IMPLEMENTING LOCAL ALTERNATIVES TO THE "ILLEGAL ALIENS" LCSH

REPORT FROM THE SAC WORKING GROUP ON ALTERNATIVES TO LCSH "ILLEGAL ALIENS"

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text of the draft report:
tinyurl.com/alamw20draft

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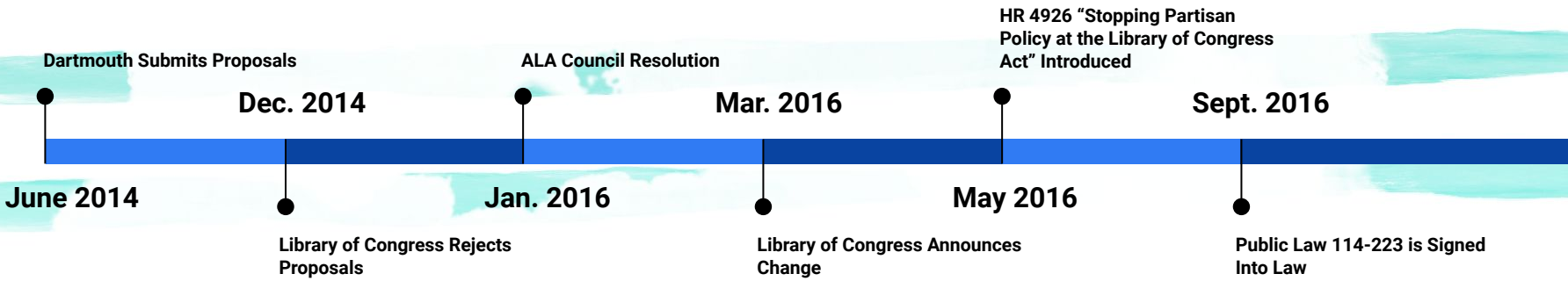
BACKGROUND


Dartmouth Submits Proposals
June 2014
Dec. 2014
Library of Congress Rejects Proposals
ALA Council Resolution
Jan. 2016
Mar. 2016
Library of Congress Announces Change
HR 4926 “Stopping Partisan Policy at the Library of Congress Act” Introduced
May 2016
Sept. 2016
Public Law 114-223 is Signed Into Law

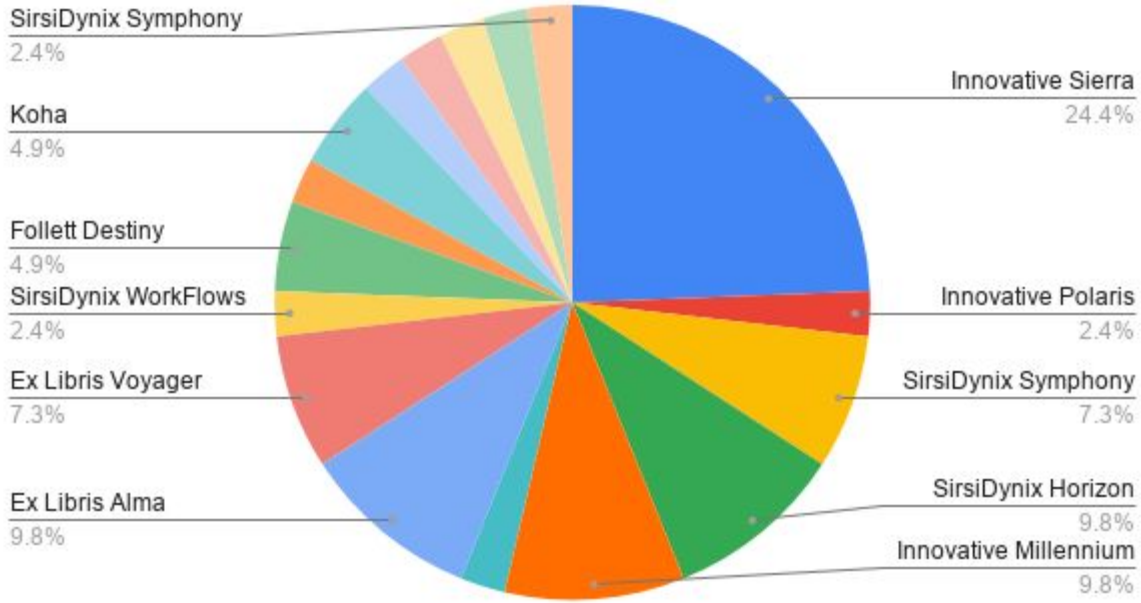
METHODOLOGY

SOME QUESTIONS ASKED

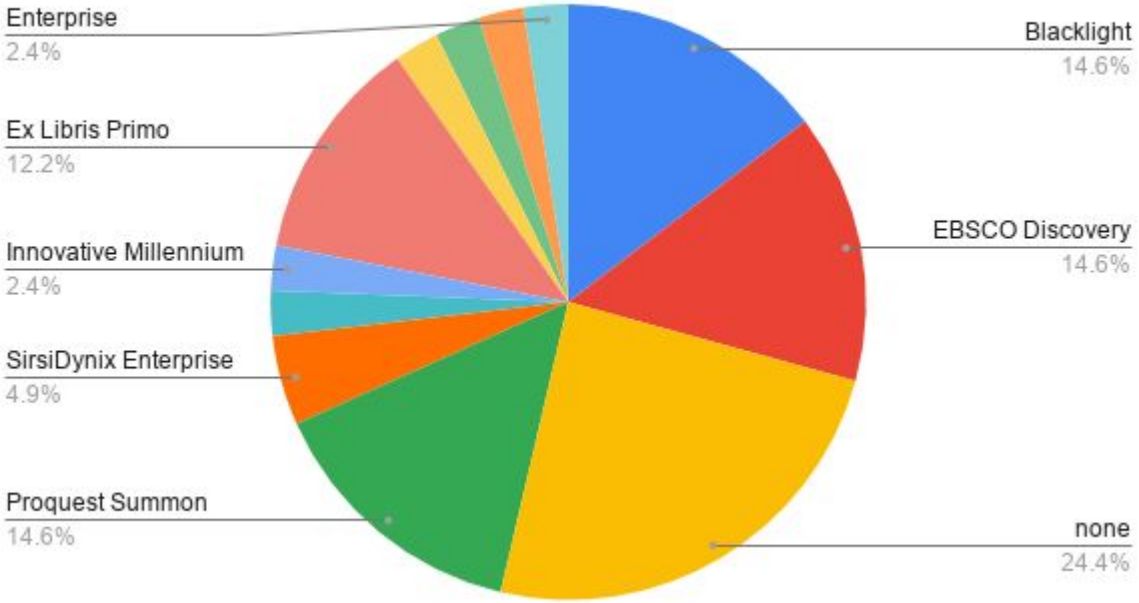
- Does your library catalog represent your single library, your library system, or a consortium of library systems?
- What changes has your library / library system / consortium made to this subject heading?
- Were the changes one-time, or are new records with the subject headings accounted for in your approach? If you made one-time changes, do you plan to address new records with the "Illegal aliens" LCSH?
- Did you have to make changes in your discovery interface in order to include the changes you made to the subject heading? If so, what actions did you take?
- What challenges did you encounter with making these changes?
- Were library / organizational administration or other parts of the library involved in the decision to make these changes?
- Were these changes communicated to the organization or the public, and if so, how?

SURVEY RESULTS

ILS of respondents



Discovery layers of respondents



TRENDS IN THE RESULTS

Most who made revisions changed the heading to “Undocumented immigrants”

Primary approaches:

- Retaining authorized LCSH and adding alternate terms
- Replacing authorized LCSH
- Retaining authorized LCSH and displaying alternate terms

FREQUENTLY REPORTED CHALLENGES

- deciding how to make changes on a consortium-wide basis
- deciding on which alternative vocabulary/terminology to use
- unanticipated bibliographic maintenance, especially confusion around “aliens” versus extraterrestrials
- forgetting to revise headings that aren’t alphabetically near “Illegal aliens” (like “Children of illegal aliens”)
- keeping up with revising headings in newly imported bibliographic records
- workload/staffing issues
- database syncing issues causing delay in displaying revisions
- working around automated authority control systems

CONCLUSION

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Prescriptive recommendations were not possible
- Survey respondents' most frequent comment was that they wish they'd made this change sooner
- Anything is better than nothing

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QUESTIONS?

Find the text of the draft report at:

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