects of the "gas Chambers" of Auschwitz in the Library of Congress](#), is linked to the subject headings: [Auschwitz \(Concentration camp\); Holocaust denial literature-Germany; Gas chambers--Poland--Oświęcim](#). By removing the additional subjects, as suggested in your previous letter, aside from "Holocaust Denial - Germany", we can streamline the categorization and ensure that its presence and nature are properly represented.

Taking a comprehensive approach to the classification of Holocaust denial literature and other controversial works within the system is undeniably commendable. However, it is imperative to exercise caution to avoid conflating denial literature with critical works that counter denialist claims. Additionally, it is crucial to prevent any confusion among readers by clearly differentiating between various forms of denialism and reserving the term "denialism" specifically for cases involving the denial of genocide, and ensuring it is not diminished or trivialized by inappropriate comparisons to other historical events.

We recognize that a comprehensive and time-consuming process is required to ensure that these works are properly categorized both in online library catalogs and physical library shelves, and therefore appreciate your willingness and positive response.

We are very pleased to learn this issue will be discussed at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions conference this month. It is our stance that such an action would provide an ideal platform for professionals

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in the field to exchange ideas and collaborate on addressing this matter effectively. We of course have no reservations in mentioning our outreach and communication.

We thank you for your attention to these critical matters and value the continued updates and communication. We appreciate your ongoing efforts to address Holocaust denial and its impact on society through improved classification and informed librarianship.

Sincerely,



Menachem Rosensaft,

General Counsel and Associate Vice President,

World Jewish Congress