




METADATA JUSTICE

**in Oklahoma Libraries &
Archives Symposium**

JUNE 13, 2024



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Adapted from Oklahoma Library Association's Code of Conduct

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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.

EVALUATION

Help us plan future events by filling out the [post-event survey](#)

SCHEDULE

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

9:30-9:35 am	Introduction and Welcome
9:35-10:20 am	Keynote: Metadata Justice: Inclusive Description through a Critical Lens
10:20-10:30 am	Unraveling Metadata Justice: Librarians and Metadata Wranglers in Making Information Fair for Everyone
10:30-10:45 am	The Limits of Repair: The Case for and Boundaries of Reparative Description
10:45-11:00 am	Break
11:00-11:40 am	Reparative Analysis of OOHRP's Oklahoma and OSU Diverse Sexuality and Gender Collections
11:40 am-12:00 pm	Apparitional Representations: Disability History, Reparative Descriptions, and Ethical Failings in a Special Research Collection
12:00-1:00 pm	Break
1:00-1:10 pm	Unveiling Hidden Stories: Interactive Digital Humanities Resources Empower Research on Underrepresented Communities
1:10-1:30 pm	Inclusive Metadata Through Bibliographic Control
1:30-2:10 pm	Distributed Labour: Managing Harmful Language Work in a Canadian Library Partnership
2:10-2:25 pm	Multilingual Metadata: The Pan-American Authorities Initiative for Spanish Subject Headings
2:25-2:40 pm	Break
2:40-3:20 pm	Searching the Past, Finding the Present: Identifying Contemporary Tribal Communities in Gilcrease Museum's Rare Books Collection
3:20-4:00 pm	Creating Occult Identities and Subjects, or, How New NACO and SACO Funnels will Improve Access to Occult Resources

PROGRAM

9:30-9:35 AM

Introduction and Welcome

9:30-9:35 AM

KEYNOTE

Metadata Justice: Inclusive Description through a Critical Lens

Treshani Perera (she/her) is the Head of Fine Arts Library Technical Services at the University of Kentucky Libraries. Treshani provides original and complex copy cataloging for all formats and subject areas in the Fine Arts Library; oversees operations in cataloging, physical processing, and binding; and manages several special projects in the Fine Arts Library. Treshani has presented various critical cataloging webinars and workshops for We Here LLC, the Summer Educational Institute Workshop (SEI), the Association of Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC), the American Theological Library Association (ATLA), and various regional cataloging and library systems groups. Treshani has presented findings from research in inclusive description at Art Librarians Society of North America (ARLIS), Visual Resources Association (VRA), and Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) annual conferences. Treshani's ongoing research interests include critical cataloging and inclusive description in libraries, archives, and museums.

10:20-10:30 AM

Unraveling Metadata Justice: Librarians and Metadata Wranglers in Making Information Fair for Everyone

An exploration of metadata justice, focusing on the critical role of librarians and metadata wranglers and looking into the historical context of metadata practices and the challenges faced by those responsible for organizing information. Through examining the evolution of metadata standards and best practices, we'll highlight the contributions of librarians and metadata wranglers in promoting fairness and inclusivity. Together, we'll uncover strategies for navigating the complex landscape of metadata to ensure equitable access to information for all.

Rebekah Silverstein is a Digital Services Librarian at Oklahoma State University, Edmon Low Library, with expertise in statistical reporting and technical services. With a Master's in Library & Information Science and a Data Analytics Certificate from the University of Oklahoma, Rebekah is dedicated to promoting inclusivity in information access. As chair of the Oklahoma Library Association's Technical Services Round Table and Librarian at Emanuel Synagogue's Schneider Library, Rebekah is committed to advancing equitable metadata practices.



10:30-10:45 AM
The Limits of Repair: The Case for and Boundaries of Reparative Description

This presentation will discuss a group reparative description project undertaken on an assembled archival collection held by New York University Libraries Special Collections that consists of documents concerning enslavement in Spanish-colonized Cuba. Years after its acquisition and accessioning, the Archival Collections Management department undertook collaborative reparative description on the collection, applying the recommendations of the Archives for Black Lives in Philadelphia's Anti-Racist Description Resources. The presentation will discuss the project design and outcomes, as well as larger reflections on the individual, institutional, and systemic challenges encountered and the limitations on archival re-description alone in the service of anti-racism and anti-oppressive.



Rachel Searcy (she/her) is the Accessioning Archivist at New York University. Previously, Rachel held positions focused on processing, metadata, and digitization at NYU's Tamiment Library and Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives, and the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. She holds an MS in Library and Information Science with a concentration in Archives Management and an MA in History from Simmons University, as well as a BA in English and History and a Certificate in Celtic Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Weatherly A. Stephan is the Head of Archival Collections Management at New York University Libraries. Prior to her appointment at NYU, she held processing positions at the Brooklyn Historical Society and New York Public Library. She holds an MLIS from Rutgers University, and an MA in English from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.



11:00-11:40 AM
Reparative Analysis of OOHRP's Oklahoma and OSU Diverse Sexuality and Gender Collections

This presentation will focus on two Oklahoma Oral History Research Program collections, the Oklahoma and OSU Diverse Sexuality and Gender collections. As the OOHRP Digital Curation GRA, I will discuss my process of using controlled vs. homegrown vocabularies, more specifically the Library of Congress Subject Headings and FAST and the alternative vocabulary of the Homosaurus. I will go into discussion of how I approach, and what it looks like, creating metadata for these collections, along with the description writing process for these oral histories. There will also be a more broad discussion of reparative practices regarding 2SLGBTQIA+ oral histories and oral history collections.



Katanna Davis is a Public History master's student at Oklahoma State University who plans on continuing her education in the field of library science. Katanna's research interests include 20th century U.S. history, women and gender studies, activism, histories of health and the body, and reparative archive practices. Her main research focuses on addressing the missing themes in scholarship about the Beat Movement through lenses of labor, power, and accessibility. Katanna currently works as the Oral History Curation Assistant for the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program where she works to better define certain collections and their metadata for research and community use. This work also includes finding gaps, areas for improvement, and implementing reparative practices within specific collections, most recently being the OSU and Oklahoma Diverse Sexuality and Gender collections and the Oklahoma Native Artists collection. She earned her B.A. (2019) in history and English writing studies from Missouri Valley College.

Patrick Daglaris is the archivist for the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program at the Oklahoma State University Library, where he oversees the collection management and digital preservation of their 2,400+ interview holdings. He supervises the production of the Amplified Oklahoma podcast in which student interns highlight stories and narrators from the OOHHP collections for broader public consumption. He is interested in the discoverability of audiovisual materials and community engagement by archival institutions and holds a Digital Archives Specialist certificate from the Society of American Archivists. He is also a native gardening enthusiast who, like every other living thing in Oklahoma, strives to make a home in an inhospitable place.



11:40AM-12:00 PM

Apparitional Representations: Disability History, Reparative Descriptions, and Ethical Failings in a Special Research Collection

In this presentation, I discuss the process and outcomes of a reparative description project I undertook for my master's thesis at the University of Oklahoma. My thesis focused on remediating disability-related descriptions in the Western History Collections. I examined a variety of theoretical models and attempted to apply them as I remediated descriptions. My presentation covers the challenges of trying to remediate descriptions in an archive not dedicated to disability history and provides a methodology for doing remediations that might help archivists struggling with incomplete information about items in a collection.



Melissa Weiss just graduated from the University of Oklahoma's MLIS program. While completing her MLIS, Melissa worked as a graduate assistant at the Western History Collections.

12:00-1:00 PM

Break

1:00-1:10 PM

**Unveiling Hidden Stories: Interactive Digital Humanities Resources
Empower Research on Underrepresented Communities**

In three case studies, we show how the transformation from a static bibliography to an interactive digital humanities resource connects student researchers to the cultural heritage of often overlooked communities, including Indigenous artists and Indigenous architects and architecture. In addition to modernizing pre-existing metadata on Indigenous artists and the built environment of Oklahoma, we created an entirely new bibliography dedicated to the under-represented field of Indigenous Architecture of Oklahoma. These case studies show how unearthing and enhancing existing resources can help researchers develop new narratives about the history and culture of Oklahoma.

Megan Macken is the Head of Digital Resources and Discovery Services at Oklahoma State's Edmon Low Library. Additionally, she serves as the library liaison to Art, Graphic Design and Art History and works with a variety of systems that support research and learning, including Open Research Oklahoma (ORO), Experts Directory, and Archive-It. Previously she worked as a digital scholarship librarian and digital archivist. She has master's degrees in Library Science and the History of Art from Indiana University. Macken is co-editor of the Art Libraries Society of North America's book review publication, ARLIS/NA Reviews.



Sara Mautino is an Assistant Professor at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. She has been the architecture librarian for Oklahoma State University Libraries since 2021, managing the Cunningham Architecture Library for the OSU School of Architecture. Sara has been a librarian since 2015 when she graduated with her MSLIS from Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA. The bulk of her librarianship experience has been in K-12 schools. In addition to the day-to-day tasks required to operate a university branch library and her responsibilities as a faculty member, Sara focuses her architecture librarianship energies on engaging students from commonly overlooked communities and building a diverse collection that reflects the students, faculty, and staff served by the Cunningham Architecture Library.



Amy Hunt works as a library coordinator for Oklahoma State University. She graduated with her MLIS in 2023 from the University of Missouri and worked at the Guthrie Public Library while in school. In 2022, Amy began working for Oklahoma State University's library system, coordinating and supervising the circulation desk at the veterinary medicine and architecture branch libraries. In her spare time, she loves to travel with her husband and his bluegrass band, read, cross stitch, and watch 1950s-1970s tv shows and movies.



1:10-1:30 PM

Inclusive Metadata through Bibliographic Control

As the Metropolitan Library System was implementing Aspen, an open-source discovery system, we decided to complete our first authority and bibliographic control project. An RFP was written, and two vendors responded with quotes. Backstage was chosen as the vendor, and we started the process in August 2023. A major focus of this project was to move from homegrown genre headings to Library of Congress genre headings. As we were working to update all our records to current cataloging standards, we also made inclusive metadata a top focus. Backstage provided headings from Homosaurus; a local authority file for Indigenous peoples and incorporating the work of the Xwi7Xwa (whei-wha) Library and the Greater Victoria Public Library.



Kirsten Bryson has been with the Metropolitan Library System for 4 years, serving as the Collection Services Manager. In this role, she oversees the Cataloging and Interlibrary Loan departments. Prior to coming to Oklahoma, Kirsten served as an Academic Librarian in Montana for 17.5 years. She received her MLS degree from Texas Woman's University in 2010. Kirsten is an active member and currently serves on the Learning Module committee for the Technical Services Roundtable. In addition to OLA, she is an active member of the Mountain Plains Library Association and was selected to attend the MPLA Leadership institute in 2012. When not at work, Kirsten enjoys traveling, fishing, kayaking, and other outdoor activities.

Devin McGhee has worked at Metropolitan Library System for the past 12 1/2 years as a library manager, cataloger and, currently, as Assistant Manager of Collection Services. She uses her knowledge of guest needs and searching habits to help her make sure materials are easily accessible to staff and guests. For the past few years, Devin has delved into the ethics surrounding cataloging, especially around accessibility, DEI-informed access points, and naming conventions. She received her MLIS from the University of Oklahoma.



1:30-2:10 PM

Distributed Labour: Managing Harmful Language Work in A Canadian Library Partnership

A major reason for the prevalence of harmful language in library catalogs is the hegemony of the Library of Congress. Recent threads in the AUTOCAT listserv show the resistance of catalogers to include their own voices, let alone the voices of marginalized groups that have been underrepresented in the profession, throwing their hands up and saying I'm just a cataloger, we have to follow the established rules, etc. At the same time, metadata staff have been cut from many university libraries, leaving those who are interested in doing metadata justice work overwhelmed. In order to address some of these challenges, Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) Collaborative Futures (a shared library platform group) created the Decolonizing Descriptions Implementation Working Group to manage harmful language across the Collaborative Futures partnership. As members of this group, we would like to discuss our efforts to manage alternative vocabularies in an Alma network zone environment, and some of the issues and crossroads we have faced thus far. Our current approach is to replace and/or

amend LCSH terms with other, already established vocabularies like Manitoba Archival Information Network Indigenous Subject Headings, Saskatchewan Indigenous Subject Headings, Canadian Subject Headings, Canadiana, and Homosaurus, but this may evolve over time. We will present what our partner libraries have been working on individually and our working group's efforts to centralize efforts and possibly implement a distributed labor model in OCUL CF. We are a nascent group and will be seeking feedback from colleagues.



Matthew Fesnak is the LSP and Discovery Services Librarian at McMaster University, a former cataloguer, and co-chair of the Ontario Council of University Libraries' Decolonizing Descriptions Implementation Working Group.

Christina Zoricic is a Metadata Management Librarian (since 2012) and the current Head of the Discovery, Description, and Metadata team (since 2018) at Western Libraries, University of Western Ontario, Canada. She was previously the Authority File Maintenance Librarian at the University of Waterloo and managed Authority Control on behalf of the Tri-University Group (TUG) Library Consortium. Her research interests include metadata matching legacy print material data in a shared library data environment, linked open data and MARC, and decolonizing library descriptions and metadata.



2:10-2:25 PM

Multilingual Metadata: The Pan-American Authorities Initiative for Spanish Subject Headings

In 2020, a group of library information science specialists at the University of Florida Libraries (UF) formed the Pan-American Authorities (PANA) group, a bilingual (English/Spanish) metadata working group dedicated to standardizing the creation of Spanish-language metadata to improve discoverability and access to digital collection materials published in Spanish. Recognizing our growing non-English collections, we found it important to address biases in North American cataloging and metadata practices, changing them to be more inclusive and representative of materials in our collections, their creators, and their users. However, the primary challenge was finding reliable authority files for assigning Spanish metadata that captured national and regional variations of the Spanish language. Prior to the formation of PANA, UF's bilingual metadata specialist's primary resource for assigning Spanish metadata was lcsch-es.org, a bilingual English-Spanish database that aggregates six Spanish language authority files. While the convenience of accessing Spanish subject headings through a centralized platform was invaluable, over-reliance on this resource was problematic, notably because the authority files aggregated in lcsch-es.org predominantly originate from Europe or the United States. To address this, the PANA group began establishing a workflow that would allow for Latin American authority files to be utilized. Since its origin, the group has partnered with the University of Texas Austin Libraries, who have adapted the workflow to increase their Spanish metadata translation across several digital collections sites, representing materials from across Latin America, fostering greater accessibility for its users throughout the region. Collectively, the PANA group has successfully contributed approximately 700 terms to this resource, ranging from human rights themed-subject terms to genre forms. Currently, we are constructing a publicly accessible website, and the Pan-American Authorities (code: pana) is now an officially recognized subject heading source code by the Library of Congress.



Rose Echeguren is the Bilingual Metadata Specialist at the George A. Smathers Libraries at the University of Florida. In her role, she creates and improves metadata descriptions for the libraries' diverse collections in Spanish and English, ensuring optimal user access, and upholding data accuracy and consistency within the University of Florida Digital Collections (UFDC) and collaborative projects. Rose also coordinates the development and maintenance of the Pan-American Authorities (PANA) for the University of Florida PANA group.

Devon Murphy (they/them) is a metadata and digital collections professional, currently working as the Metadata Analyst at the University of Texas at Austin. In this role, Murphy oversees standards, policies, and data models for the Libraries' holdings. Murphy previously worked as the Metadata Librarian for Latin American Resources and as the TARO Metadata Analyst at UT Austin, and as a Getty Graduate Intern (2019-2020), creating Getty Vocabulary records and policies. They received dual masters degrees in Art History and Information Science at UNC Chapel Hill (2019), examining information systems in art museums, including cataloging of Cherokee baskets by Native and non-Native institutions.



2:25-2:40 PM
Break

2:40-3:20 PM

Searching the Past, Finding the Present: Identifying Contemporary Tribal Communities in Gilcrease Museum's Rare Books Collection

Gilcrease Museum staff and scholars embarked on a multi-year project in 2023-2024 to research, identify, and catalog Native American Tribal affiliations within Gilcrease's rare book collection. The Helmerich Center for American Research (HCAR) houses approximately 4,000 rare books from the Gilcrease Museum. First collected by Thomas Gilcrease (Muscogee Citizen) in the mid-20th century, the collection tells the hemispheric story of the Americas from 1494 to the mid-1900s. A small team at HCAR, including Dr. William (Billy) Smith, Associate Director, Dr. Benjamin Pokross, Duane H. King Post Doctoral Fellow, and Jana Gowan, Reference and Outreach Librarian, began surveying, researching, and documenting the presence of tribal communities and Indigenous creators in the museum's rare book collection in order to create more accurate and culturally sensitive catalog records while also increasing accessibility to and understanding of the Gilcrease collections. This presentation will provide a general overview of the project design and progress to date and specifically feature the use of the [Tribal Nations in Oklahoma Metadata database](#) in support of the project, while also inviting input from the cataloging community.



Jana Gowan (she/her) is the Reference and Outreach Librarian at the Helmerich Center for American Research at Gilcrease Museum/The University of Tulsa since August 2022. She currently serves on the Bibliographic Services Committee (BSC) and the Instruction and Outreach Committee for Rare Books and Manuscripts. She co-chairs the BSC's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Steering Group. Her professional interests include increasing accessibility of archival materials through reparative cataloging and promoting a welcoming and inclusive reading room culture. She received her MLIS from The University of Oklahoma in 2019 and holds degrees in English, Film Studies, and Gender Studies from The University of Tulsa and The University of Warwick.

Dr. William (Billy) Smith is Associate Director of the Helmerich Center for American Research at Gilcrease Museum, Applied Associate Professor of History, and Co-Director of the Museum Science and Management graduate program at the University of Tulsa. He is author of one published monograph and specializes in early American history and Atlantic studies. He teaches courses in American history and archival studies.



Ben Pokross is the outgoing Duane H. King Postdoctoral Fellow at the Helmerich Center for American Research at Gilcrease Museum. In August, he will begin as the National Park Service-Mellon Humanities Fellow at the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Trained as a literary scholar, his research interests include nineteenth-century American literature, Native American literature, and the history of the book.

3:20-4:00 PM

Creating Occult Identities and Subjects, or, How New NACO and SACO Funnels will Improve Access to Occult Resources

Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) and authorities for names, covens, groups, organizations, and especially practitioners of New Religious Movements are lacking. Many of the existing LCSH terms omit scope notes, opening them up to being misassigned to cataloging records. In addition, many practitioners of these movements may be misassociated with the existing terms or unsatisfied with how their creative works have been labeled. Much of this conundrum lies with a lack of knowledge of the subject, but another issue may stem from prejudice. In early 2024, three people met online to consider addressing this problem with the aim of forming an Occult SACO Funnel and a separate Occult NACO Funnel. Learn about the mission, vision, and immediate plans of this exciting project, including how to get involved.



Guy Frost is a Professor of Library Science/Catalog Librarian at Valdosta State University. He has given workshops on Resource Description and Access (RDA) in Georgia and the country Belize and is considered a leader in the state on RDA, BIBFRAME, and Linked Data. In 2016, he founded a Contemporary Pagan Archive at Valdosta, which he dubbed the New Age Movements, Occultism, and Spiritualism Research Library (or NAMOSRL). NAMOSRL has grown to be a sizable archive of the creative work by religious leaders in the Goddess movement, Modern Paganism, Wicca, and other new or reformed religious traditions. These collections have generated a plethora of subjects and name headings in need of establishing in the SACO and NACO programs.

Margaret Breidenbaugh (she/her), MA (German History), is the Resource Sharing Coordinator at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College and a secular tarot-practicing witch. During last year's MJOKLA Symposium, Margaret spoke about her work as co-coordinator of the SACO Gender and Sexuality Funnel. She has also presented her critical cataloging work to the Library of Congress PCC Operations Committee and the OCLC Cataloging Community. Margaret's MLIS through the Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering will be conferred later this summer. Her research interests--which include critical librarianship, witchcraft as a feminist practice, and the histories of everyday people--interrogate the power of words.

