Improving Subject Description of an LGBTQ+ Collection

CTP Session

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Our project

- Examine catalog records for ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives (approximately 33,000 items) to identify Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) that are considered as problematic in terms of diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Incorporate more inclusive subject headings into the catalog records containing problematic LCSH, which will enable better discovery and access of these resources
Background—who we are

- Charged by USC Libraries’ Dean
  - Dean’s Challenge Grant
    - Co-PIs:
      - Junjiro Nakatomi – Technical Services
      - Michael Oliveira – ONE Archives
  - Members of
    - Technical Services (Cataloging)
    - ILS (Integrated Library Systems)
    - Public Services (ONE Archives)
    - Student worker with ONE Archives (1 semester only)
Background–ONE Archives

- ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives (ONE Archives) is the largest repository of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) materials in the world
  - Contains: archives, books, serials, videos, audio recordings, posters, etc.
  - Holds approximately 33,000 items
There is often a presumption of whiteness and maleness in LCSH; its default is frequently “straight, white, cis-gendered male,” and anyone that doesn’t fit into those categories can be seen as exceptional.

LCSH: DEI perspectives—continued

- LCSH contains biased, offensive terms and contains outdated assumptions:
  - Male default: Astronauts vs Women astronauts
    Authors vs Women authors
  - Heteronormative assumptions: Sexual minorities
    - UF: Gender minorities; GLBT people; GLBTQ people; Lesbigay people; LBG people; LGBT people; LGBTQ people; Non-heterosexual people; Non-heterosexuals; Sexual dissidents
Process

1. Step one: look at what we have:

2. Step two: improve what we have:
Process—continued

● Before:
  ○ 650 -0 $a Sexual minorities in art.

● After:
  ○ 650 -0 $a Sexual minorities in art.
  ○ 650 -7 $a LGBTQ+ people in art. $2 local

● Notes:
  ○ We chose not to delete or edit existing and valid LCSH in these records
  ○ The only headings we edited were old/out of date LCSH
  ○ While some of the terms were derived from Homosaurus, we chose to mark them as ‘local’ because of how we used them
### Some subject headings added to records

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current language</th>
<th>add</th>
<th>local or homoit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abused lesbians</td>
<td>Abused lesbian women</td>
<td>local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abusive lesbian partners</td>
<td>Abusive lesbian women partners</td>
<td>local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American gays</td>
<td>African American gay men</td>
<td>local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American homosexuals</td>
<td>African American gay men and lesbian women</td>
<td>local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American lesbians</td>
<td>African American lesbian women</td>
<td>local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American lesbians in motion pictures</td>
<td>African American lesbian women in motion pictures</td>
<td>local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American sexual minorities</td>
<td>African American LGBTQ+ people</td>
<td>local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian American gays</td>
<td>Asian American gay men</td>
<td>local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian American lesbians</td>
<td>Asian American lesbian women</td>
<td>local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bible Gay interpretations</td>
<td>Bible LGBTQ+ interpretations</td>
<td>local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bisexuals</td>
<td>Bisexual people</td>
<td>local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic gays</td>
<td>Catholic gay men</td>
<td>local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children of gay parents</td>
<td>Children of LGBTQ+ parents</td>
<td>local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children of sexual minority parents</td>
<td>Children of LGBTQ+ parents</td>
<td>local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children of gays</td>
<td>Children of LGBTQ+ people</td>
<td>local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children of gays</td>
<td>children of gay men</td>
<td>homoit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children of transsexual parents</td>
<td>Children of transgender people</td>
<td>homoit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Normalization rules in Alma

- rule "copy 650 fields to ABC based on the contents of the 650"
  # This copies over all 650s that we want to edit to a temp ABC field
  salience 10
  when TRUE
  then
  copyField "650" to "ABC: .7" if (exists "650: .7")
  Abused lesbians
  Abusive lesbian partners
  African American gays
  African American homosexuals
  African lesbians
  African American lesbians in motion pictures
  African American sexual minorities
  Middle-aged gays
  Middle-aged lesbians
  Asian American gays
  Asian American lesbians
  Asian American women in motion pictures
  Asian American women in motion pictures
  Gay interpretations
  Gay interpretations
  Bisexuals
  Catholic gays
  Children of gay parents
  Children of sexual minority parents
  Children of gay kids
  Church work with gays
  Church work with lesbians
  Closeted gays
  Closeted lesbians
  Closeted gay women
  Closeted lesbian women
  Closeted gay men
  Closeted lesbian men
  Deaf gays
  Deaf lesbians
  Deaf gay men
  Deaf lesbian men
  Gay and lesbian fiction
  Gay and lesbian fiction
  Gay and lesbian films
  Gay and lesbian studies
  Homosexuals in literature
  Homosexuals in literature
  Gay and lesbian films
  Hispanic American gays
  Hispanic American lesbians
  Hispanic American feminists
  Jewish gays
  Jewish lesbians
  Jewish gay men
  Jewish lesbian men
  Lesbian and gay" from "(Lesbian culture)"
  Lesbian high school students
  Lesbians in literature
  Lesbians in mass media
  Lesbians in motion pictures
  Lesbian librarians
  Lesbian activists
  Lesbian actresses
  Lesbian athletes
  Lesbian artists in popular culture
  Lesbian authors
  Lesbian bars
  Lesbian business enterprises
  Lesbian cartoonists
  Lesbian clergy
  Lesbian college students
  Lesbian college teach community
  Lesbian composers
  Lesbian consumers
  Lesbian couples
  Lesbians in art
  Lesbian motion picture producers and directors
  Lesbian musicians
  partner abuse
  Lesbian police officers
  Lesbian private investigators
  Lesbian psychotherapists
  Lesbian separatism
  Lesbian students
  Lesbian teachers
  Lesbian theater
  Lesbian vampires
  Lesbian youth
  Lesbians' writings
  American Women's writings
  Australian Women's writings
  Canadian Women's writings
  Lesbian English
  Lesbian English writings
  French Women's writings
  German Women's writings
  Hispanic American (Spanish) Women's writings
  Hispanic American (Sp. culture)
  Lesbian erotic art
  Lesbian erotic poetry, American
  Lesbian erotic poetry, Canadian
  Lesbian erotic poetry, English
  Lesbian erotic stories, American
  Lesbian erotic stories, Canadian
  Lesbian feminin
  Lesbian feminist theory
  Lesbian artists
  Gay accommodations
  Gay activists
  Gay actors
  Gay adoption
  Gay artists
  Gay athletes
  Gay authors
  Gay bars
  Gay bodybuilders
  Gay broadcasters
  Gay business enterprises
  Gay clergy
  Gay (Athletics)
  Gay college students
  Gay community
  Gay columns in newspapers
  Gay conservatives
  Gay consumers
  Gay counselors
  Gay couples
  Gay critics
  Gay culture
  Gay culture in literature
  Gay deacons
  Gay detectives
  Gay discothek
  Gay erotic comic books, strips, etc.
  Gay erotic drama
  Gay erotic drawing
  Gay erotic films
  Gay erotic literature
  Gay erotic literature, French
  Gay erotic poetry, American
  Gay erotic poetry, English
  Gay erotic poetry, French
  Gay erotic poetry, Greek
  Gay erotic stories
  Gay erotic stories, American
  Gay erotic stories, Canadian
  Gay erotic stories, English
  Gay evolution
  Gay figure skaters
  Gay heroes
  Gay high school students
  Gay journalists
  Gay kings and rulers
  Gay liberal movement
  Gay librarians
  Gay military cadets
  Gay military personnel
  Gay movie picture actors and actresses
  Gay and directors
  Gay musicians
  Gay online chat groups
  Gay parents
  Gay sons
  Gay sexual minorities
  Gay in higher education
  Gay in higher education
  Gay in literature
  Gay in mass media
  Gay in motion pictures
  Gay in motion pictures
  Gay in popular culture
  Gay in popular culture
  Gay arts
  Gay in the performing arts
  Gay with disabilities
  Gay with disabilities
  Gay with disabilities
  Gay with disabilities
  Gay with disabilities
  Gay with disabilities
  Gay and rock music
  Gay and rock music
  Gay and sports
  Gay and sports
  Gay and sports
  Gay and sports
  Gay and sports
  Gay and sports
  "Gay art"
Outcomes

- 300 subject headings were added. Main terms:
  - “bisexuals” → “bisexual people”
  - “gays” → “gay men” and “LGBTQ+ people”
  - “lesbians” → “lesbian women”
  - “sexual minority” and “sexual minorities” → “LGBTQ+” or “LGBTQ+ people”
  - “transsexual” → “transgender”

- Old LCSH were updated to current authorized terms
  - Transvestism → Cross-dressing
  - Transvestites → Cross-dressers
  - Homosexuals, Male → Gay men

- Approximately, 8,000 records have updated local terms added to their bib records
Frequency of words in local subject fields of ONE Archives, following enhancement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Number of occurrences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LGBTQ (including LGBTQ+)</td>
<td>6623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesbian</td>
<td>3931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>3857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>2512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People</td>
<td>2302</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessment - initial feedback

- From collection curators and student assistants within the ONE Archives
  - Significant increase in results for “women”
  - More results for basic searches
  - Exciting that people will be able to identify more relevant materials in ONE Archives
Lessons learned

- Challenges in identifying inclusive terms
  - Homosaurus
    - Language is constantly in flux
    - We have selected the most inclusive language

- Cross-departmental collaboration
  - Normalization rules
  - Authority control task list
  - Primo configuration
  - MARC fields (690 vs 650)

- Homophobia in schools -- United States
- School violence -- United States
- Sexual minority students -- Violence against -- United States
- Gay rights -- United States
- LGBTQ+ students -- Violence against -- United States
- LGBTQ+ students Violence against United States
Recommendations

● Continuing to update catalog records for ONE Archives
  ○ Inclusive terms continue to be added to new items coming to ONE Archives

● Updating catalog records of materials related to LGBTQ+ in other libraries
  ○ Promote the positive outcomes of this project to library faculty and staff
Recommendations—continued

● Tackling other problematic LCSH
  ○ LCSH terms for marginalized people
  ○ Recent recommendations by the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee include the addition of local terminology
  ○ Continue the dialogue with subject librarians*
As part of our effort, Technical Services created a Google Form for faculty and staff to submit their request of remediating metadata. Metadata Community of Practice (MCOP) Committee was formed within USC Libraries in February 2023.
Thank you!

For any questions, please contact me:
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