

Words Matter: Harmful Language & U.S. Govt Information – Chat Log

from Christine Fletcher to everyone:
Who else is here from Mississippi?

from Christine Fletcher to everyone:
I see some familiar names. Hello to everyone I've sent claims to from Mississippi State. Thanks for giving things good homes as we transition to electronic only.

from Kelly Seifert to everyone:
Handouts and Slides can be downloaded here: <https://www.fdlp.gov/file-repository/991/handouts-and-slides>

from Susanne Caro to everyone:
GPO statement <https://fdlp.gov/cataloging-and-classification/gpo-statement-on-outdated-offensive-language>

from Susan Jensen to everyone:
There is some audio static. Perhaps an issue with the microphone.

from J. Wendel Cox to everyone:
(Yay! I'll walk down the hall to tell my colleague, Jill Baron, that her work has been noted again!)

from J. Wendel Cox to everyone:
<https://www.library.dartmouth.edu/digital/digital-collections/change-the-subject>

from J. Wendel Cox to everyone:
(For the documentary related to the subject heading fight.)

from Melissa Fayad to everyone:
J. Wendel Cox-Thanks for the link~!!!!

from Hugh Truslow to everyone:
It's a great documentary - and great work that it presents

from Susanne Caro to everyone:
+1 Hugh

from Christine Fletcher to everyone:
Ginger! They got you working with gifv discs now? kewl! You can hang with cool kids now.

from Charlie she-her Amiot to everyone:
Wooo! Hein! And they're a sponsor, so thanks, Hein!

from Jenny Groome to everyone:
Alright!

from Kelly Smith to everyone:

Yay!

from Bert Chapman to everyone:

As government information professionals we must educate our users about the complexities of government information and policies. We are not psychotherapists and should not assume our users are perpetual victims who are incapable of dealing with the reality that unpleasant terms may be used to describe them or people with similar beliefs. Removing the term "illegal alien" from LCSH has ZERO impact on immigration policy and fails to reflect the reality of events on the U.S.-Mexico border or other global arenas where illegal immigration occurs. When someone tries to enter the U.S. or any country without legal authorization it is "illegal immigration." We should have higher expectations of our users!

from Christine Fletcher to everyone:

Hear you Bert. We can warn researchers what they will encounter, and they must steel themselves if they wish to pursue history. I'm female and blind, and I know I'm not happy with history, but knowing it is necessary to prevent it in the future.

from Valerie Glenn to everyone:

<https://loc.gov/aba/cataloging/subject/Evaluation-Headings-Indigenous-Peoples.pdf>

from Kelly Smith to everyone:

<https://classweb.org/approved-subjects/>

from Susanne Caro to everyone:

I think students of history have an easier time with the language, but many people may not be aware of the language used at the time, having modern language in the catalog is a benefit for users. An example is how many people would search for 'idiot' when looking for mental illness? We have the ability to make things more findable and use terms that don't further marginalize users.

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

Archive organizations have language statements/disclaimers. Census and LOC have on several sections of web sites. What about GPO and/or DLC and/or GODORT working up a statement we can all use? (Sorry Melanie)

from Arlene Weible to everyone:

from my perspective, demonstrating empathy with our library users is not perpetuating victimhood but is good customer service.

from Ben Webb to everyone:

+1 Arlene

from Jim Laczkowski to everyone:

Agreed Arlene

from Christine Fletcher to everyone:

Yes a GODORT statement we could use regarding historical language would be helpful.

from Angela Bonnell to everyone:

+1 Arlene

from Valerie Glenn to everyone:

GPO has recently issued a statement on outdated and offensive language: <https://fdlp.gov/cataloging-and-classification/gpo-statement-on-outdated-offensive-language>

from Melissa Fayad to everyone:

+1 Arlene

from Kelly Smith to everyone:

+1 Arlene

from Carol Spector to everyone:

+1 Arlene

from Susanne Caro to everyone:

+1 Arlene

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

I know Name Authority work is done periodically (in local ILS) - but how often is Subject Authority updated?

from Emm Coats to everyone:

Changing offensive language can also be a small step towards policy change.

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

@Valerie - Thanks! I am sorry I missed that!

from Aimee Quinn to everyone:

+1 Susanne. That is one of the most fundamental parts of our field especially when doing historical research such as with Census. Arlene raises an important part of our work related to our work with our users. Empathy is so important when helping them understand gov info.

from Carol Spector to everyone:

+1 Emm

from Rebecca Hyde to everyone:

+1 Arlene +1 Emm

from Amy Laub to everyone:

+1 Arlene

from Ben Webb to everyone:

Agree Aimee. Treatment with empathy and respect

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

So - how do we reach the people who didn't - and wouldn't - take a webinar like this? I am serious - not tongue in cheek (for once)

from Melissa Fayad to everyone:

+1 Susanne, Emm and Aimee. Doing personal reserche with the Census shows a lot of lapses in descriptions.

from Aimee Quinn to everyone:

@Jenny, we do it by what we are doing. GPO and LC are changing policy through our questions and requests to change the language.

from DeAnn Isenhower to everyone:

Wonderful presentation. Thank you!

from Charlie she-her Amiot to everyone:

@Jenny, I'm a huge fan of infographics. Though of course they have to be compiled...

from Gwen Sinclair to everyone:

Can any of the speakers address headings and research on historical events that are referred to by different terms, e.g., Tulsa Riot vs. Tulsa Massacre, Armenian Genocide, etc.?

from Melissa Fayad to everyone:

+1 Jenny I would love to know as well. I had a coworker who used to refer to me as an offensive term, no matter how often I explained it wasn't what I preferred.

from Aimee Quinn to everyone:

Fabulous presentation! Thank you so much.

from Charlie she-her Amiot to everyone:

+1 Gwen's question

from Aimee Quinn to everyone:

+2 Gwen's question

from Susanne Caro to everyone:

Jenny- maybe start them with the documentry listed above. I think many people don't understand how language can harm, dehumanize and "other" people. We hear "words can never hurt me" but that has never been true.

from Celina McDonald to everyone:

#NAME?

from Valerie Glenn to everyone:

If you're interested in seeing a variety of statements on harmful language in collection description, there's a place where they're all being tracked: <https://cataloginglab.org/list-of-statements-on-bias-in-library-and-archives-description/>

from Rachel McGuire to everyone:

language my not change policy, but it returns power to those mentioned by using terms they prefer

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

+1 Susanne - I am thinking of how to bring about change within a system resistant to change (not any particular one) - people who wouldn't watch the video.

from Melissa Fayad to everyone:

+1 Rachel

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

What about original cataloging? Even if changed in OCLC, would it be noticed by institution that did original cataloging (perhaps decades ago)? I haven't done cataloging in many years - but I need to understand it to be a good reference librarian.

from Katie Mikulka to everyone:

I certainly think language has the power to change policy, in the sense that it shapes understanding & gives meaning.

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

+1 Katie

from Melissa Fayad to everyone:

+1 Katie

from Valerie Glenn to everyone:

@Jenny I think that may depend on local systems. In places where I've worked, our ILS syncs with OCLC so that records are updated automatically.

from Susanne Caro to everyone:

Jenny- I was also thinking about updating records and if it can be automatic? There are a lot of publications that ca probably benefit from an update.

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

Armenian Massacre is a good example for international political influence on terminology

from Oksana Osborne to everyone:

Jenny, GPO proposes LCSH as needed. The proposals then get evaluated on the monthly basis that Melanie described. The CGP is then updated with approved headings (any that apply to our bib records - not just the ones GPO proposed) on a monthly basis.

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

Valerie and Susanne - thanks!

from Kristina Vela Bisbee to everyone:

Can you share more information about the Subject Authority Cooperative Program (SOCA)? How often are new members added and what are the expectations of membership?

from Arlene Weible to everyone:

Headings maintenance/authority control happens mostly at a local ILS level. Ask your local catalogers about the processes used for updating records. I'm sure they would see more interest from public services staff in these issues!

from Arlene Weible to everyone:
would "love" to see more interest ... I mean

from Aimee Quinn to everyone:
+1 Arlene

from Melanie Polutta to everyone:
<https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/saco/index.html>

from Kristina Vela Bisbee to everyone:
Thank you

from Hiroko Hashitani to everyone:
I hope everyone remembers that there are many people in the marginalized groups work in libraries. We see outdated terms in library records and they do have impact on us too.

from Trina Magi to everyone:
Great presentation. Thank you!

from Charlie she-her Amiot to everyone:
Thank you!

from Angela Bonnell to everyone:
This was such a fantastic session! Thank you to all the speakers!!

from Rachel McGuire to everyone:
Thank you!

from Celina McDonald to everyone:
thank you. this was great.

from Katie Mikulka to everyone:
This was excellent, thank you all!

from J. Wendel Cox to everyone:
Wonderful! Thank you all!

from Kathy Bayer to everyone:
Thanks very much!

from Andrea Stelljes to everyone:
Thank you!

from Beth Downing to everyone:
We contract with Marcive for Authority records. Our ILS mostly automatically updates both name and subject headings once the monthly file is loaded. I assist our cataloger updating the subject headings.

from Rebecca Hyde to everyone:
Thank you all, this was great!

from Bruce Pencek to everyone:
I'm glad that LC uses "Forced migration" instead of "ethnic cleansing," a horrible term that has become normalized in plenty of discourse.

from Min Shaheen to everyone:
Thank you.

from Scott Briggs to everyone:
Thank you for all the great info!

from Robert Nix to everyone:
Thank you.

from Sandy Himel to everyone:
Thank you!

from Cindy Etkin to everyone:
Thank you to all the panelists!

from Billijo Link to everyone:
Thank you!

from Ella Shurr to everyone:
Thank you!

from Ben Webb to everyone:
Great presentation, thank you!

from Arlene Weible to everyone:
Great session! Thanks!

from Donald Sensabaugh to everyone:
Thank you for the great presentation!

from Jenny Groome to everyone:
This was great!

from Malea Walker to everyone:
Thank you for addressing this topic! Great presentations!

from Susanne Caro to everyone:
Thank you!

from Jill Vassilakos-Long to everyone:
Thank you!

from Leah Grote to everyone:
Thank you!!!

from Lori Driver to everyone:
Thank you

from Jose Torres to everyone:
Thanks

from Joshua Olsen to everyone:
Thanks!

from Arlene Weible to everyone:
1962

from Doris Hutson to everyone:
1960

from Sarah Erekson to everyone:
1962

from Angela Bonnell to everyone:
1926

from Charlie she-her Amiot to everyone:
1966?

from Melissa Fayad to everyone:
1972

from Ella Shurr to everyone:
1962

from Aric Ahrens to everyone:
1961

from Ben Webb to everyone:
Congrats Arlene!

from Arlene Weible to everyone:
Thanks to Sarah Erekson for the history timeline review in her talk from yesterday!