EDITORIAL

Welcome to our March issue centred around the themes of equality, diversity, and inclusion within metadata work.

Although it might seem that these topics are relatively new, and while there has certainly been an explosion in reparatory work in the last few years, a brief look into the history of classification and subject categorisation will reveal that remedial work has been taking place for about 100 years at least.

This issue of C&I does, however, feel particularly timely within the context of current world wide political events. In the past month, the fundamental fragility of our metadata supply chain was put into sharp relief by decisions of the Library of Congress to fast-track changes the headings for the "Gulf of Mexico" and "Mount Denali". Longer term we are hoping to organise a national event, such as a World Café, and a consultation on how subject indexing can become better aligned with local vocabularies, spelling, and identities and become decoupled from foreign political agendas.

Various members of the UK cataloguing community, including the Wales Higher Education Libraries Forum (WHELF) cataloguers, have been in touch with us regarding these specific issues and the wider issues around the lack of a UK SACO funnel resulting in the dearth of suitable headings for UK concerns, plus the use of vocabulary that is not well known or understood by UK users. There is the desire for a

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unified effort to resolve this rather than relying on local initiatives and duplicated work using up limited time and resources. Further communication about these initiatives will be forthcoming – so do keep an eye out!

Back to the issue itself, a few years ago there was plenty of published material highlighting problematic areas, but far fewer giving practical examples of how to tackle these issues. In 2024 ALA/Facet published Inclusive Cataloguing: Histories, Context, and Reparative Approaches [Reviewed below] with a wealth of examples from the US, and hot on its heels Catalogue & Index offer you further ethical discussions, projects and practical information, with (although not exclusively) a more UK focus.

Gabriella P. Reyes article *Cataloguing the Empire: Classification as colonial project* puts us right at the heart of the problem as Reyes explores the colonial history of classification systems and the legacy we are dealing with today.

Lambert Tuffrey writes about *Cataloguing Buddhist literature in English: Ethical issues in an assay*, an interesting and unusual piece that looks at the creation of a catalogue of Buddhist texts, including the complexities of taxonomy around the subject matter and ethical issues that needed consideration.

Liz Cooper and Damien McManus in *Problematic subject headings: Making our catalogue more equitable, diverse and inclusive at the University of Bristol* bring us the first of several articles in this issue that discuss problematic subject headings in the library catalogue and how they are being dealt with. Techniques to tackle the problem may depend on the library management system used by the institution, at the University of Bristol they use OCLC's WorldShare Management Services, and the procedures described utilise the Locally Preferred Subjects feature of the system.

This is followed by Mouse Miller, Karen F. Pierce and Vicky Stallard's piece on *Forming an anti-racist and inclusive library catalogue at Cardiff University*, and the accompanying article looking at the technical side of the project. Working towards similar aims as the team at Bristol the Cardiff University LMS is Ex-Libris' Alma, and the work involved the use of normalization rules to help make bulk changes in combating inappropriate subject headings (LCSH and MeSH).

Tara Kunesh and Jude Romines' paper *Changing the Subject: The Homosaurus in Emory University's Library Catalogue* describes a project implementing the Homosaurus vocabulary into their LMS. They put the need for such a thesaurus into context, both culturally and within library catalogues, and also demonstrate how the current political climate in the US makes this work even more crucial.

Andrew McAinsh discusses a local scheme of subject headings within *Updating Subject Headings for Children's Literature at the University of Strathclyde: the Children's Theme Index*. Describing the revamping of an existing scheme to make terminology easier to understand and to be more inclusive, whilst also exercising better control

over how the scheme was managed. The paper includes details about turning a spreadsheet of terms into local MARC Authority records.

The utilisation of Homosaurus is further embraced in Emma Hallett's article *Narrowing the Diversity Gap: LGBTQ+ Zines, Metadata and Discovery at the University for the Creative Arts* which looks at incorporating EDI awareness into the enhanced cataloguing of a zine collection. Homosaurus was an ideal thesaurus for this particular collection, but going forward the team hope to engage with it within their more standard workflows.

Our final article by Jane Daniels is a timely update on a code that has been mentioned by many of our authors. In *The Cataloguing Code of Ethics since 2021: What Next for Your Code?* we hear about the endorsements and advocacy that have taken place in the last few years, and suggestions for its possible evolution.

Our issue also features several reviews of books that are relevant to our EDI theme, and, where possible, I hope you will be encouraged to engage with the titles themselves.

Our next issue in June will be all about metadata enhancement and AI so do contact us if you wish to contribute. Contact the editors at catalogueandindex@gmail.com.

Karen F. Pierce & Fran Frenzel, March 2025