2022

Proceedings of the Metadata Justice in Oklahoma Libraries & Archives Symposium

edited by Shay Beezley

with contributions from Mary Stoll, Sana Masood, and Misty Long

Virtual symposium held on July 14, 2022 and hosted by Chambers Library at the University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK

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INTRODUCTION

> ## WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "METADATA JUSTICE"?
>
> **"Metadata justice refers to the use of accurate and appropriate language in metadata systems like library catalogs. When we describe people, places, and events, the words we use matter. Using accurate and appropriate language helps us communicate. It can also promote justice for groups of people who historically have experienced systematic inequality."—** [University of Oklahoma's Metadata Justice Working and Learning Group](#)

On July 14, 2022, Chambers Library at the University of Central Oklahoma hosted the inaugural Metadata Justice in Oklahoma Libraries & Archives Symposium. This event was organized and lead by Chambers Library staff who work with library and archives metadata (Shay Beezley, Anona Earls, Kaitlyn Palone, and Mary Stoll). Conscientious application of metadata is a priority for UCO's professional catalogers. In 2021, we met with the University of Oklahoma Libraries' Metadata Justice Learning and Working Group to discuss their successful proposal for the Library of Congress to change the subject heading for the Tulsa Race Massacre. It was a wonderful, productive time to connect with our colleagues on a topic of great professional and personal interest, and in spring 2022, we wanted to continue a discussion about these desperately needed changes in library and archival resource description with a broader community. Oklahoma and similarly-minded states are not easy places to pursue the cause of metadata justice, hence, why it's more important than ever that we band together and learn from each other. Thus, our symposium was born.

The day-long event was held over Zoom and consisted of multiple presentations and group break-out discussion time. Our keynote speaker was Violet Fox, creator of The Cataloging Lab, an online platform for catalogers to collaborate to improve controlled vocabularies and classification. Violet is an incredible advocate for metadata justice work, and her work with The Cataloging Lab and other endeavors were a direct inspiration for this symposium. The proceedings consist of reports provided by attendees for each presentation and a summary of links and resources provided by presenters. Each section lists the presenters and their contact information, and presentation materials are available on [SHAREOK](#).

Although the focus is on metadata justice in the context of Oklahoma, all were welcome to attend and learn. 96 people attended the 2022 symposium. It is our hope that these session reports and resources provided are useful for anyone interested in metadata justice and lead to even more collaborative, productive efforts to make these incremental changes.

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KEYNOTE

Violet Fox

Metadata librarian and creator of The Cataloging Lab

Report by Mary Stoll, University of Central Oklahoma

SUMMARY

Violet Fox participates in a community of library workers engaged in a conversation about critical librarianship. She came to this conversation through her participation in the zine librarianship groups. Zines are short, typically handmade books or pamphlets that creators self-publish on a wide variety of topics. While zines are often excellent materials to assist librarians in engaging with their communities, they often also pose challenges to catalogers because of their varied subjects, forms, and creators. Working with zines and their makers showed Violet the necessity of creating resource descriptions that use language that honors and respects the communities it describes. In recent years, this has become a larger conversation that takes place both in-person at institutions, and online, particularly on Twitter through the hashtags #critlib and #critcat. This has been, in part, elevated by the increased awareness of racial injustice that takes place in the United States and made obvious in recent years through events like the murder of George Floyd.

There are many different names for this kind of work, including (but not limited to): critical cataloging, radical cataloging, mutual metadata, and metadata justice. Importantly, information professionals across the spectrum are beginning to collaborate to make meaningful changes to resource descriptions. Violet contributes directly through her work at The Cataloging Lab, a place for catalogers to come together to experiment with creating new controlled vocabularies. Additionally, the Library of Congress has created new official channels for professionals to suggest changes to Library of Congress Subject Headings.

Violet concluded by speaking about the often slow-moving and incremental pace of this work; however, she emphasized that it is still important for professionals to take on this type of activism in the ways they can, even if that means working within an inherently flawed system. She noted that it is critical to involve a diverse group of people in this work so that perspectives are accurately represented.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Metadata justice is a slow, iterative, and sometimes arduous practice, but even small actions can help reduce harm.
- Though we may not have been directly involved in the creation or use of outdated subject headings, we are complicit in them by perpetuating them. Hiding behind a sense of neutrality can lead to complacency, resulting in this work being offloaded on governing bodies like the Library of Congress, who are unable to efficiently keep up with demand.
- Taking an activist approach to cataloging can help you engage with activism in other small ways in your daily life.

PUTTING INTO PRACTICE

The idea that neutrality leads to complacency is something that really resonates with me. Violet made a good point in saying that even small actions can have an impact and are worthwhile. I plan to seek out small, sustainable ways I can support this movement in my day-to-day practice.

RESOURCES

- Presentation Slides
- Script of Violet's presentation
- The Cataloging Lab
- *Change the Subject* Documentary
- Zine Librarians' Code of Ethics Zine (PDF)
- *Ethical Questions in Name Authority Control*

STARTED FROM THE MIDDLE, NOW WE'RE HERE: MAKING A GAME PLAN FOR METADATA JUSTICE AT THE DICKINSON RESEARCH CENTER

Kera Newby

Director of Dickinson Research Center

Samantha Schafer

Archivist II

Lulu Zilinskas

Archivist I

Report by Sana Masood, Oklahoma State University

SUMMARY

The Dickinson Research Center (DRC) is the museum archive for the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. Kera Newby provided an overview of DRC's holdings and the process the staff went through to tackle reparative description. The DRC finding aids were Word documents and the image database was locally hosted with obsolete software. Both resources reflected the time period of the early-to-mid-2000s when they were created through the language that was used for description. In order to make the finding aids and image database accessible, the DRC undertook the project of implementing ArchivesSpace and Islandora, which also allowed for reparative description work that turned out to be a bigger project than realized.

Samantha Schafer went through the process of implementing ArchivesSpace. It took 5 years of advocacy for the DRC to get approval for ArchivesSpace, and they were able to implement it in 2021 with a January 2022 public launch. Due to the finding aids being Word documents, the DRC staff manually migrated 140+ collections. In January 2021, a test collection was used to help set goals for the migration. DRC collections are rodeo and Western History centric, and the Library of Congress lacked properly descriptive subjects for them. The decision was made to use local subjects rather than LC subject headings. DRC staff were aware of issues in the existing collections, so changes were made as collections were migrated with a focus on reparative description. Legacy finding aids contained subjects that were racist and inconsistent with odd formatting. Guidelines were created for how to approach subject tags, but there was still a grey area to find the most appropriate terminology as the staff recognized that they were not the best authority for making these final decisions. DRC staff utilized research and outreach via emails to ask communities how they would like to be described. A running document was maintained that kept track of what changes were being made, which eventually led to creating a controlled vocabulary/internal dictionary, which coincided with the implementation of Islandora.

Lulu Zilinskas shared the DRC's process of implementing Islandora. DRC staff were unable to access the backend of the existing image database as it was obsolete. This became the opportunity to move to a new platform for the image database. As Lyrasis was already hosting the ArchivesSpace instance, they were also able to host Islandora. DRC staff spent months capturing data from the old database into spreadsheets. As staff spent time with the data, the issues with it became apparent once again. Meetings with DRC members were held to review migrated metadata and locate issues. Focus was placed mostly on titles and subject fields. While subject fields might have been accurate, they did not provide helpful information about the images. There was agreement that the existing metadata did the job, but it was a mix of outdated and unhelpful subjects from LC. DRC staff decided they could change description that did not align with the work they were doing. The Islandora Metadata Project is an ongoing project that started in March 2022, and while about Islandora, it will also apply to ArchivesSpace. The project consists of three parts: policy, remediation, and local dictionary. Policy work is to create an internal Metadata Values Statement and create guidelines specific to Islandora metadata creation. Remediation work is to identify priority collections for remediation and to research inclusive subject headings. Local Dictionary work is to create a subject heading and name authority dictionary for museum and rodeo terms.

DRC staff recognize that this is a "long and winding project," and all the databases are interwoven, but they are excited to move forward with it in order to create a more equitable online research environment.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

As the staff at DRC have learned, the undertaking of a metadata project of this scale can end up being much larger than initially realized. It is best to start at the "shallow end" and then go to the "deep end." The DRC found opportunities to help make their collections better accessible through implementing ArchivesSpace and Islandora, and this led to the additional opportunity of the Islandora Metadata Project that is allowing for the vital work of reparative description.

PUTTING INTO PRACTICE

Creating and implementing an Internal Metadata Values statement serves as a good way to have a framework in place for evaluating reparative description work. The statement would help with both creating new subjects and evaluating the subjects already being used.

When having to advocate for metadata justice plans to Administration, it helps to take an approach that fits the environment of the institution that the Archive is part of. Think carefully about the language being used to describe the work, such as saying that it is a review process to make the collections better.

RESOURCES

- Presentation Slides
- Internal Metadata Values Statement

THE ETHICS OF CREATING LINKED OPEN DATA FOR OKLAHOMA NATIVE ARTISTS

Megan Macken

Assistant Department Head of Digital Resources and Discovery Services at Edmon Low Library

Report by Mary Stoll, University of Central Oklahoma

SUMMARY

Megan Macken and her department at Oklahoma State University have been creating linked data using WikiData in order to promote the visibility of collections created by marginalized groups; however, this initiative is a nuanced endeavor that must be treated with a great amount of care and consideration. In order to do this work respectfully, Megan and her team made several considerations. First, as put by Kathleen Ashy-Milby and Ruth B. Philips, "On whose terms should inclusion take place?" It is important to recognize the privacy concerns of the groups described in these collections and ensure that these needs are respected and that the customs depicted are done so with consent and in a manner that preserves their sanctity. Secondly, Indigenous populations have historically been negatively targeted by data collection. This information has previously been used to regulate these communities and has led to immense amounts of harm. For this reason, the impacts of Oklahoma history on data sovereignty must be considered, and importantly, data should not be collected without the consent and participation of the communities that the collections represent. Megan noted that the purpose of this work–which is to keep a dialog between Native artists and their collectors and promote grassroots research using these resources–must be kept front of mind.

Other challenges are involved during the process of curating WikiData descriptions as well as after they have been published. Care must be taken to select the most appropriate language to describe these resources. This work can be tricky, particularly when it comes to noting artist types and tribal affiliations, which are often complicated to translate to controlled vocabularies like LCSH. Additionally, ensuring the integrity of these descriptions after their publication requires effort. These entries can be changed by the public, and for this reason, it is important that these entries are monitored

regularly. The artists described must be informed of this dynamic and of how to update the information themselves if necessary. Even so, few requests for changes have been made throughout the course of this project and artists have been generally amenable to the process. Megan ended her presentation by sharing that the quantity and speed of production is less important than artist positioning and nuanced self-presentation.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Historical context and precedent are important factors to consider when collecting data from any group, but particularly those who have been traditionally marginalized.
- Creator consent, respect for privacy, and nuanced self-representation are more important than collecting information quickly.
- WikiData can be a useful tool for increasing collection visibility if used appropriately.

PUTTING INTO PRACTICE

Toward the end of the presentation, Megan mentioned that one of her colleagues called this work an example of "slow librarianship." As our culture continues to emphasize productivity and output, this can be viewed as almost a radical and rebellious concept. Working on projects that require a slower, iterative, and more thoughtful process is a very useful part of our work as information professionals, and something I would like to incorporate into my professional practice.

RESOURCES

- Presentation Slides
- Oklahoma Native Artists Project: Listen to the Oral Histories
- OSU Libraries Oral History Podcast: Amplified Oklahoma: Norma Howard on Native Art
- Impact of Words and Tips for Using Appropriate Terminology: Am I Using the Right Word (NMAI)
- Reporting & Indigenous Terminology (NAJA)
- Terms & Issues in Native American Art (Khan Academy)
- Essential Understandings (NMAI)
- Diversity Style Guide: Native American (Cal State)
- CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance
- Local Contexts
- LD4 Ethics in Linked Data Affinity Group
- McKay, Dwanna. "Resistance, Resilience, & Reclamation: Exploring Academic Success Among Native/Indigenous Students." (Video Lecture)
- Sovereignty Speaks (Center for Sovereign Nations) especially #4: Art | DG Smalling (Video Lecture)
- Kim TallBear: Standing With and Speaking as Faith (IRDL Scholars' Speaker Series) and related resources (Video Lecture)
- ONA Bibliography
- Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists
- Elements of Indigenous Style (Gregory Younging)
- So you want to write about American Indians? (Devon Abbott Mihesuah)

FINDING THE RIGHT WORDS

Shay Beezley
Assistant Director, Metadata & Cataloging
Kaitlyn Palone
Librarian II, Metadata & Cataloging

Report by Mary Stoll, University of Central Oklahoma

SUMMARY

Following the Library of Congress' decision to remove the "illegal aliens" subject heading in 2021, a larger discussion amongst professionals about inclusive metadata began. Specifically, UCO Chambers Library's professional catalogers created an inclusive metadata statement to post publicly on the library website as well as a form to solicit comments from library users about offensive terminology they encounter. This statement was drafted with the intention of clarifying to the public the nature in which these vocabularies are created as well as providing empathy for user experiences and demonstrating a commitment toward progress.

Shay and Kaitlyn offered practical advice to libraries who are also considering writing a similar statement for their institutions. First, they quickly realized that there is not a standard name for this sort of statement. They reviewed statements that had been written by other libraries to assess aspects that seemed most useful and relevant for UCO. Of particular interest were statements that included a call to action. Kaitlyn and Shay also identified several other factors to consider when drafting an inclusive metadata statement. They suggest that statements be specific in their language, identifying what the problem is, who is acknowledging it, and where the problem exists. Similarly, statements should take their audience into account and explain concepts in a user-friendly manner. The presenters also noted that libraries should ensure that they have adequate administrative support and staff expertise (or ability to acquire training) before taking on any metadata justice projects promised in a public statement.

The final portion of the presentation focused on a discussion of the word "decolonization." The presenters shared their perspective on why they chose to avoid using this word while writing an inclusive metadata statement. Although the use of the word "decolonization" has become a popular choice in recent conversations around social justice, it is not always the most suitable choice to describe the work being performed. Decolonization is a powerful, radical act that encompasses a wide range of actions, far beyond reparative description. By using this term in a metaphorical sense to refer to less-radical actives, it runs the risk of cheapening the actual act of decolonization. Actual decolonization of the catalog would require a complete dismantling of the system as it is currently. Furthermore, personal identity should be considered when thinking about decolonization. Descendants of settlers, as many white people are, should take extra care when considering if this an appropriate word choice to describe their work.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- While inclusive metadata statements can be a useful way to engage with users about issues with current descriptions and make commitments to improve, they should be written with intentional language that thinks critically about what work will follow.
- Reparative description work requires institutional support as well as staff skills in order to be effective in practice.
- "Decolonization" is a powerful and specific word that should be used judiciously.

PUTTING INTO PRACTICE

A lot of this discussion focused on the importance of word choice both in public documents as well as in personal practice. I feel this is an important and often overlooked point. I feel that being intentional with my words can help me be more effective in my work, and plan to keep this in mind moving forward.

RESOURCES

- [Presentation Slides](#)
- [UCO Inclusive Metadata Statement](#)
- [UCO Inclusive Metadata Strategies](#)
- [UCO Report Offensive/Outdated Terminology Form](#)
- [The Cataloging Lab: List of Statements on Bias in Library and Archives Description](#)
- [Cataloging Ethics Bibliography](#)
- [CritCat.org](#)
- [CritLib.org: CritCat](#)
- ["Do Not 'Decolonize'. . . If You Are Not Decolonizing: Progressive Language and Planning Beyond a Hollow Academic Rebranding"](#)
- ["Decolonization is not a metaphor."](#)

OKLAHOMA NACO & SACO FUNNELS

Jay Shorten

Cataloger, Monographs and Electronic Resources

Associate Professor of Bibliography

Report by Misty Long, Tulsa City-County Library

SUMMARY

This session focused on the Oklahoma "Tornado" Name Authority Cooperative Program (NACO) and Subject Authority Cooperative Program (SACO) funnels, which allow members to create and update name authority records and propose new or updated subject authority records. NACO and SACO funnels allow for a group of libraries, or catalogers from various libraries, to join together to contribute authority records to the Library of Congress (LC) NACO Authority File and submit proposals for additions to LC Subject Headings (LCSH), LC Children's Subject Headings (CYAC), LC Genre/Form Terms (LCGFT), LC Demographic Group Terms (LCDGT), LC Medium of Performance Thesaurus (LCMPT), and LC Classification (LCC) schedules. Individual institutional NACO and SACO participants are required to submit a certain number of records per year so funnels are great for libraries who would like to contribute but cannot commit to the required amount. Relevant training is required to become a NACO/SACO funnel member.

Jay focused on the SACO proposal process using the recent change of the subject heading Tulsa Race Riot, Tulsa, Okla., 1921 to Tulsa Race Massacre, Tulsa, Okla., 1921 as an example. This change was proposed by the Metadata Justice Group from the University of Oklahoma (OU) of which he is a member. He talked about the proposal process and how they went about researching why the change was needed and how they wrote up the proposal, submitted it, and got it approved. When talking about gathering evidence to prove why the heading needed to be changed, he mentioned searching Google to determine how people are searching for results on the Tulsa Race Riot/Massacre to find the most accurate and commonly used term for the event. At this point, an attendee asked if he thought the Google search results were reliable, as they had read that Google results are frequently inaccurate and dependent on personalized results (if you are logged into Google, your search history, or your physical location, etc.). It was suggested by attendees that you might want to conduct searches on public computers over a period of time or perhaps Google Trends would be a better option. Jay also discussed other ways they found evidence to support changing the heading as well as showing the before and after of the authority record. A member of the Metadata Justice Working and Learning Group in attendance mentioned that the group would be excited to chat with any institutions that do not have this training or certification but are interested in making NACO/SACO proposals. OU Libraries has a model in place for this work, which includes ensuring credit and publicity originating with the "homework" institution.

If you want to join the Oklahoma "Tornado" NACO or SACO funnels, contact Jay Shorten at jshorten@ou.edu

KEY TAKEAWAYS

NACO and SACO funnels are great ways to contribute name and subject authorities without having to fulfill a large record commitment that takes a substantial amount of time to complete. They are also a great way to start putting in a concerted effort to creating and updating authority records that give justice to the people they represent.

PUTTING INTO PRACTICE

Tulsa City-County Library system is already a member of the NACO funnel, but I would like us to become a member of the SACO funnel as well. I would like to be a part of the statewide effort to update subject headings for Native Americans/Indigenous Peoples and their tribes.

RESOURCES

- [Presentation Slides](#)
- [NACO Funnels](#)
- [SACO Funnels](#)

DARE TO SAY NO

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA Chambers Library

JJ Compton
University Archivist & Technical Services Librarian

Anona Earls
Librarian III/Coordinator of Deselection, Metadata & Cataloging

Report by Misty Long, Tulsa City-County Library

SUMMARY

During this session, JJ and Anona discussed remediation efforts underway at OC and UCO to address outdated and problematic metadata practices of using N to collocate resources by or about Black people and O for resources by or about Asian people. Anona discussed the outdated and offensive terms N4 and .N5 where the N corresponds to the word Negro, and .O6 where the O corresponds to the word Oriental, that are found throughout Library of Congress Classification (LCC). These terms are found in 'Elements in the population A-Z' or 'Special topics A-Z' etc. and are used in LCC to indicate people not considered part of the 'usual' population, which is problematic. JJ then addressed what LC is already doing to work on resolving these issues and talked about remediation. The process they followed was called Decide, Access, & Repair or Eliminate (DARE) where you first decide to undertake the project, then access the problematic metadata to change it, and then either repair by correcting the label, record, shelving location, etc. or eliminate (weed) the item. JJ and Anona each talked about separate projects they completed at their respective institutions that focused on changing metadata with outdated and/or offensive content without waiting for the Library of Congress to make the changes before implementing. They shared their approaches with their systems (WMS at OC and Alma at UCO) and how they were able to pull reports from their systems to show them what items needed to be changed, how they tracked the changes they made using Excel and Google Docs, the logistics of pulling items, changing records, updating labels, etc. or just eliminating the item altogether. They each had slightly different methodologies but with the same end results. An attendee asked a question if this was something that needed to happen in Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) as well and the group discussed that Cutters would not have to be adjusted with DDC, it would be the classification itself that can be problematic and might need to change. An attendee from the University of Kentucky mentioned they are working on recuttering their .N books. An attendee asked if there were other terminologies on the radar and another attendee responded there is a crowdsourced list of "problem" LCSH available on the Cataloging Lab website: and encouraged everybody to add their own least favorite terms so maybe somebody would take it on as a project to propose changes. Attendees mentioned some specific subject headings that need attention including LGBTQ, disabilities, incarceration, and geographic subjects as racist geographic features are renamed. The sources of problematic metadata talked about in this session were cutters in LCC, Dewey classification numbers, and subject headings.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Catalogers do not have to keep using outdated and/or offensive subject headings, classification numbers, and Cutters just because they are authorized by the Library of Congress. We can choose to go ahead and make changes to the problematic metadata locally if we "DARE." And, we do not have to think only on a large scale, but can think about smaller projects that you can do just to get the reparative work started. There was a lot of talk about the little details that have to be thought about and worked out before starting these types of projects.

PUTTING INTO PRACTICE

I would like to start looking at TCCL's collection and see where we have problematic classification and/or subject headings to determine where we could start doing some reparative work. In particular, I am interested in updating subject headings for Native American/Indigenous Peoples and tribes to terms they prefer. I have also been looking at the possibility of incorporating Homosaurus into our system. TCCL is a Dewey library so problematic Cutters are not something I need to work on but problematic classification numbers are something to think about changing in the public library setting.

RESOURCES

- Presentation Slides
- The Cataloging Lab: Problem LCSH

SPEAKERS

Violet Fox is a metadata librarian based in Chicago. She has worked as a cataloger at several academic libraries, in addition to roles editing the Dewey Decimal Classification and the Sears List of Subject Headings. Find Violet tweeting about #critcat (critical cataloging) at @violetbfox.

Kera Newby is the Director of the Dickinson Research Center and Curator of Archives at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. She has been an archivist for over ten years and is passionate about equitable access to archival materials and inclusive description practices. Kera earned her MLIS from the University of Oklahoma with a specialization in archives and is the current Past President of the Oklahoma Archivists Association

Lulu Zilinskas (she/her) graduated in 2021 with her MLS from UNC Chapel Hill and is currently Archivist I at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. Previously, Lulu was the Graduate Research Assistant at the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center where she completed an equitable metadata research and remediation project for the Center's DAMS.

Samantha Schafer is the Archivist II for the Dickinson Research Center at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. She's earned a BA in English Literature from the University of Arkansas and a Master's of Library Science from the University of North Texas. She has also held positions in museum educational programming and outreach. She is focused on accessibility and approachability of archives and archival outreach.

Megan Macken is the Assistant Department Head of Digital Resources and Discovery Services at Oklahoma State's Edmon Low Library where she oversees the metadata and cataloging units. Additionally, she serves as the liaison to the departments of Art, Art History and Graphic Design and is a member of the implementation team for Experts Directory, Oklahoma State's research information management (RIM) system. Previously she worked as a digital scholarship librarian and digital archivist and has master's degrees in Library Science and the History of Art from Indiana University.

Shay Beezley, Assistant Director of Metadata & Cataloging, leads a team of six full-time catalogers and four student employees in ensuring discoverability of library resources at University of Central Oklahoma's Chambers Library. Her professional interests include MARC data remediation, ethics in cataloging and classification, and providing access to special collections and regional resources. Additionally, she serves in various leadership capacities for the Oklahoma Library Association and the Ex Libris Users of North America. She received her MSLS from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Kaitlyn Palone received her MLIS from the University of Oklahoma in 2016. Soon after she began her position as Librarian, Metadata & Cataloging at the University of Central Oklahoma. When not working she enjoys spending time with her family and spoiled rotten cats.

Jay Shorten is Associate Professor and Cataloger, Monographs & Electronic Resources at the University of Oklahoma Libraries and the Co-ordinator of the Oklahoma (Tornado) NACO Funnel, the PCC program for smaller libraries to contribute name headings to the Library of Congress authority file. He was imported from Canada via Brooklyn, New York City in 1999. He is on Team Cat, and is very fond of the mountain lion in all its various cross-references.

Anona Earls is Librarian III/Coordinator of Deselection, Metadata & Cataloging at UCO Chambers Library. Her past eight years in this role has included original cataloging, supervising the library's interdepartmental deselection process, providing metadata expertise as a member of the library's Digital Initiatives Working Group, acting as collection development liaison for three academic departments, and supervising her department's student employees. Her professional interests within librarianship include cataloging, metadata, archives, and digital collections.

JJ Compton, MLIS, CA, PhD Candidate is an Associate Professor of Technical Services & Archives at Oklahoma Christian University's Beam Library, where she has been employed since 2001. She graduated with her BA in History, with honors, from Oklahoma Christian in 2000, her MLIS in summer of 2002 from the University of Oklahoma, and is currently pursuing her PhD in archival history at Swansea University, Wales, UK. She is an active member of the Society of Southwest Archivists; Beta Phi Mu, Lambda Chapter; Christian College Librarians; and the Oklahoma Archivists Association. She is passionate about libraries, archives, history and preservation. She has a deep love for her husband of 22 years, 2 kids, her 3 Australian shepherd dogs and all things coffee.

CONCLUSION

We are pleased to report that the event was a success and folks responded positively to the opportunity to discuss these issues within a local context. One of the greatest successes of the day was the spontaneous creation of a collective of metadata professionals in Oklahoma to collaborate on metadata justice projects. Megan Macken from Oklahoma State University and Kaitlyn Palone from University of Central Oklahoma are leading the effort in preliminary discussions for this fledgling collective with plans in motion for librarians and archivists to work together on contacting the 39 Tribal Nations for projects relating to naming conventions and how tribal content is described.

Based off of attendee feedback, UCO Chambers Library intends to continue this event next summer. Our goals for the second symposium include the following:

1. Better representation of BIPOC voices amongst our speakers
2. Implementing strategies for improving the participant experience of group break-out discussion
3. Targeted invites to speakers to ensure a wider depth of library and archives settings

We are proud of the success of the first symposium and couldn't have done out without our knowledgeable and talented speakers—here's to building upon the foundation and making the next symposium even better!

CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you to the three attendees who volunteered to write conference reports and without whom, these proceedings would not have been possible.

- **Mary Stoll**, Archives Specialist at University of Central Oklahoma Chambers Library
- **Sana Masood**, Assistant Professor, Archivist at Oklahoma State University Edmon Low Library
- **Misty Long**, Cataloging Supervisor at Tulsa City-County Library

WHAT DID ATTENDEES ENJOY THE MOST ABOUT THIS SYMPOSIUM?

- The activity between the hosts and the attendees. Because the hosts were so willing to engage with the attendees, there were often times when a lot of off-the-cuff dialog was going on in the chat.

- New topics. Great speakers. Lots of helpful information shared.

- Hearing about all of the exciting work happening across Oklahoma, and meeting up with like-minds

- Everything was excellent! I liked to hear how institutions were creating their own controlled vocabularies.

- The comradely spirit, and the fascinating variety of projects people are working on.

- Excellent presentations on cutting-edge topics.

- I learned so much! It was so great to hear from professionals in the state who are working on similar projects to what I am doing. It made me feel really inspired and also like there is a community out there that I can reach out to for help. It's great to feel connected!

- The interchange with others who are interested in topics that mean a lot to me. I feel as if I'd discovered treasure trove of help and good ideas.

- Being able to hear from Oklahoma-based professionals about the work being done to improve libraries and archives.

Have an idea for next year's symposium? Contact

metadata@uco.edu