Building Diversity & Inclusion in the Catalog

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Focus on...

- Introductions
- Our work
- Moving forward
- Helpful Resources

Image from:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/99658898@N00/14334152210
Who We Are

- Clara Burns
- **Music Copy Cataloger & Processing Lead, University of Colorado Boulder Libraries**
- **Music cataloging experience - 6 years, academic, mostly music scores and CDs**
- **Bi-coastal origin: from Rochester, NY and Palo Alto, CA**
- **Boulder transplant since 1985**
Who We Are

- Sol López
- Media Cataloging Coordinator, University of Colorado Boulder Libraries
- Cataloging experience - 8 years, all in academic libraries, mostly non-book materials
- Originally from the border of El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua
- Colorado transplant since 2016
- Mother of an 8 year old and a 5 year old
What is “Cataloging Ethics”? A working definition by the Cataloging Ethics Steering Committee defines it as: “Principles and values that provide an intentional decision-making framework for those who work in cataloging or metadata positions.”

What is “Radical Cataloging”? “…refers to addressing the root–systemic, or structural–issues behind social problems. Radical cataloging, in this way, is not necessarily an attempt to do away with or subvert cataloging altogether, but is rather intended to address the root issues that can make access to information problematic.” Lember, H., Lipkin, S., & Lee, R. J. (2013)
Cataloging Ethically is not a new topic...

- *Prejudices and Antipathies: A Tract on the LC Subject Heads Concerning People*, Berman, Sanford (1971)

Definitions

What is “Cataloging Ethics”?

*Principals and values which guide our work and which are intentional*

What is “Radical Cataloging”?

*Intentional cataloging to help address social justice issues in our current and “oppressive” cataloging and classification systems*
Our recent presentations

Diversity & Inclusion in Cataloging & Metadata: Paths Forward
(Clar)
Diversity & Inclusion in Cataloging - Clara

- HIGHLIGHTS
- Background/History
- Recent collective actions by libraries (Dartmouth, MIT, Harvard, Bard College, Denver Public Libraries, University of Colorado Boulder, Yale University, Regis University, and more?)
- MIT’s Creating a Social Mindset paper (specific to Technical Services)
- Impacts & Solutions
Radical Cataloging - Sol

- HIGHLIGHTS
- Dartmouth & SAC’s recommended subject headings on undocumented peoples
- Variety of support/evidence sources before implementing
- Inserting locally in online catalog
- Monthly updates, sustainable
- Presentations locally/through Colorado State Library
- Growing impact (Change the Subject documentary)
MOVING FORWARD - CHANGING ROLES

“A cataloger with a critical eye can enhance access to materials and suggest changes to existing vocabularies and policies.”

[p. 11, Chapter 14, Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice in Library Technical Services (MIT Libraries)]
MOVING FORWARD

- Study definitions (ALA Code of Ethics; Cataloging ethics; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion definitions; ACRL’s Diversity Standards; own institutions’ definitions)
- Other vocabularies (Open Metadata Registry; Getty Thesauri; Sears, BISAC, MESH) / Accept unusual formats such as posters, zines, postcards, student-created objects (collection development)
- Cataloging Ethics Steering Committee (create a Code of Ethics for Cataloguers by 3 cataloging/metadata management organizations in US, Canada, UK)
- SACO funnel projects / Cataloging Lab
- Social media (Twitter) = #critcat
- Listservs (RADCAT)
MOVING FORWARD

- Advocacy
- Action
- Innovation
- Repeat
Thank you! ¡Gracias!

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Suggested Resources


Conservative newspaper’s article in response to CU Boulder Libraries’ announcement: https://www.thecollegefix.com/university-library-system-adds-ethical-search-options/

Contested Subjects: Coalition-based Activism in the Library. May 12, 2017. Baron, Jill, DeSantis, John; Dartmouth College Library Direct URL: https://scholarworks.umass.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1032&context=acrl_ne_conf


Suggested Resources (Cont’d)


