

# Catalogue & Index

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## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the March 2026 (214) issue of *Catalogue & Index*, which focuses on subject indexing and classification. Three of our articles discuss in-house schemes and highlight the benefits and flexibility in being able to react to inclusivity issues directly. As the British cataloguing community is currently mulling over the problems involved with a reliance on schemes based in the US over which we have no control and limited input it is really positive to read about the possibilities of local schemes, and independent community driven thesauri (such as Homosaurus). With a summary of last year's World Café on subject analysis, in advance of our two upcoming follow up events in Cardiff and Liverpool, it is time to be thinking about solutions.

Our issue begins with an overview of a project undertaken by the Royal College of Nursing Library & Museum Service to review and update their in-house classification scheme and subject headings. Dawn Williams gives a background to the project and walks us through the methodology used in identifying and evaluating offensive terminology, and highlights the importance of working collaboratively.

Maria Nagle talks us through the complexities involved in cataloguing the Welsh Government Publications Archive. In-house practices, standards, classification and thesauri have all evolved over time creating their own challenges. The team also need to ensure they are capturing all Welsh Government resources being published to ensure they are preserved for the public record.

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Katie Birkwood discusses the potential of using the 'prejudicial works' genre terms designed by the RBMS Controlled Vocabularies Editorial Group, within the context of surfacing and contextualising items with discriminatory content. Although these terms have an obvious beneficial use, this is offset against the apparent meaningless of applying them to most of a particular collection. In Birkwood's example, a historical medical collection, where most of 19th and 20th century medical science was based on discriminatory theories. A wider discussion on this topic is needed and should form the basis of an event later this year.

D St. Amour and colleagues provide the background and overview to Homosaurus, the LGBTQ+ subject heading thesaurus. Originating back in 1982 as Dutch language Homodok it has grown and developed over the years into a community driven linked data vocabulary that continues to evolve.

Will Peaden, Chair of MDG, reflects on the subject analysis World Café held in London in November 2025, as a response to changes made by Library of Congress around the renaming of the Gulf of Mexico and Mount Denali headings based on a Presidential Executive Order. These changes highlighted many ethical issues the Cataloguing sector faces with regards to subject analysis and how reliant we are on this particular US body. The World Café provided the opportunity for individuals to meet and discuss these issues with an eye to finding practical solutions.

Helen Griffiths provides a delightfully whimsical look at the in-house classification scheme used by the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, demonstrating that bespoke schemes are sometimes the most suitable. She discusses some of the challenges in maintaining the scheme and how she is working to update it.

Our next issue is being curated by the RDA Steering Committee and will be published in May to coincide with the one-year countdown to the removal of the Original RDA Toolkit and transfer to Official RDA in 2027.

Finally, the usual reminder that the editors are always happy to receive article proposals, feedback, and letters. Please contact us at [catalogueandindex@gmail.com](mailto:catalogueandindex@gmail.com).

Karen F. Pierce & Fran Frenzel, March 2026