

Rooting Out Racism in Library Systems

Authority, Description, and Metadata

Presented by members of OU Libraries' Learning & Working Group on Metadata Justice

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Quick Polls

What is a topic that you
have had a hard time
searching for and why?

Please reply in the chat.

Content Warning



“Change the Subject” trailer



Tulsa Race Massacre Proposal to Library of Congress



LOCAL

Library of Congress agrees to change subject heading from 'Tulsa Race Riot' to 'Tulsa Race Massacre'

Library of Congress Accepts OU Libraries' Proposal to Change Subject Heading to 'Tulsa Race Massacre'

March 22, 2021

A task force at the University of Oklahoma Libraries has spearheaded an effort to successfully change how the Library of Congress officially catalogs the Tulsa Race Massacre. The Library of Congress has agreed to update its subject heading from "Tulsa Race Riot" to "Tulsa Race Massacre," thus changing how the massacre is listed in subject headings in library systems worldwide.

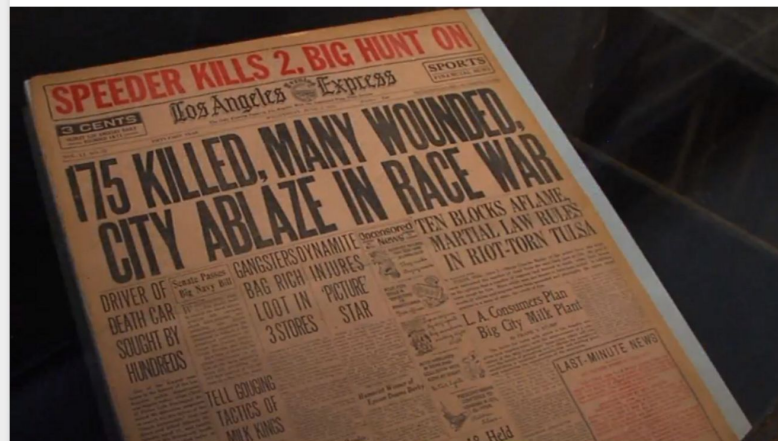
Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) are an integral part of the world's most widely used library indexing tool. Subject terms facilitate searching and many times are used to find important resources on a topic when researching in online library catalogs. Prior to this change, searching a library catalog for "Tulsa Race Massacre" might miss important resources that were only associated with the term "riot."



Library of Congress updates subject heading from Tulsa Race Riot to Tulsa Race Massacre

by Brandon Martin | Monday, March 22nd 2021

AA



The Library of Congress has agreed to update its subject heading from "Tulsa Race Riot" to "Tulsa Race Massacre," changing how the massacre is listed in subject headings in library systems worldwide. (KTUL Oct. 2019)-p>-(p)

Success in Context

The screenshot shows the Library of Congress website interface. At the top, the 'LIBRARY OF CONGRESS' logo is prominent. Below it, a search bar contains the text 'Everything'. The main content area displays the search results for 'Tulsa Race Massacre, Tulsa, Okla., 1921'. On the left, there are sections for 'URI(s)', 'Instance Of', 'Scheme Membership(s)', 'Collection Membership(s)', 'Variants', 'Broader Terms', 'Closely Matching Concepts from Other Schemes', 'Earlier Established Forms', and 'Sources'. On the right, a 'Subject Of Works' sidebar lists related terms with resource counts, such as 'White Supremacists (93)', 'Race Relations (89)', 'Slavery (84)', 'Black History (81)', 'Pandemics (80)', 'Demonstrations & Protests (73)', 'Police Brutality (61)', 'Tulsa (Okla.) (26)', 'African American neighborhoods (14)', 'Oklahoma (13)', 'Race riots (12)', 'Greenwood (Tulsa, Okla.) (7)', 'Oil Fields (4)', 'Tulsa tribune (3)', 'Tulsa world (3)', 'African American journalists (3)', and 'Protest movements (2)'. A 'Suggest Alternative' button is visible at the bottom of the sidebar.

- White Supremacists (93)
- Race Relations (89)
- Slavery (84)
- Black History (81)
- Pandemics (80)
- Demonstrations & Protests (73)
- Police Brutality (61)
- Tulsa (Okla.) (26)
- Tulsa Race Massacre, Tulsa, Okla., 1921 (26)
- African American neighborhoods (14)
- Oklahoma (13)
- Race riots (12)
- Greenwood (Tulsa, Okla.) (7)
- Oil Fields (4)
- Tulsa tribune (3)
- Tulsa world (3)
- African American journalists (3)
- Protest movements (2)

This screenshot shows a digital library interface with two book entries. The top entry is 'Death in a promised land: the Tulsa race riot of 1921 / Scott Ellsworth ; foreword by John Hope Franklin.' It is a book published in c1982, available at Bizzell Memorial Library Main Reserves (Bizzell) (F 704 .T92 E44) and other locations. The bottom entry is 'Tulsa 1921: Reporting a Massacre' by Krehbiel, Randy ; Hill, Karlos K, published in 2019. It is a book with full text available. Both entries include icons for linking, emailing, and bookmarking. A 'PAGE 1' indicator is visible in the bottom right corner.

What is metadata?

Data

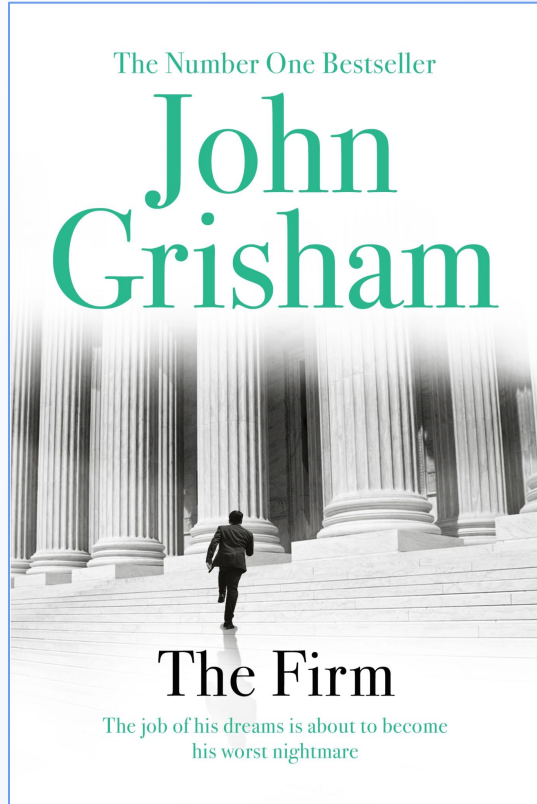


Metadata

Filename:
greycat.jpg
Author:
Rendy Dal
Date:
18 July 2019

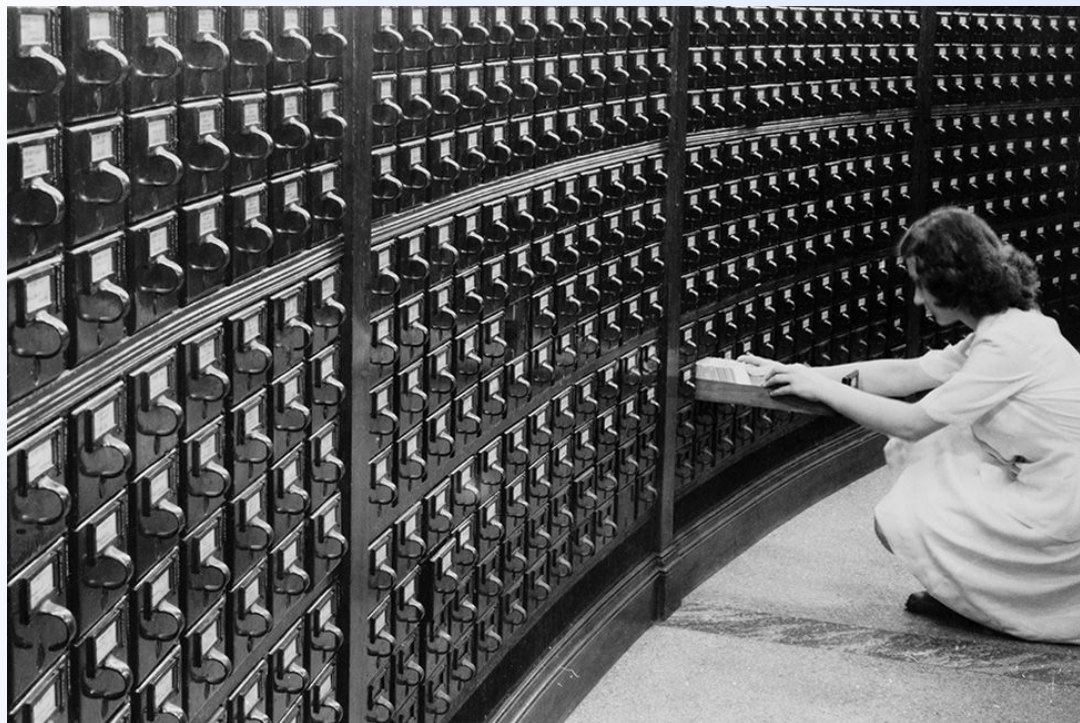


A library catalog is a metadata system



LOCATION	CALL #	STATUS
McF Study Level Browsing Coll.	<u>PS3557.R5355.F57</u> 1991	AVAILABLE
Descript	421 p. ; 25 cm.	
Subject	<u>MYSTERY/THRILLER</u> <u>Government investigators -- United States -- Fiction.</u> <u>Organized crime -- United States -- Fiction.</u> Detective and mystery stories. Legal stories.	
ISBN	0385416342 :	
Permanent URL	http://library.utulsa.edu//record=b1572394	

Subject terms and “controlled vocabulary”



PS3557
.R5355 Grisham, John
F57 1991

The firm / John Grisham. 1st. ed.
New York : Doubleday, c1991.
421p. ; 24 cm.

1. Government investigators--Fiction.
2. Organized crime--Fiction.

PS3557 Organized crime--Fiction
.R5355
F57 1991

Grisham, John
The firm / John Grisham. 1st. ed.
New York : Doubleday, c1991.
421p. ; 24 cm.

1. Government investigators--Fiction.
2. Organized crime--Fiction.

Natural language vs controlled vocabulary

In natural language, there are often many different ways to express a concept.

Fiction about the mafia

Stories about mobsters

Organized crime novels

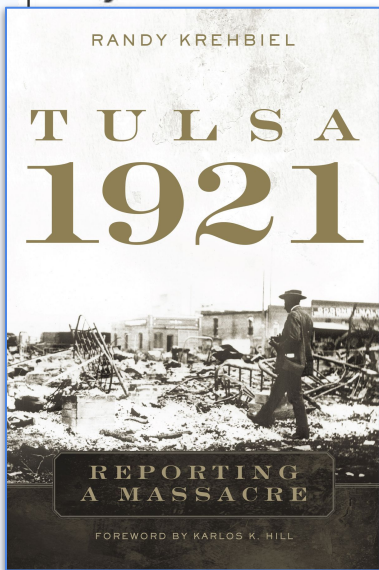
In a controlled vocabulary, there is just one “authorized” way to express a concept.

Organized crime -- fiction

“We want to search for concepts. But we are forced to search for words.”

What is metadata justice?

Title	Tulsa, 1921 : reporting a massacre / Randy Krehbiel ; foreword by Karlos K. Hill.
Author	Randy. Krehbiel >
Contributor	Karlos K Hill >
Subjects	Tulsa Race Massacre, Tulsa, Okla., 1921 > Tulsa Race Massacre, Tulsa, Okla., 1921 -- Press coverage -- Oklahoma -- Tulsa > African Americans -- Violence against -- Oklahoma -- Tulsa -- History -- 20th century > Racism -- Oklahoma -- Tulsa -- History -- 20th century >



Where have problems arisen in the catalogue's controlled vocabulary?

Where have problems arisen in the catalogue's controlled vocabulary?

Broad categories:



- Terms later/now considered offensive








Where have problems arisen in the catalogue's controlled vocabulary?







Broad categories:







- Terms later/now considered offensive
- Offensive or ineffective categorization

Aboutness and categorization

0 selected PAGE 1 115 Results Personalize  

1  BOOK    
 2 versions of this record exist. [See all versions >](#)
Jackie Robinson : race, sports, and the American dream / edited by Joseph Dorinson and Joram Warmund.
Joseph Dorinson 1936-; Joram Warmund 1939-
c1998
 [Available at Bizzell Memorial Library Stacks \(GV 865 .R6 A34 1998 \) >](#)

2  BOOK    
Race, sports, and education : improving opportunities and outcomes for black male college athletes / John N. Singer.
John N. Singer (John Nathaniel), 1973-
2019
 [Available at Bizzell Memorial Library Stacks \(LC2781 .S553 2019 \) >](#)

3  BOOK    
Ballers of the new school : race and sports in America / Thabiti Lewis.
Thabiti. Lewis
1st ed.. c2010
 [Available at Bizzell Memorial Library Stacks \(GV 706.32 .L49 2010 \) >](#)

Where have problems arisen in the catalogue's controlled vocabulary?

Broad categories:

- Terms later/now considered offensive
- Offensive or ineffective categorization
- Administrative updates

~~Swaziland~~ to Eswatini

 Flag	 Coat of arms
Motto: "Siyinqaba" (Swazi) "We are a fortress" "We are a mystery" "We hide ourselves away" "We are powerful ones"	
Anthem: "Nkulunkulu Mnikati wetibusiso temaSwati" "Oh God, Bestower of the Blessings of the Swazi" 	
 Location of Eswatini (dark blue) in the African Union (light blue)	

Where have problems arisen in the catalogue's controlled vocabulary?

Broad categories:

- Terms later/now considered offensive
- Offensive or ineffective categorization
- Administrative updates
- Assuming a “normal” user

The “normal user” might be...

- Male
- White
- Christian
- Not-disabled
- Imperial/Political hegemony

“Men” as normal

LIBRARY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library of Congress > Linked Data Service > LC Subject Headings (LCSH)

Women astronauts

URI(s)

- <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/subjects/sh85147452>
- <info:lc/authorities/sh85147452>
- <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/sh85147452#concept>

Instance Of

- MADS/RDF Topic
- MADS/RDF Authority
- SKOS Concept [↗](#)

Scheme Membership(s)

- Library of Congress Subject Headings

Collection Membership(s)

- LCSH Collection - Authorized Headings
- LCSH Collection - General Collection
- LCSH Collection - May Subdivide Geographically

Variants

- Women as astronauts

LIBRARY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library of Congress > Linked Data Service > LC Subject Headings (LCSH)

Women lawyers

URI(s)

- <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/subjects/sh85147640>
- <info:lc/authorities/sh85147640>
- <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/sh85147640#concept>

Instance Of

- MADS/RDF Topic
- MADS/RDF Authority
- SKOS Concept [↗](#)

Scheme Membership(s)

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Collection Membership(s)

- LCSH Collection - Authorized Headings
- LCSH Collection - General Collection
- LCSH Collection - May Subdivide Geographically

Variants

- Women as lawyers

“White” as normal



The Library of Congress > [Linked Data Service](#) > LC Subject Headings (LCSH)

Executives, Black

URI(s)

- <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/subjects/sh85046311>
- <info:lc/authorities/sh85046311>
- <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/sh85046311#concept>

Instance Of

- MADS/RDF Topic
- MADS/RDF Authority
- SKOS Concept [↗](#)

Scheme Membership(s)

- Library of Congress Subject Headings

Collection Membership(s)

- LCSH Collection - Authorized Headings
- LCSH Collection - General Collection
- LCSH Collection - May Subdivide Geographically



The Library of Congress > [Linked Data Service](#) > LC Subject Headings (LCSH)

Poets, Black

URI(s)

- <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/subjects/sh85103758>
- <info:lc/authorities/sh85103758>
- <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/sh85103758#concept>

Instance Of

- MADS/RDF Topic
- MADS/RDF Authority
- SKOS Concept [↗](#)

Scheme Membership(s)

- Library of Congress Subject Headings

Collection Membership(s)

- LCSH Collection - Authorized Headings
- LCSH Collection - General Collection
- LCSH Collection - May Subdivide Geographically

“White” as normal in medical libraries

TOP LOCAL STORIES

State: Drug makers ordered to pay \$834M penalty to Hawaii put profits before people

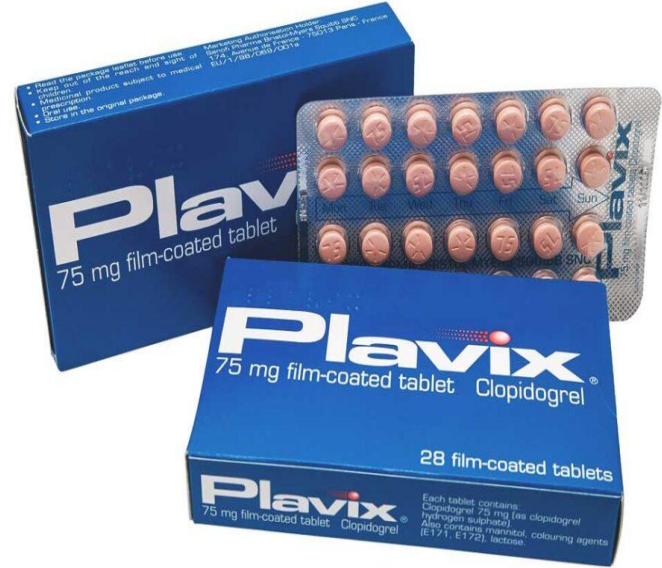


The court imposed a penalty of \$1,000 per violation, for a total of about \$834 million in penalties. (Source: wdam)

By [HNN Staff](#) | February 15, 2021 at 3:14 PM HST - Updated February 16 at 2:26 PM

HONOLULU, Hawaii (HawaiiNewsNow) - Two drug makers have been ordered to pay Hawaii \$834 million for failing to disclose that the drug Plavix was ineffective in reducing the risk of heart attacks, strokes and blood clots for patients of Asian and Pacific Islander descent.

In a news conference Tuesday, Hawaii Attorney General Clare Connors called the judgment “significant” and said the penalty underscores the scale of the wrongdoing — and how widely the drug was used.



“Christian” as normal

The screenshot shows the Library of Congress Linked Data Service interface. At the top left is the 'LIBRARY OF CONGRESS' logo. A search bar contains the text 'Everything' and 'Search Loc.gov'. Below the search bar, the breadcrumb 'The Library of Congress > Linked Data Service' is visible. The search results are filtered by 'Subject Headings' and 'Authority'. The search term 'the Bible' is entered in the search box, with 'GO' and 'RESET' buttons. The results show 11 items, each with a 'Label', 'Vocabulary', and 'Concept' column. The items are listed in descending order of result count.

Label	Vocabulary	Concept
1. Victory in the Bible	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Topic
2. Closure (Rhetoric) in the Bible	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Topic
3. Deserts in the Bible	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Topic
4. Social conflict in the Bible	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Topic
5. Femininity in the Bible	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Topic
6. Leprosy in the Bible	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Topic
7. Sacrifice in the Bible	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Topic
8. Quotation in the Bible	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Topic
9. Implements, utensils, etc., in the Bible	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Topic
10. Invertebrates in the Bible	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Topic
11. Exorcism in the Bible	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Topic

Refined by:
Subject Headings x
Authority x

Refine your results

Scheme
Subject Headings x

Type
Authority x
Simple Type 314
Topic 314
Complex Subject 55
Complex Type 55

Collection
LCSH - General 369
LCSH - Authorized 368
LCSH - Geo May Subdivide 9
PH - Free-floating subdivisions 1
LCSH - Subdivisions 1
LCSH - Topic 1

Created Date
2010s 30
2000s 90
1990s 82

The screenshot shows the Library of Congress Linked Data Service page for 'Jewish bankers'. At the top left is the 'LIBRARY OF CONGRESS' logo. Below the logo, the breadcrumb 'The Library of Congress > Linked Data Service > LC Subject Headings (LCSH)' is visible. The page title is 'Jewish bankers'. Under the title, there is a section for 'URI(s)' with three links: 'http://id.loc.gov/authorities/subjects/sh85070259', 'info:lc/authorities/sh85070259', and 'http://id.loc.gov/authorities/sh85070259#concept'. Below this is a section for 'Instance Of' with three links: 'MADS/RDF Topic', 'MADS/RDF Authority', and 'SKOS Concept'. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Scheme Membership(s)' with one link: 'Library of Congress Subject Headings'. Finally, there is a section for 'Collection Membership(s)' with three links: 'LCSH Collection - Authorized Headings', 'LCSH Collection - General Collection', and 'LCSH Collection - May Subdivide Geographically'.

Jewish bankers

URI(s)

- <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/subjects/sh85070259>
- <info:lc/authorities/sh85070259>
- <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/sh85070259#concept>

Instance Of

- MADS/RDF Topic
- MADS/RDF Authority
- SKOS Concept ↗

Scheme Membership(s)

- Library of Congress Subject Headings

Collection Membership(s)

- LCSH Collection - Authorized Headings
- LCSH Collection - General Collection
- LCSH Collection - May Subdivide Geographically

Hegemony as normal

LIBRARY

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Everything Search Loc.gov

The Library of Congress > Linked Data Service

Refined by:
Subject Headings
Authority

Refine your results

Scheme
Subject Headings

Type
Authority
Complex Subject 35
Complex Type 35
Simple Type 4
Topic 4

Collection
LCSH - Authorized 39
LCSH - General 39
LCSH - Geo May Subdivide 3

Created Date
2010s 8
2000s 22
1990s 5
1980s 4

Modified Date
2010s 8

Search: arab israeli [GO] [RESET]

Results: 1-20 of 39

Label	Vocabulary	Concept
1. Arab-Israeli conflict	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Topic
Israel-Arab conflicts ; Israel-Palestine conflict ; Israeli-Arab conflict ; Israeli-Palestinian conflict ; Jewish-Arab relations--Palestine-Israel conflict ; Palestine problem (1948-) ; Palestinian-Israeli conflict ; Israel-Arab conflicts		
2. Arab-Israeli conflict on postage stamps	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Topic
Israel-Arab conflicts on postage stamps ; Israel-Arab conflicts on postage stamps		
3. Israel-Arab Border Conflicts, 1949-	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Topic
Arab-Israel Border Conflicts, 1949- ; Israeli-Arab Border Conflicts, 1949-		
4. Arab-Israeli conflict (Islamic law)	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Topic
5. Arab-Israeli conflict--1967-1973--Influence	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Complex Subject
6. Arab-Israeli conflict--1993---Congresses	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Complex Subject
7. Arab-Israeli conflict--Fiction	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Complex Subject

Japanese Americans--Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945

URI(s)

- <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/subjects/sh85069606>
- <info:lc/authorities/sh85069606>
- <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/sh85069606#concept>

Instance Of

- MADS/RDF ComplexSubject
- MADS/RDF Authority
- SKOS Concept [↗](#)

Components

- [Japanese Americans](#) [↗](#)
- [Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945](#) [↗](#)

Scheme Membership(s)

- [Library of Congress Subject Headings](#)

Collection Membership(s)

- [LCSH Collection - Authorized Headings](#)
- [LCSH Collection - General Collection](#)

Variants

- [Evacuation and relocation of Japanese Americans, 1942-1945](#)
- [Internment of Japanese Americans, 1942-1945](#)
- [Relocation of Japanese Americans, 1942-1945](#)

This is inevitable with the LCSH controlled vocabulary because...

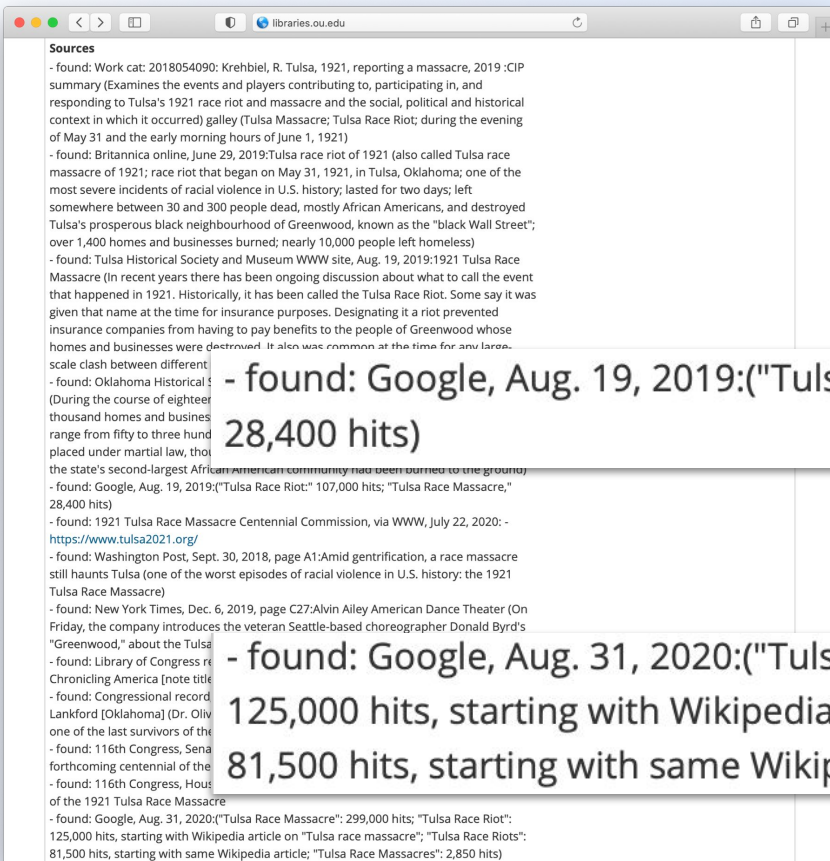
- The catalog, by design, REFLECTS, the problematic elements of the contexts in which it is used
- The catalog is necessarily conservative (REactive vs PROactive)

“Authority” and the Power of Social Movements



Dr. Olivia Hooker: American Psychologist and Professor and one of the last known survivors of the massacre

Power In and Outside of Libraries and Archives



- found: Google, Aug. 19, 2019:(**"Tulsa Race Riot:" 107,000 hits; "Tulsa Race Massacre," 28,400 hits)**)

- found: Google, Aug. 31, 2020:(**"Tulsa Race Massacre": 299,000 hits; "Tulsa Race Riot": 125,000 hits, starting with Wikipedia article on "Tulsa race massacre"; "Tulsa Race Riots": 81,500 hits, starting with same Wikipedia article; "Tulsa Race Massacres": 2,850 hits)**)

Thank You!

- Have Questions?
- Notice something in library systems that you think we should be thinking about?

Learning and Working Group on Metadata Justice

metadatajustice@ou.edu

<https://guides.ou.edu/metadatajustice>