the land of səl̓ilwətaɁ

Tsleil-Waututh Nation
PEOPLE OF THE INLET
INTRODUCTIONS!

- bri watson (they/m) @brimwats
- **MA** History of the Book & Sexuality; **MLIS** Archives, Digital Humanities, Knowledge Organization
- **PhD.** Information Science @ University of British Columbia iSchool; focusing on equitable cataloging in GLAMS & how they should use community supported & developed vocabularies
- Archivist-Historian for APA Consensual Nonmonogamy Committee, Director of HistSex.org

www.brimwats.com
A BRIEF HISTORY OF HARM:

Library of Congress Subject Headings (1898-present):

- Squatter settlements
- Indians of North America
Including Bulgarians and Macedonians; comprehensive works on south Slavs; Serbs and Montenegrins; people of Serbia as a national group; people of former Serbia and Montenegro as a national group; people of former Yugoslavia as a national group; Croats and Bosnians; people of Croatia as a national group; Slovenes; west Slavs; Poles; Czechs and Moravians; Czechoslovaks; Slovaks; Wends (Lusatians, Sorbs)

For east Slavs, Cossacks, see 305.8917. For citizens of Serbia of other ethnic groups, citizens of Croatia of other ethnic groups, see the ethnic group, e.g., Serbian citizens of Hungarian descent 305.894
**LCC**

**JN2202.A69H6**

- Political institutions and public administration. Croatia.
- Executive branch.
- Civil service.
- Special topics.
- **Homosexual men and women.**

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**LCSH**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Folk songs, Serbo-Croatian</td>
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<td>Jota (The Serbo-Croatian letter)</td>
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Still a Lot to Lose: The Role of Controlled Vocabulary in Keyword Searching

Tina Gross, Arlene G. Taylor & Daniel N. Joudrey

Abstract

In their 2005 study, Gross and Taylor found that more than a third of records retrieved by keyword searches would be lost without subject headings. A review of the literature since then shows that numerous studies, in various disciplines, have found that a quarter to a third of records returned in a keyword search would be lost without controlled vocabulary.
When classifications are created, they inherently reflect the predominant biases of society. To categorize something is to define what it is not, yet what something is or is not is subject to change.


- Perspectives & Terminologies & Subject languages change over time
- Subject Representation—how to maintain access over time without obscuring or misrepresenting original context?
- Classification as retrospective diagnosis
- Offensive or confusing terminology
- Controlled vs. uncontrolled terminology
Subject: BOB

Predicate: is interested in

Image of Mona Lisa
Subject: Bob
Predicate: is interested in
Object: Mona Lisa
Sir John Williams

Subject:
- Male
- Gwynfe
- University of Glasgow
- Swansea University
- 6 November 1840
- Chairperson of National Library of Wales

Predicate:
- Image
- Noble title
- Education at
- Birth place
- Said to be the same as
- Occupation
- Mother
- Position held
- Date of birth
- Date of death
- 24 May 1926

Object:
- Q282019 Baronet
- Q3963 Physician
- Q182436 Librarian
- Q43963 Jack the Ripper
- Q13638192 Obstetrician
- Q54258753 Eleanor Williams

Predicate:
- P18
- P19
- P21
- P106
- P460
- P25
- P39
- P569
- P570
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<td>Povratak Filipa Latmovicza</td>
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<td>Bela Krelja</td>
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WHAT CAN WE DO?

• Local action
  • Update inaccurate or offensive terminology in your own records

• Alternative vocabularies
  • Use vocabularies like the Homosaurus, Disability Thesaurus, etc—Devon's presentation to cover more!

• Taking a more holistic approach to subject representation by using historic & current terms
  • Capture terminology change over time/space/community
  • Capture additional facets: gender, age, relationship, ethnicity/country, time period, occupation
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https://journals.lib.washington.edu/index.php/nasko/article/download/15615/12997
## WHAT CAN WE DO?

### Archival / Historical

- Consider perspective of catalog vs history
  - What does “Black” mean in 19th C? Now?
- Use “radical empathy”
  - Put yourself “in their shoes”
- Accurately describe relationships of power
  - “Enslaver” “Enslaved”

### Library / Contemporary

- Outreach to living authors
  - “Authority Work as Outreach” Tina Gross & Violet B. Fox
- Consult local communities on preferred language/terminology
- Use local authority or term over national

- Consider consequences and potential harm
  - Respective descriptive language