Metadata Justice in Oklahoma Libraries & Archives

JULY 14, 2022
9:30 AM-3:30 PM

VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM HOSTED BY UCO CHAMBERS LIBRARY

WELCOME

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of UCO Chambers Library, thank you for joining us for the Metadata Justice in Oklahoma Libraries & Archives Symposium. Whether you're actually in Oklahoma or not, we are happy you're here!

Conscientious application of metadata has always been a priority for UCO's professional catalogers. In 2021, we met with the University of Oklahoma Libraries' Metadata Justice Learning and Working Group to talk about the process for changing the subject heading for the Tulsa Race Massacre. It was a wonderful time to connect with our colleagues, and in spring 2022, I found that I wanted to continue a discussion about these desperately needed changes in library and archival resource description with a broader community. Thus, our symposium was born.

Granted, it's not as if these conversations have not been happening already. For example, The Cataloging Lab is a home for catalogers to collaborate to improve our controlled vocabularies and classification. I had the pleasure of meeting its creator, Violet Fox, at a cataloging conference in Kansas City several years ago. Violet is an incredible advocate for metadata justice, and I am thrilled that you will hear from her as our keynote speaker. But while these conversations take place on a larger scale, what about on the regional level? 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. At the end of the day, we want our communities to engage with library and archives resources, and we want them to do so with description that is accurate and respectful.

I would be remiss not to acknowledge the resources that Chambers Library and the University of Central Oklahoma have provided to make it possible for us to not just host this event, but to host it for free. This work is important, so in turn, it is just as important that folks have these learning opportunities for little to no cost. An additional thank you goes out to my supervisors, Beth Jones and Habib Tabatabai, for letting me run with this idea, and to Anona Earls, Kaitlyn Palone, and Mary Stoll for helping with the planning.

I sincerely hope that whether you work in a library, archive, or some combination that you benefit both professionally and personally from the presentations and group discussions we have planned. Let's do this important work together!

Shay Beezley
Assistant Director, Metadata & Cataloging, UCO Chambers Library

INFO
Login Information

*Please be advised that UCO's Zoom account will charge tolls for dial-ins.

Zoom Etiquette

- During presentations, all audience mics will be muted.
- Questions for the speakers may be submitted using Zoom's chat functionality.
- Mics will be unmuted during discussion break-outs, but attendees are reminded to be mindful of limiting interrupting or talking over each other.
- Video for attendees is not required.

Code of Conduct

Adapted from Oklahoma Library Association's Code of Conduct

We are dedicated to providing a harassment-free experience for everyone, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, or religion.

Harassment will not be tolerated in any form. Harassment includes offensive verbal comments related to gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, religion, sexual images in public spaces, deliberate intimidation, stalking, harassing photography or recording, sustained disruption of programs, inappropriate physical contact, and unwelcome sexual attention.

Harassment and sexist, racist, or exclusionary jokes are not appropriate for this event. Anyone asked to stop any harassing behavior is expected to comply immediately. Anyone violating these rules may be sanctioned or expelled from the event.

To report concerns, please contact Shay Beezley at sbeezley@uco.edu or 405-974-2918.

SCHEDULE

Note: schedule times are approximate. Schedule may shift slightly during the event.

9:30 AM   Welcome

9:35 AM   Pushing the Boulder, Pushing the Envelope: Embracing the Iterative Nature of Improving Metadata

10:05 AM   Started From the Middle, Now We're Here: Making a Game Plan for Metadata Justice at the Dickinson Research Center

11:05 AM   10-minute Break

11:15 AM   The Ethics of Creating Linked Open Data for Oklahoma Native Artists

11:30 AM   Group Discussion #1

12:00 PM   60-minute Break

1:00 PM   Finding the Right Words

2:00 PM   Oklahoma NACO & SACO Funnels

2:15 PM   15-minute Break

2:30 PM   DARE to Say NO

3:00 PM   Group Discussion #2

3:30 PM   End

9:30-9:35 AM

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Land Acknowledgement

The *University of Central Oklahoma* recognizes that we gather on land entrusted to the care and protection of the Caddo and Wichita peoples. These lands are part of the wider state of Oklahoma which is shared by the 39 sovereign Indigenous Nations including the Kiowa, Comanche, Osage, Apache and Fort Sill Apache Nations, and is associated with the forced relocation of Nations through the Indian Removal Act of 1830. The university was built in Unassigned Land within seized portions of Indian Territory taken from the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole Nations by the federal government in 1866. Beginning in 1889, this land was distributed through several Land Runs intended to confine and erase Indigenous peoples from this territory. We acknowledge the historical events that have and continue to affect Indigenous people of this land. We pledge to honor and respect Indigenous knowledges and worldviews as we sustain a meaningful relationship with the Sovereign Nations.

9:35-10:05 AM

Pushing the Boulder, Pushing the Envelope: Embracing the Iterative Nature of Improving Metadata

Keynote

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.

10:05-11:05 AM

Started From the Middle, Now We're Here: Making a Game Plan for Metadata Justice at the Dickinson Research Center

The Dickinson Research Center (DRC) at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum has implemented new online databases for photograph and manuscript collections. As legacy materials were transitioned into ArchivesSpace and Islandora, staff recognized the need to better understand the existing metadata and the necessity of a plan of action to move toward equitability. However, that process has not been without its challenges - the biggest of which was knowing where to start. This presentation will discuss how DRC database projects are evolving from just improving accessibility to also incorporating metadata justice.

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.

11:05-11:15 AM
Break

11:15-11:30 AM

The Ethics of Creating Linked Open Data
for Oklahoma Native Artists

This presentation is a brief overview of a project at OSU Libraries exploring the ethics of creating linked open data--particularly Wikidata--for the Oklahoma Native Artists oral history series.

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.

11:30 AM-12 PM
Discussion #1

Metadata and archival description are just a piece of what our institutions offer to our communities — how can we utilize these reparative practices to segue into larger conversations about the library as a whole?

12-1 PM

Break

1-2 PM

Finding the Right Words

In Summer 2021, UCO Chambers Library's catalogers crafted an inclusive metadata statement. Additionally, we made available our strategies and a reporting form for our patrons to report offensive or outdated terminology. Our presentation will provide an overview of the process, recommendations for creating your own statement, and the challenges of important terminology being misappropriated as buzzwords (e.g. "decolonizing" the catalog).

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 the University of North Carolina at 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.

"Why pamper the troglodytes?"

—Sanford Berman, on if Library of Congress kept "colored" as a qualifier in its subject headings

2-2:15 PM

Oklahoma NACO & SACO Funnels

Creating authority records and submitting subject heading proposals are a key part of a cataloger's work, and these areas are especially impacted by metadata justice concerns. Jay will provide a short overview of the purpose of the NACO & SACO Funnels, how to join them, and what kind of training is involved. Additionally, he will share how OU Libraries Learning & Working Group on Metadata Justice. successfully changed the Tulsa Race Massacre subject heading through the SACO process.

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.

2:15-2:30 PM

Break

2:30-3 PM

DARE to Say NO

Using the Acronym DARE we'll look specifically at reclassing the offensive and dated terminology of call numbers for materials classified with N and O Cutter numbers for "Negro" and "Oriental." DARE is short for Decide (to undertake the project), Access (changing the metadata), Repair (the label, record, shelving location, etc) or Eliminate (weed).

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.

3-3:30 PM

Discussion #2

How can we build info-sharing between institutions and support each other in this important work? Are there projects you've been wanting to undertake and have hit a road block on?

Thank you for attending!