



Repairing the Catalog:

Using Reparative Description
for Indigenous Subjects



Why?

The Inspiration

Why: The Inspiration

- During the 2023 Metadata Justice Symposium, I was inspired by the *Tribal Nations in Oklahoma Metadata database* presentation (Megan Macken, Lulu Zilinskas, and Kaitlyn Palone). I decided to add the correct Tribal Nation names to all records in the Cameron catalog which had “Five Civilized Tribes” as a subject heading.
- I then realized how problematic “Indians of North America” was and began adding “Indigenous people of North America” to records.
- In 2024, the presentation *Searching the Past, Finding the Present: Identifying Contemporary Tribal Communities in Gilcrease Museum's Rare Books Collection* (Dr. William (Billy) Smith, Dr. Benjamin Pokross, and Jana Gowan) inspired me to go back to my spreadsheet and make it more uniform and usable.

How?

The Process

How?: The Process

The List

- In 2023, I ran a list of all the titles in the Cameron catalog having “Indians of North America” as a subject heading. I created a basic spreadsheet showing that I had added “Indigenous people of North America” to the record and any corrected Tribal name I added.

The List, Upgraded

- I reorganized my spreadsheet in 2024. I used columns to show where I had added “Indigenous people of North America,” any outdated terminology or Tribal name, and what I replaced those terms with.
- In 2025, I went back through and added source codes for any Tribal names I could find them for.

How: The Process

I added subjects as MARC fields 650, with 4 as a second indicator

In cases where I found fast subject codes, I used 7 as a second indicator

Comparison

MARC before

650	0	a	Indians of North America
		x	Government relations.
650	0	a	Indians of North America
		x	Ethnic identity.
650	0	a	Indians of North America
		x	Kinship.
650	0	a	Imperialism in literature.
650	0	a	Self-determination, National, in literature.
650	0	a	Heterosexuality in literature.
650	0	a	Homosexuality in literature.
650	0	a	Indians in literature.

MARC after

650	0	a	Indians of North America
		x	Ethnic identity.
650	0	a	Indians of North America
		x	Kinship.
650	0	a	Imperialism in literature.
650	0	a	Self-determination, National, in literature.
650	0	a	Heterosexuality in literature.
650	0	a	Homosexuality in literature.
650	0	a	Indians in literature.
650	0	a	American literature
		x	Indian authors
		x	History and criticism.
650	4	a	Indigenous people of North America
650	4	a	American literature
		x	Indigenous authors
		x	History and criticism.
650	4	a	LGBTQ+ people in literature

MARC record with source codes

650	0	a	Indians of North America
		z	Oklahoma.
650	4	a	Indigenous people of North America
650	7	a	Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
		2	fast
		0	(OCoLC)fst00780938
650	7	a	United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma
		2	fast
		0	(OCoLC)fst00701169
650	7	a	Creek Indians
		2	fast
		0	(OCoLC)fst00882705
650	4	a	Muscogee (Creek) Nation
650	7	a	Chickasaw Nation
		2	fast
		0	(OCoLC)fst01981553
650	7	a	Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
		2	fast
		0	(OCoLC)fst01981553
650	4	a	Cherokee Nation

The Spreadsheet (Formatting)

date complete	Title	Indians of North America	Outdated Tribal names or other terms	Tribal name added	Other subjects added
	"They made us many promises" : the American Indian experience, 1524 to the present	Indigenous people of North America	Indians, Treatment of		Indigenous people, Treatment of
	1676, the end of American independence	Indigenous people of North America			
	A, B, C's : the American Indian way	Indigenous people of North America	Indians, Treatment of		Indigenous people, Treatment of

The Spreadsheet (Examples)

date complete	Title	Indians of North America	Outdated Tribal names or other terms	Tribal name added	Other subjects added
2/6/2025	The Cherokee cases : two landmark federal decisions in the fight for sovereignty	Indigenous people of North America	Cherokee Indians	Cherokee Nation ; United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians (OCOLC)fst00701169 ; Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	
2/6/2025	The Cherokee Indians	Indigenous people of North America	Cherokee Indians	Cherokee Nation ; United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians (OCOLC)fst00701169 ; Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	
2/6/2025	The Cherokee nation in the Civil War	Indigenous people of North America	Cherokee Indians ; History--Civil War--Participation, Indian.	Cherokee Nation ; United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians (OCOLC)fst00701169 ; Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	History--Civil War--Participation, Indigenous
2/6/2025	Cherokee removal : the "William Penn" essays and other writings	Indigenous people of North America	Cherokee Indians	Cherokee Nation ; United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians (OCOLC)fst00701169 ; Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	

The Spreadsheet (Examples)

date complete	Title	Indians of North America	Outdated Tribal names or other terms	Tribal name added	Other subjects added
2/6/2025	And still the waters run : the betrayal of the Five Civilized Tribes	Indigenous people of North America	Five Civilized Tribes ; Indian Territory	Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (OCoLC)fst00780938 ; United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma (OCoLC)fst00701169 ; Creek Indians (OCoLC)fst00882705 ; Muscogee (Creek) Nation ; Chickasaw Nation (OCoLC)fst01981553 ; Seminole Nation of Oklahoma (OCoLC)fst00719146	Oklahoma
2/6/2025	Civil War in the Indian territory	Indigenous people of North America	Five Civilized Tribes ; Indian Territory	Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (OCoLC)fst00780938 ; United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma (OCoLC)fst00701169 ; Creek Indians (OCoLC)fst00882705 ; Muscogee (Creek) Nation ; Chickasaw Nation (OCoLC)fst01981553 ; Seminole Nation of Oklahoma (OCoLC)fst00719146	Oklahoma

date complete	Title	Indians of North America	Outdated Tribal names or other terms	Tribal name added	Other subjects added
2/6/2025	The antelope wife : a novel	Indigenous people of North America	Ojibwa Indians	Ojibwe people ; Anishinaabeg ; Council of Three Fires	
2/6/2025	Chippewa customs	Indigenous people of North America	Ojibwa Indians	Ojibwe people ; Anishinaabeg ; Council of Three Fires	
2/11/2025	Crazy Horse	Indigenous people of North America	Oglala Indians	Oglala Sioux Tribe ; Oglala Lakota Nation	
2/11/2025	Crazy Horse	Indigenous people of North America	Oglala Indians	Oglala Sioux Tribe ; Oglala Lakota Nation	
2/11/2025	Crazy Horse : Sioux warrior	Indigenous people of North America	Oglala Indians	Oglala Sioux Tribe ; Oglala Lakota Nation	
2/11/2025	Crazy Horse and Custer : the parallel lives of two American warriors	Indigenous people of North America	Oglala Indians	Oglala Sioux Tribe ; Oglala Lakota Nation	
2/11/2025	Crazy Horse and Custer : the parallel lives of two American warriors	Indigenous people of North America	Oglala Indians	Oglala Sioux Tribe ; Oglala Lakota Nation	
2/11/2025	Crazy horse's vision	Indigenous people of North America	Oglala Indians	Oglala Sioux Tribe ; Oglala Lakota Nation	
2/11/2025	Crooked river	Indigenous people of North America	Ojibwa Indians	Ojibwe people ; Anishinaabeg ; Council of Three Fires	
2/13/2025	History of the Ojibway people	Indigenous people of North America	Ojibwa Indians	Ojibwe people, Anishinaabeg	
2/20/2025	In the spirit of Crazy Horse	Indigenous people of North America	Oglala Indians	Lakota people ; Teton Sioux ; Ogala Sioux ; Oglala Lakota Nation	
2/20/2025	Indian action songs	Indigenous people of North America	Ojibwa Indians	Ojibwe people, Anishinaabeg	

date complete					
	Title	Indians of North America	Outdated Tribal names or other terms	Tribal name added	Other subjects added
2/11/2025	The cultural transformation of a Native American family and its tribe, 1763-1995 : a basket of apples	Indigenous people of North America	Blacks--Relations with Indians ; Cherokee Indians ; Choctaw Indians	Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (OCoLC)fst00780938 ; Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians ; Jena Band of Choctaw Indians ; Cherokee Nation ; United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians (OCoLC)fst00701169 ; Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	Black people--relations with Indigenous people ; African American people--relations with Indigenous people ;

Interesting Special Cases

	date complete	Title	Indians of North America	Outdated Tribal names or other terms	Tribal name added	Other subjects added
	2/6/2025	Captors and captives : the 1704 French and Indian raid on Deerfield	Indigenous people of North America	Abenaki Indians ; Indian captivities	Abenaki people ; Wabanaki Confederacy	Captives of Indigenous people

Terms that were complicated to reword.

“Indian captivities”

“Indian termination policy.”

Interesting Special Cases

				Policies of termination of Indigenous nations, Policies of forced assimilation of Indigenous peoples
The night watchman	Indigenous people of North America	Ojibwa Indians, Indian termination policy	Ojibwe people	
Termination's legacy : the discarded Indians of Utah		Indian termination policy, Paiute Indians, Ute Indians	Ute Indian Tribe, Northern Paiute people, Southern Paiute People, Mono people	Policies of termination of Indigenous nations, Policies of forced assimilation of Indigenous peoples

Next Steps

- How do we continue this work?
- How do we train the next person on doing this work?
- How do we make sure we're ameliorating the harm these outdated terms cause? (Ex: books where "Indians of North America" is not a subject heading, but there are outdated "Indian" terms.)

Questions for me?

Want to check out the spreadsheet for
yourself?

Email me at:
emoore@cameron.edu

The background features a diagonal split. The upper-left portion is a light blue color with thin, closely spaced horizontal lines. The lower-right portion is a solid dark blue. The text "Thank You" is centered in the dark blue area.

Thank You