

**The Words We Choose, the
Words We Use: Catalogers'
Insights on Critical
Information
Literacy Strategies**

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Overview

- ◆ Why should you care?
- ◆ The problem
- ◆ Fixing the problem?
- ◆ Embracing the problem
- ◆ Fixing what we can
- ◆ Thinking beyond LCSH

The problem

- ◆ Primarily affecting marginalized groups
- ◆ Based on dominant culture of the U.S.
- ◆ Long time for heading additions and changes
- ◆ Politics



International Workers Day march in Minneapolis. By Fibonacci Blue, 2010, retrieved from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/fibonacciblue/4569970806> CC BY 2.0

Illegal aliens (*May Subd Geog*)
UF Aliens—Legal status, laws, etc.
Aliens, Illegal [*Former heading*]
Illegal immigrants
Illegal immigration
Undocumented aliens
BT Aliens
RT Alien detention centers
Human smuggling
NT Children of illegal aliens
Women illegal aliens
Illegal aliens' children
USE Children of illegal aliens

"Illegal Aliens." *Library of Congress Subject Headings*, 35th edition. Library of Congress, 2013.

Why we can't just fix the problem?

- ◆ Headings submission and approval process
- ◆ Politics
- ◆ Consortial library environments
- ◆ Time/money
- ◆ Larger than just individual headings



Embracing the problem



Teaching the catalog with the ACRL Framework

- ◆ Authority Is Constructed and Contextual
- ◆ Information Creation as a Process
- ◆ Information Has Value
- ◆ Research as Inquiry
- ◆ Searching as Strategic Exploration

The conversation of critical cataloging scholarship

- ◆ Queering the Catalog
- ◆ Harm reduction
- ◆ The Cataloging Lab
cataloginglab.org



The
Cataloging
Lab

Thinking beyond LCSH

- ◆ Other large controlled vocabularies
 - ◆ EBSCO Comprehensive Subject Index
 - ◆ MeSH: Medical Subject Headings
 - ◆ Sears List of Subject Headings
- ◆ Local controlled vocabulary

Further reading

Matthew Reidsma. [Algorithmic bias in library discovery systems](#) (2016)

Erin Leach. [Using the Framework to frame: cataloging policy and practice as seen through the lens of the Framework For Information Literacy For Higher Education](#) (2017)

Emily Drabinski. [Queering the catalog: queer theory and the politics of correction](#) (2013)

Works cited

Aguilera, Jasmine. "Another word for 'illegal alien' at the Library of Congress: contentious." *New York Times*, 22 July 2016, <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/23/us/another-word-for-illegal-alien-at-the-library-of-congress-contentious.html>.

"Amanda Blackhorse asks: Which name? Five more prominent Natives respond." *Indian Country Today*, 29 August 2016, <https://indiancountrymedianetwork.com/culture/social-issues/native-american-vs-indian/>.

Bone, Christine & Brett Lougheed. "Library of Congress subject headings related to indigenous peoples: changing LCSH for use in a Canadian archival context." *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*, vol. 56, no. 1, 2018, pp. 83-95.

Emily Drabinski. "Queering the catalog: queer theory and the politics of correction." *The Library Quarterly* vol. 83, no. 2, April 2013, pp. 94-111.

Drabinski, Emily. "Teaching the radical catalog." *Radical Cataloging: Essays at the Front*, edited by K.R. Roberto, McFarland, 2008, pp. 198-205.

"Occupations by gender shares of employment." *United States Department of Labor, Women's Bureau*, https://www.dol.gov/wb/stats/occ_gender_share_em_1020_txt.htm.

Please get in touch with any questions,
comments, or project proposals!

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