Radical Cataloging:

Using Alternative Subject Headings Locally to Promote Inclusiveness and Diversity

Sol María López & Laura Wright

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER LIBRARIES

October 16, 2018
Today we will...

- Introduction
- What is radical cataloging?
- Background on “Illegal aliens”
- Project description (Two universities)
- Examples
- Administrative decision-making
- Other impacts & Implications
- Q&A
Radical Cataloging

“...refers to addressing the root–systemic, or structural–issues behind social problems. Radical cataloging, in this way, is not necessarily an attempt to do away with or subvert cataloging altogether, but is rather intended to address the root issues that can make access to information problematic.”
1910-1914
“Aliens” first appeared in LC

1980
“Aliens, illegal” was established

1993
Revised to “illegal aliens”

2010
Race Forward, The Center for Racial Justice Innovation

2013
Melissa Padilla at Dartmouth College

Jan 2016
ALA Council adopts resolution on replacement

Mar 2016
LC announces resolution for discontinuation

Jun 2016
House of Representatives votes to continue using SH

Jul 2016
SAC’s working group finalizes recommendations for changes

Jun 2017 to present
No decision as of yet by LC
Why NOT “Illegal Aliens”?
Standard 1. Cultural awareness of self and others

“...appreciating the importance of multicultural identities in the lives of the people they work with and serve”

Standard 6. Language diversity

“...work to foster a climate of inclusion aimed at eliminating discrimination and oppression based on linguistic or other diversities.”

Standard 9. Cross-cultural leadership

“...creation of proactive processes that increase diversity skills; empower colleagues, co-workers, and constituents from diverse backgrounds; share information about diverse populations”
Student Success Goal #4

Student Success Goal #7d
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC)

Subject Analysis Committee (SAC)
Which indexing & abstracting services use the alternative subject headings already?

- ERIC
- Sociological Abstracts (ProQuest)
- U.S. National Library of Medicine (MeSH)
- Worldwide Political Science Abstracts

Which resources use the negative LCSH terms?

- Government resources
Project: Use Create Lists and Global Updates to enhance bibliographic records in Sierra at CU Boulder Libraries by adding the alternative subject headings recommended by the Subject Analysis Committee for the following Library of Congress Subject Headings. Alternative SH include:

1. Aliens >> **Noncitizens**
2. Illegal Aliens >> **Undocumented immigrants**
3. Alien detention centers >> **Immigrant detention centers**
4. Children of illegal aliens >> **Children of undocumented immigrants**
5. Illegal alien children >> **Undocumented immigrant children**
6. Illegal aliens in literature >> **Undocumented immigrants in literature**
7. Women illegal aliens >> **Women undocumented immigrants**
TWO ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN COLORADO

Regis University – Dayton Memorial Library  
(June 2017)  

CU Boulder Libraries (June 2018)
EXAMPLE (REGIS UNIVERSITY)

Author: Thorpe, Helen, 1965-
Title: Just like us [videorecording] / Helen Thorpe.
Publication Info: 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Call No.</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DML 1st Floor Video</td>
<td>F784.D49.M59 2010 DVD</td>
<td>AVAILABLE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Details

Description: 1 videodisc (59 min.): sd., col.; 4 3/4 in.
Note: Title supplied by cataloger.
Presented as the concluding event of the 5th annual Regis University Diversity Day conference.
On container label: Regis University, Dayton Memorial Library Media Services.

System Details: DVD.
Note: Lecture recorded in Denver, Colo., Apr. 7, 2010.
Subject: Mexican American women -- Colorado -- Denver -- Social conditions,
Undocumented immigrants -- Colorado -- Denver,
Denver (Colo.) -- Social conditions,
Denver (Colo.) -- Social life and customs.
EXAMPLE (CU BOULDER)

Author
Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. issuing body

Title
2014 Immigration Detention Policy Found to Breach the 1997 Flores Settlement Agreement : CRS Legal Sidebar

Publication Info

Subject
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Illegal aliens -- United States
Preventive detention -- United States
Undocumented immigrants

LOCATION
Call Number
CALL #
CRS-2015-AML-0497

STATUS
AVAILABLE

Description
1 online resource (3 pages), digital, PDF file

Format
text; online resource

Note
Record is based on bibliographic data in ProQuest U.S. Congressional Research Digital Collection (last viewed Mar. 2017). Re individual research requires license from ProQuest, LLC "Sept. 11, 2015."

OCLC or Other Control Number
 CRS20162617

Call Number
CRS-2015-AML-0497

Permanent link to this record => http://libraries.colorado.edu/record=b9465688-s3
Subject Vs. Keyword searches at CU Boulder

A. Chinook The Libraries Catalog

B. Chinook The Libraries Catalog

"Noncitizens" is not used in this library's catalog. Aliens is used instead. Try a search for Aliens.
How Did We Do This???
And Why???
The tipping point

Image from Wikimedia, The Diffusion of Innovation
These are real people

There are more than 70 DACA students at the University of Colorado Boulder.
Logistical considerations

7 million bibliographic records
Batch loading, batch updates
Ongoing maintenance
Cooperative cataloging environment
Questions to ask

- Keep LCSH and add alternative terms vs Replace LCSH
- Global editing capability
- Ongoing maintenance
  - How often
  - Who is responsible
  - Where is it documented
  - Can it be automated
Keep LCSH and add alternative terms?

Replace LSCH?

Creator: Randen Pederson
Global editing capability
Ongoing maintenance
Still to do

- Analyze search logs
- Get feedback
- Advocate for change at higher level
- Reiterate – what other areas need similar attention?
Local vs National?

How much attention should we give to making local changes vs advocating for change at the national level?
Do Work
That Matters

Vate la pena

- Gloria E. Anzaldúa
REFERENCES


Report from the ALA/ALCTS/Subject Analysis Committee Working Group on the LCSH for “illegal aliens”  http://connect.ala.org/node/255185
Thank You! ÍGracias!

Questions / Comments?

Contact information:

Sol López
Sol.lopez@Colorado.edu

Laura Wright
Laura.wright@Colorado.edu