

Everyone Belongs Here

Creating an Inclusive Public Library Local History and Genealogy Collection



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Metadata Justice in Oklahoma Libraries & Archives Symposium

July 20, 2023

Why is metadata justice important?

- ❖ Public libraries are for everyone, and local history and genealogy collections should reflect everyone in the community.
- ❖ Everyone needs to have access to resources that will allow them to research their own history.
- ❖ All people should be able to see both themselves and others represented accurately, where everyone has a voice and is able to tell their own story.

a librarian



**makes room
on the shelf**



for everyone's story.



About the collection

- ❖ This collection consists of around 1000 mostly donated books; some previously catalogued, many uncatalogued, and in general older than the general circulating collection.
- ❖ Items include volumes of census and other official records, state and county histories, biographies, individual biographies, self-published family histories.
- ❖ As with the rest of the library, all items in this collection are catalogued using the Dewey Decimal System, so there are specific parameters that have already been set

Subject heading resources for Indigenous topics

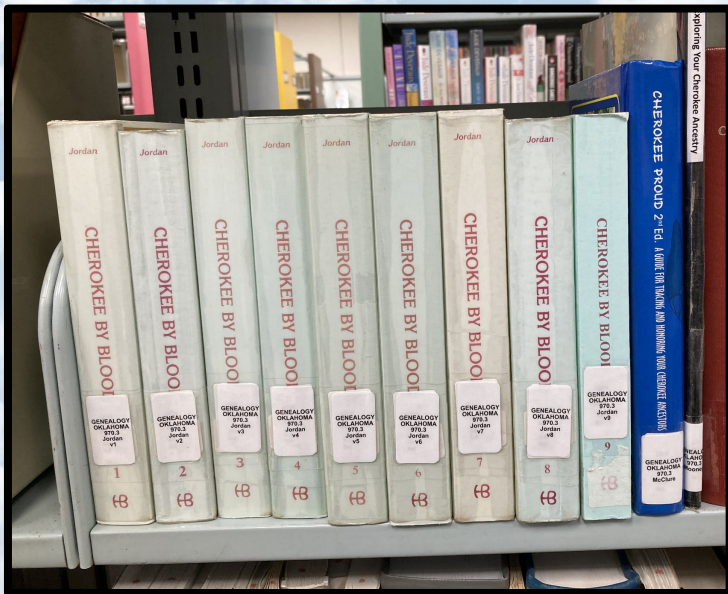
- ❖ **Indigenous Subject Heading Changes**
<https://libguides.uvic.ca/c.php?g=728465&p=5225798>
- ❖ **Creating Subject Headings for Indigenous Topics**
A Culturally Respectful Guide by Richard Sapon-White, Emeritus Assistant Professor, Oregon State University: <https://ir.library.oregonstate.edu>

Resources about the Tulsa Race Massacre

- ❖ **Changing the Name of the Tulsa Race Riot to Tulsa Race Massacre in LCSH:** <https://shareok.org/handle/11244/336476>
- ❖ **Primary Sources: Civil Rights in America - Events: Tulsa Race Massacre (1921):** <https://cnu.libguides.com/civilrightsevents/tulsa1921>

970.3

- ❖ Cherokee Nation
- ❖ Chickasaw Nation
- ❖ Choctaw Nation
- ❖ Muscogee Creek Nation



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- ❖ Oklahoma history, cultures, everything to do with the state as a whole

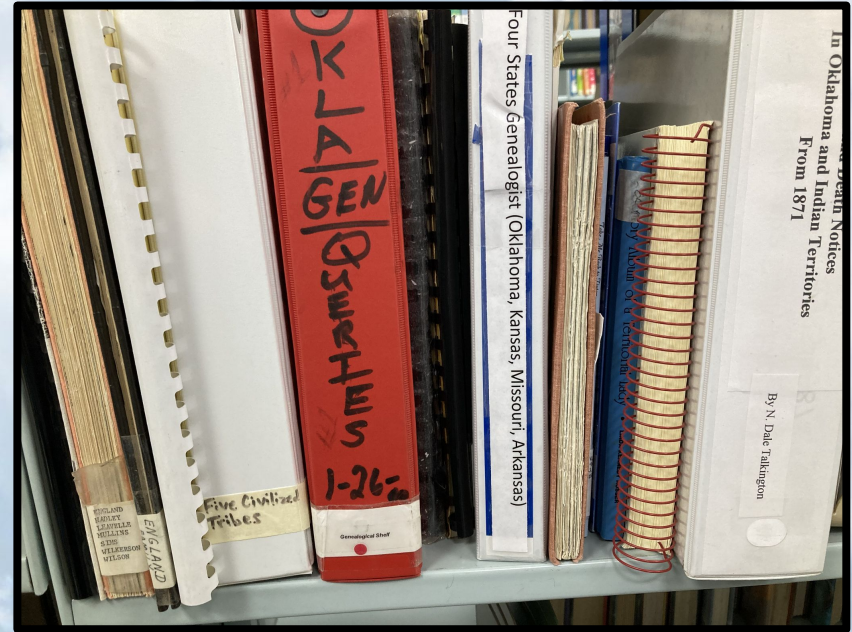


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- ❖ Individual county and local histories

Challenges

- ❖ Older, mostly donated material
- ❖ Many unpublished or self-published items requiring original records
- ❖ Organization takes time
- ❖ Ongoing time constraints of library life



The “before” picture - this is a sample of the chaos that exists on the one shelf in this section that hasn’t been looked at yet.

Building the collection for the future

- Maintain a system that will allow for starting and stopping as needed; small steps can create an oasis of organization in the chaos
- Create a list of cataloging resources to stay updated on subject heading changes
- Examine the collection as a whole. What information are we missing? Who is telling the story? Is anyone being left out?
- Look for new books by reputable publishers (OU Press, Oklahoma Historical Society, etc.)

Final thoughts



Everyone should be able to see both themselves and others reflected accurately in public library collections, so that they can learn from and appreciate the experiences and contributions of all groups of people.

Building a collection that emphasizes and celebrates all voices, especially those that have been historically marginalized, is a small way to make the library, and the world, a better place for everyone.