This zine will contain:

- Acknowledgements
- Preface/Introduction
- Photography and some blog-ish writing
- Interview Julie S Cataloger & Academic Librarian
- A Word from your Holistic Nurse Anne N
- Interview with Anita B Academic & Public
- Interview with Free Library of Philadelphia Catalogers Peter, Jessica, & Clint
- Bob Epstein Cataloger & Special Librarian
- *Omissions & Distortions Abound in Libraries Too.* By Sanford Berman (reprinted with Sandy’s permission given on 5/2/18 over the phone)
- Zine Core Catalog entry of this zine
- APA References
The vision of the first issue of this Tag is:

- Reach out to Librarians and Catalogers to explore and inspire continued discourse on LC Subject Headings and Bias.

- The mission: To keep dialogue active while critically examining and exploring cataloging practices to help to make the library an even better place. The format will include: interviews, articles, and photography. The interviews were inspired by my undergraduate experience as a Sociology major.

- I wanted to see what Catalogers and Librarians have to say today and to be able to share the data with others.
Acknowledgements

Special thanks to all contributors and my Professor David Lesniaski. Gracias to my academic advisor who said networking in very important in Library school. Networking built this zine. To the children’s Librarian who connected me to Peter. To Wendy who connected me with Julie.

To Martin who connected me with Bob. To Bob who connected me Sandy through Chris. who has connected me to Catalogers and Zinesters. To Sandy who inspires us all. To my ninety eight Grandma Frances Rose and to my father Robert. To my partner John and my dear friend Anne. To Anita B. Thanks to fellow Zinester Rachel. To my late mother Jonques. Also thank you sun for rising every day. And spring for coming back to Minnesota (ok technically summer/construction season but I’ll take it). A shout out to Dani & Shelly in Cordoba, hope it’s a good read for Felix.
Overview provided to Zine Contributors

I am currently an MLIS Student at the University of St Catherine in Minnesota and just began working a support staff position at a local public library. I have been studying cataloging this semester. The course, The Organization of Knowledge, has included the basics of learning to create MARC records and working with Dublin Core, RDA, etc. Throughout the semester have had the opportunity to catalogue Zines loaned from the collection at Minneapolis Community & Technical College. For my final project, I am creating a Zine which will include several interviews of Catalogers and/or Librarians about the topic of bias in LC Subject Headings. Thank you for the time you are making for me.
Overview provided to Zine Contributors

There will be four interview questions. Unless you wish to provide your name and title, interviewees will only be identified in a general kind of way (e.g. Cataloging Librarian in the Philadelphia area). The Zine will also include some visual art, essays, and other explorations of the topic. I am hoping to have interviewees from both the Philadelphia area and Minneapolis/St Paul.

In exchange for your time, I would be honored to mail copies of the completed Zine for your personal use and/or to be donated to a local zine collection.

The responses will be shared in a class presentation and the project itself will be posted in an inhouse repository (University of St Catherine) and the Zine itself.

Here a few links with more information on Zines and Zine Cataloging
● The History of Zines:
  http://zinebook.com/resource/wright1.html
● Zine Cataloging:
  http://zinelibraries.info/category/cataloging/
● Zines & The Library Article Richard A. Stoddart and Teresa Kiser
  file:///E:/LIS%20Cataloging/Zines%20&%20The%20Library%20article.pdf
The Interview Questions

1. Could you talk a little bit about your experience with Library of Congress (LC) Subject Headings and if you have encountered bias (e.g. race, class, gender) in working with them? This could be in relationship to both the language of the subject headings themselves and/or patron access issues, or anything else that comes to mind? Could you please give a specific example?

2. What might Catalogers and/or Librarians do to decrease the disparities in patron access and/or reduce bias?

3. Some libraries have explored and implement alternatives to LC and/or Dewey, for example some Native American Tribal Libraries and some smaller K-12 Academic Libraries have created alternative systems. Are there any alternative models that you are familiar with? What might be the implications of trying to implement an alternative to LC in a Public Library context?

4. Do you have any other comments or suggestions?
Regarding formatting and printing

Dear Zine Readers, I could not find a Zine template and thought handwriting it all would be too laborious. I used PowerPoint and then converted it to a PDF file. Double sided potentially saves paper. Depending on where you print (that is the brand of your printer) there is the option to print this in a Booklet form.

-File -Printer Properties -Lay out-
-Left to right -Landscape -Short Edge – Booklet

This gives a flip book format that works well. You may notice that some of the paragraphing and blocks of print may seem uneven (shorter/longer).

This was intentional to give an authentic zine look and feel.

To reduce tree loss, I did not reprint the interview questions, only the responses. The four interview questions are on page 7 of the zine. You can flip back to the page if needed. It’s good finger fitness and kind of like the Children’s Sci Fi Series Choose Your Own Adventure (except the endings doesn’t change and it’s not Sci Fi).

Lastly this is my very first Zine and my second class in Library School. Any shortcomings of the final product are mine. Hope you love it anyways! Your Editor, Sarah Small
In addition to seeing my family and working on my cataloging homework- one of the most important things upon my return home was my to find a Gluten Free Cheese Steak. I discovered that Sonny’s in Olde City offered cheesesteaks on a Gluten Free roll. Initially a place on South St offered for me to bring my own GF roll. Without going to the Italian Market (heard there was a gluten free bakery over that way), I didn’t know where I would find one. It was an excellent cheesesteak and met all of the culinary requirements. There really is no palatable substitute outside of Philadelphia proper.
The vast majority of my trip home was spending time with family. The trip was focused on seeing my ninety-eight year old Grandma, Frances Rose. The woman who helped to raise me and who I was very close to after my mom died. She was never religious but now hangs out with the nuns at her assisted living. She may be having some hints of dementia and her hearing aid is in need of a new one (Dad is on this). But I was able to bring her lipstick (her request) and she gave me the tour of the her place via her walker. It was good to see her but hard to see her this way but good to be there.. But this is life, she would say.
As you can imagine, ninety-eight year olds keep you busy as well as much younger relatives like fathers. So between food poisoning (note to self- no chicken sandwiches at assisted living ) and a few other unexpected events -I was not able to coordinate my in person interviews with Meta Data Julie or the wonderous Free Library of Philadelphia Catalogers. Thankfully both were open to trying to work on the project virtually.

As far as Julie, she graciously completed the Questions electronically. We had spoken on the phone and we had emailed back and forth. I connected with her by reaching out to a librarian, a stranger in circulation who had recommended reaching out to Julie. One of the first things she mentioned in her email was Sandford Berman and she even send me a link to an archive of his work. She wanted me to send her our Minnesota snow which I was happy to do. (Personal communication, March 23, 2018). Unfortunately, it followed us back at the end of April leading us to winter that was greater than six months. The kind of winter where you ask yourself are sure we aren’t in Siberia? Will we ever see the earth and dirt again?
Philadelphia, PA and the power of Networking

I was excited to get Julie’s perspective because of her background in metadata but also because she worked at the library of the college that I secretly wished I had gone to as an undergraduate. I am grateful for her insights.

I was so happy to get connected with Peter Silvestro, Supervisor, Catalog Dept., Materials Management Division, Free Library of Philadelphia through the help of the Children’s Librarian. I had pressed zero and I am not sure what else but ended up speaking to a very kind person. When I told her about my project she said you definitely want to connect me with a cataloger.
Philadelphia, PA and the power of Networking

I was so grateful when Peter called. I may or may not have told him my story of growing up with the free library of Philadelphia. There was the main one which as a small child with its marble floors and free books was like a castle, a place of royalty. I remember thinking this would be the best job ever. It only took a few careers over two decades to decide to finally pursue it. I remember also when I was around five and we had an expensive fine from when my mother was in the hospital. We waited until Easter and brought it the Rittenhouse Square Branch and they were waived clean. The Easter redemption program?

All I know is that I was so happy that we had access to books again. So for me the Free Library of Philadelphia was like the name of place of freedom. And also air conditioning in the summer. The main branch was right by Logan Square (that by the way is a circle) and we swam in the fountains there. Back when kids were allowed to play with dirt and things like that.

So to be speaking with a Cataloger from my home branch. It was kind of like meeting Robert Redford or Di Nero. Very iconic. It turned out that he and his staff had recently had a training on bias and he wanted to reach out to them to see who might be interested.
Philadelphia, PA and the power of Networking

This was how I got connected with Clint and Jessica, two other catalogers. They answered the questions electronically and then we had a telephone conference call. After we went through the questions I had my foot in the mouth moment where I asked them if they had heard of Sandy Berman. Without them saying a word, I realized that I might as well have asked if they had heard of Prince or Husker Du. But they were polite in their yes.

The interview was an opportunity to experience these responses with the Graciousness of hearing the human voice: intonation, pauses, pitch, and other expressive aspects of human speech.

Bring able to connect with Peter, Jessica, and Clint on the phone brought a feeling connection and collaboration. I decided to share their original print response as they were concise and better than my notetaking and transcribing abilities. Thank you for how much I learned from you and for all that you are doing to help patrons and the community in my hometown.
Philadelphia, PA and the power of Networking

One of my other discoveries was seeing that the building that used to house Revival (New Wave DJ upstairs and Punk shows in the basement in the 80s and 90s) was still there. It seems to be a restaurant of sorts. It spoke to the Gen X in me. We, the children of the boomers are old enough to remember using the paper card catalogs. And getting up to change the channel on the TV and using the world book encyclopedia. And most of all if you couldn't remember the name of a song, you had to call the radio station or your Aunt or just live with the mystery. Now we can access so much data. . . And now here’s Julie!
Q1: Once a cataloger gets comfortable with the subject headings, a particular pattern becomes abundantly clear: there is the ‘default’ or ‘normal’ subject heading for a thing, and then there are the ‘other’ subject headings for a thing. As an example, there is the subject heading “Physicians” and then there are subject headings such as “Women physicians” or “Jewish physicians” or “Muslim physicians”. From this, we can tell that the default mode of being a ‘physician’ is to be a non-woman, non-Jewish, non-Muslim physician.

Every act of cataloging thus becomes a reinforcement of this dominant value system. Catalogers continue to divide the world into the WASPM realm and the realm of everything that deviates from it. This is how we organize knowledge in this country, so this model silently underlies every pursuit of knowledge. It defines what can be known and found through library systems. It reinforces to the reader in every act of searching whether the knowledge they seek is on the side of the default or on the side of the ‘other’.
[The only way I can fight this is to more conscientiously highlight all the ‘other’ subject headings, to bring to light subjects that had formerly been suppressed both in our knowledge discourses and in our library catalogs. My aim as a cataloger is to point out those instances where something other than the dominant paradigm is under consideration.)

While Sanford Berman and others brought to light many of the worst subject headings (e.g., “Yellow Peril”, “Jewish Question”, and others), many still exist that are unsatisfactory.
Some are racist, sexist, and classist because they are described in contrast to the dominant WASPWM paradigm. Others are just plain insufficient for describing the world. One example that I encounter repeatedly is “Pacifists”, which has a ‘used for’ reference to ‘Peace activists’. (Interestingly, the LCSH record includes two 670 fields (for where the source data was found) that contain the phrase ‘peace activists’, but no source is given for ‘pacifists’). ‘Peace activists’ and ‘pacifists’ are not interchangeable terms. Generally speaking, every pacifist is a peace activist, but not all peace activists are pacifists).
Interview with Julie C. Swierczek, Librarian for Primary Resources and Metadata Services

‘Peace activists’ and ‘pacifists’ are not interchangeable terms. Generally speaking, every pacifist is a peace activist, but not all peace activists are pacifists. Among peace activists, ‘pacifist’ is reserved for people who are against all wars and all violence, even in the case of self-defense. “Peace activists”, on the other hand, may protest just one war, or be against particular military policy, but may still consider that some violence could be justified under some specific conditions. The library where I work has thousands of volumes on peace activists, and hundreds of volumes on pacifists.

If one wants to research only the narrowly-defined pacifists who are against all war, there is no way to separate resources on that group from the broader community of peace activists, since they are all lumped under the term ‘pacifists’.

If I had a print copy of the LCSH at hand, I could easily find thousands of questionable subject headings. Due to the way the subject headings have been constructed over the years, it seems impossible now to fix them all.
2. Our subject headings are broken. I think that the best way to move forward would be to take advantage of digital tools we have available and re-construct them differently. As with the Getty Art & Architecture Thesaurus (AAT), the headings should be structured, although we may need many more top-level facets than exist in the AAT. The headings should also allow for modifiers that are linked, to, but distinct from, the headings themselves. Thus, as an example, If I were cataloging a book about physicians, I would start at the top-level Agent facet, and then navigate through a series of facets like so: People>people by occupation>scientists and people in science-related occupations>people in science-related occupations>people in health and medicine>physicians. (Of course, an experienced cataloger could also search for ‘physicians’ and end up at the same node in the hierarchy through a more direct route.) A structured vocabulary would make subject heading selection more efficient. Additionally, many of the failures of the ‘shared cataloging’ experiment could be easily rectified through this route.
Interview with Julie C. Swierczek, Librarian for Primary Resources and Metadata Services

By this I mean that the quality of cataloging continues to worsen as the de-professionalization of cataloging staff continues and vendor cataloging is accepted without revision. (One of the worst examples of this is at an African Studies library at a Certain Huge Ivory Tower That Shall Not Be Named, and the copy catalogers at that institution have been instructed to accept copy as long as there is one subject heading on the record from their vendor, *even if that sole subject is* “Africa”. The librarians at that institution are upset over this instruction, because clearly this harms their researchers.

However, the top administrators are always being tasked to do more with less, so they have to consider that failure of ontology against all the other library services. Imagine, however, if we had structured subject headings. A copy cataloger could quickly click on the “Africa” heading and select one more African countries that are the topic of the work. As for the modifiers, imagine again selecting the ‘Physicians’ heading through the structured vocabulary. If the item being cataloged were about all physicians, then the cataloger would stop there. But if the book were about, say, women Muslim physicians, the cataloger could also include...
Interview with Julie C. Swierczek, Librarian for Primary Resources and Metadata Services

the cataloger could also include those modifiers, which would be linked to the heading as further qualifications of the topic. That way, if someone were looking for a book on Muslim physicians, the researcher would end up at the ‘Physicians’ heading, and then be able to further facet the search through qualifiers. But the default for “Physicians” would not imply White Angl-Saxon Protestant Wealthy Male Physicians; rather, it would denote “any person in the category of Physicians”.

(In fact, there would be separate qualifiers for white, male, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant, and so on, so that if a book were truly about that class of physicians, the cataloger could add those qualifiers to make it clear.

Re-working the subject headings in this way takes advantage of the more powerful computing platforms we have available. (Classification Web is a barely-digital form of the subject headings and classifications. It doesn’t take advantage of the digital platform in any meaningful way.)
Interview with Julie C. Swierczek, Librarian for Primary Resources and Metadata Services

It would enable catalogers to more quickly assign subject headings, even in unfamiliar areas. As an example, if I had to catalog a book on a particular problem in electrical engineering – which is not my area of expertise – I would currently have to spend a long time wading through both the LCSH and the LC Classifications to figure out appropriate headings for it. But if I could drill down through a structured vocabulary, I could get there much more quickly. This would also enable us to make searching easier for researchers.

If a researchers searched for, say, “Muslim physicians”, the result would include a tree (or other diagram) showing the “Physicians” heading, with “Muslim” being one qualifier attached to it. This would help the researcher see other qualifiers represented in the library holdings, which may help with serendipitous discovery. It would also allow the researcher to quickly move up and down through the hierarchy, from “Physicians” to a narrower topic, such as “Surgeons”, or to a broader topic, such as “people in health and medicine”, which brings together all of the medical occupations.
Interview with Julie C. Swierczek, Librarian for Primary Resources and Metadata Services

It may be that the researcher is really looking for medical professionals of all kinds who are women Muslims, and having a graphical interface for navigating the headings would be very helpful. (As it stands now, very few researchers who are not librarians understand how to move through the subject headings, since no one is taught how to use them any longer. A more graphical approach would make it possible for people to figure out how to navigate them on their own, and demonstrating how to do so would take seconds, not an hour or longer.)
The only classification schemes I have used outside of LC and Dewey are SuDoc, NLM, and Library and Archives Canada’s LC extension for Canadian history. As far as academic libraries go, they need something more nuanced than Dewey. The LC Classification works insofar as there are patterns to provide each book with its own classification number, without having to stretch the decimal places too far. But if we’re going to restructure the subject headings, we should restructure the classification to match, at least spreading out the options more evenly.

As it stands now, all the computer science books are jammed into QA75.5-QA76.9, where Christianity has BR, BT, BV, and BX all to itself. (We could use W or X for computer science, for example.)

One of the libraries I work in is a Quaker historical library. As such, nearly all of the books in our collection fall into the BX7601-BX7795 range. We needed a more nuanced classification schedule, so we have a local version of that range, with many more divisions than what one finds in the LC classification schedule.
Interview with Julie C. Swierczek, Librarian for Primary Resources and Metadata Services

- This is especially useful in cases where a cataloger might have several classification options for a work. Following our more explicit local guide allows for better classification. (We also have our own Quaker Subject Headings (QSH), which include terms that are special to the Society of Friends. About three decades ago, a librarian here worked with the Library of Congress to improve the LCSH’s Quaker subject headings, but certain subjects were deemed so specialized as not to be appropriate for inclusion in the LCSH. However, they are useful to our researchers, so we still use them as local subject headings.)

4. One issue I have with the LCSH is that it is very hard for non-SACO librarians to submit headings for the LCSH and to know if the headings are, indeed, under consideration. I submitted a subject heading proposal nine months ago, and it still has not appeared on a tentative subject list, a summary of decisions, or an approved subject list. I have submitted four subject headings in my entire career, and for three of them, I had to contact the LC at least twice before the headings were considered.
Since I am not part of SACO, I can’t see the proposals in the system used by SACO librarians, so submitting a subject proposal is like emailing a black hole. If I didn’t know any better, I’d think the Library of Congress doesn’t want subject heading proposals from librarians at all. This is problematic because they cannot be the sole knowledge experts for the entire country; they need – they should even solicit – subject headings from around the country. The process should be much more transparent than it is.

(Responses end here).

Thanks Julie !!!!

We will now transition to brief message from Minnesota Winter and then move into the Cataloging Librarians from the Free Library of Philadelphia Clint Fargasan and Jessica Holton, thanks to Peter Silvestro networking with his staff on my behalf to make this happen.

But first a football moment. Fly Eagles Fly!

My father and I both lived to see the Eagles win the super bowl. This means that world peace is possible. And that if the Eagles can do it, the Vikings can too!
Intermission: The still life of a man a snowed in car and the man skiing in the street is dedicated to Julie and her love for snow and to my Dad for his interest in the MN climate.
Now arriving on Track Three is the Free Library of Philadelphia Catalogers: Clint Fargason and Jessica Holston.
Reflections from Clint Fargason, Cataloging Librarian Free Library of Philadelphia

- LCSH, at its base, is straight, white, cisgendered, Christian and male.
- I am relatively new to this position and am doing a lot of copy cataloging at this point, but what has stood out to me the most is "women" as a descriptor. These descriptors make those non-straight white etc. into the “other”.
- Christianity—230-280 is solely related to Christianity. Hinduism is 294.5….this definitely impacts the patron. Imagine the impacts of the visualization of an entire bookshelf about Christianity and then there is ½ a row for Hinduism.
- It implies less importance.
- LGBTQ…there are workarounds.. http://www.netanelganin.com/projects/QueerLCSH/QueerLCSH.html
Reflections from Clint Fargason, Cataloging Librarian Free Library of Philadelphia

- Inclusivity. Subject access starts with us as catalogers, and it fits into our mission statement as a public library. As a library, we are supposed to serve all people within the community. The SH should reflect that.
- We work within the restraints of the LCSH, but hopefully the working group can address.
- We recently attended a seminar on bias and cataloging and what stood out to me the most was a speaker who advocated for an increased use of synonyms that could mirror natural language.
Reflections from Clint Fargason, Cataloging Librarian Free Library of Philadelphia

--perhaps, down the road, we could incorporate a more inclusive thesauri.

--Going back to the Christianity issue in DDC, the implications would be that, as an organization, we are invested in fuller access to all peoples within the community.

--we have a working group in its infancy.
- white, cis, straight, able bodied men are the default subject heading, everyone else is othered
- Ex. physicians
- African American physicians
- Chinese American
- Hispanic American
- Jewish physicians
- Women physicians
- “Rich people” vs. “poor”
- problematic lcsh re: gender identity terminology (have made improvements)
- firstly, be aware of our own identity and biases. We aren’t neutral beings, and LCSH isn’t developed from a neutral place
- always keep in mind that the status quo isn’t neutral
- think critically about the language we use to describe others. Is that how they would describe themselves?
- thesauri in non-English, for our non-English collections
- especially for us, with large populations of non-English speakers.
- this is mentioned in our inclusivity statement.
- think critically about LCSH that don’t exist. LC declared that “white privilege” wasn’t necessary, and was covered by terms like “race relations” “racism”
A word from Jessica Holton, Cataloging Librarian Free Library of Philadelphia

- “bookstore model” implemented by some public libraries, but I think you lose a lot of knowledge through such an unstructured system.
- from what I’ve read about Native American tribal library systems, they’ve developed an organization system based on their own ontologies. I think for a specialized library, it is the ideal to have an organization system that aligns with their beliefs/understanding of the world.
- FLP working group, still in research phase
Meanwhile back in Minnesota, still networking

I do feel being extroverted can help networking but definitely not a requirement. Anita B was a Librarian who I knew for a few months and felt inspired by her long career in Academic and Public Librarianship and specialty areas.

Another contributor, Anne Ness, is an RN, has been a good friend for over twenty years. I remember when many of her children were born. I was just so surprised that she had heard of LC and had experience with it so I asked her to write down her story.

I met Bob by reaching out to a Librarian named Martin at my local branch. When I emailed him, I did not find out until we spoke that the day I sent my email, he had just left for vacation. I thought maybe he wasn’t interested or just very busy. I was thrilled when I received his voice mail and email reply. Bob called and emailed. After some phone tag, we reached each other. We spoke on the phone for a while about cataloging including the computer science side of things, the project, libraries, and Sandy.
Meanwhile back in Minnesota, still networking

Bob said, “You really need to talk to Sandy, he was my mentor.” and I without thinking responded “Is he still alive?” I was happy to hear “yes”. (Personal Communication, May 2, 2018)

Bob told me that he didn’t have Sandy’s email but he could ask his friend Chris that he used to work with, who lives in Montana who edits a blog. (Personal Communication, May 2, 2018)

I was so floored at the possibility of speaking with Sandford Berman. What would I say? How would my interview questions seem?

The next thing you know (in less than two hours) I received an email from Chris with Sandy’s number. Then before I could think of what I would say, I get this phone call. I hear a distinguished voice say, “Is this Sarah Small?” (Personal Communication, May 2, 2018)

What I want to bring out is that Sandy is still here. He is still writing and publishing. He is sending letters to Congress in his Golden Years (never mention a man or women’s age).
Meanwhile back in Minnesota, still networking

On the most important part of our talk I felt was about LC and omission. That is the subject headings that don’t exist, especially for important topics where libraries carry lots of books on “mass incarceration” and “White privilege” to name a few. (Personal Communication, May 2, 2018)

The article I chose to reprint I selected because it was recent and of great importance to me. Hope you enjoy it!

The Minnesota Line up is:

1. Anita B
2. Anne Ness
3. Bob Epstein
4. Sanford Berman
Anita B Academic Librarian, Public Librarian & Special Librarian within Public Library

- Question #1 = experience with LCSH
- Problems . . . not so much race or gender or class but comprehension nay . . . intentional confusion!!!
- Specialization area = Music . . . LCSH are so so so confusing to library users.
- Example: popular music requests are often for music of DECADES . . .
- which means 1960s OR 1961 to 1969
- LCSH defines decades thusly
- popular music – 1951-1960
- THUS one has to use TWO subjects headings to get ONE “subject”.

- Example: LCSH for Music utilizes “uniformed headings” [UH]
- This is supposedly to avoid misunderstanding due to wildly different compositional naming conventions,
- to accommodate multiple languages, to accept musicological numbering conventions, etc.
- specifically: someone wants the score to ONE Mozart
- sonata for clarinet.
- One must look for sonataS [UH] plural NOT singular
Question #2 = decrease disparities
LC is so slow to change current headings or to adopt new headings. The world “outside” moves much faster.
LCSH become out of step with current lingo / language.
Example: music trends can spring up seemingly overnight.
More importantly, there are so many regional styles that are alive but
LC doesn’t recognize or accommodate them:
when hip hop first started, LC placed these artists under
Rock music. NOW however there is an LCSH for “hip hip”
**Anita B Academic Librarian, Public Librarian & Special Librarian within Public Library**

- BUT
- “trap music” is all the rage in Atlanta . . .
  - NO LCSH at this time.
- Perhaps the move to electronic resources can mean more realtime updates to LCSH?
- One can only hope.
- People identify with what they know and love.
- Whenever LSCH and by extension libraries don’t keep pace . . .
- Libraries become not relevant.

- Question #3 = alternative systems
- Cataloguing systems are just that . . . rules that are subjective.
  - i.e. SOMEONE will disagree with the definitions or divisions.
- Instead of working to develop yet another system, libraries especially PUBLIC libraries
  - need to spend more time finding creative ways to help their users “speak the LC language”.
- Example: LCSH have been somewhat “kind” to music collections.
The subject of MUSIC IS the letter M.

- The broad divisions within music are M, ML, and MT . . .
- which make sense！！！！！
- M = music scores i.e. printed music
- ML = music literature and language . . .
  - history, biography, styles, etc.
- MT = music technique and theory . . .
  - how to play music/read music resources.
- Like my math teacher told me in fifth grade, geometry is rules . . .
- you have to know the rules and work with what you are given. It is THAT simple.
- Same way with LCSH.

While the 25 other letters of the alphabet can’t always line up with
- the subjects they represent . . .
- finding a way to help library users appreciate what “area” of LC means something to her/him
- i.e. TX are cookbooks, TT 820 are knitting books could go a long way to building the connections
- desired to utilize a library’s collection.
- I guess what I am saying is . . . there MUST be system in place by which a library’s collection IS organized. LC is NOT perfect . . . no cataloguing approach will ever be.
Yet, we must accept LC as a standard . . . and strive to make it less obtuse for library users.

It can only benefit them at no matter what library they chose to visit.

Question #4 = other comments or suggestions?

I really really wish that the Library of Congress would just” the Congress . . . perhaps the cataloguing practices would become more reflective of movements, concerns, practices, rituals, trends, et al of the rich diversity that IS the population of the USA.

Anita’s background -- worked in Academic libraries during and after college
Professional career after MLS Masters:
Public library with specialization 25 years.
Public library general customer services 7 years / currently
The Holistic Nurse’s Corner with Anne Ness, RN, BSN, MA HHS, PHN

- Library of Congress categorization of Books in a K-12 school
- A few years ago, my children’s school moved to a new building. I helped form a library committee with other parent volunteers and students to put the books in order in the new space. At the previous school, the books were organized by subjects chosen by the person in charge of buying and receiving books and the categories did not correspond to any of the official library classification systems.

The sometimes three parents and four students (sometimes one parent and one student) in the committee experimented with searching the library of congress designation for the subjects covered in the books we had on hand. We had a teacher who taught energy healing at the school, and I am a Holistic Nurse, at the time I was pursuing a Master’s in Holistic Health Studies. We had books on Chinese Medicine, Ayurveda, and other health related subjects.
I was shocked that the Library of Congress categorized different types of Medicine in Anthropology (G), Social Sciences (H), or Language and Literature (Q). In protest to what I saw as an unfair bias against traditional medicines, I put them all in (R) Medicine.

Eventually, the teacher who buys the books had to move them again, and an alumni of the old school building helped her put them in the order they used to use. No more G, H, R, and Q. Healing Arts replaced them all.
My name is Bob Epstein. I am a 4/5 FTE Cataloger/Librarian in the Hennepin County Library System (Minnetonka, Minnesota) and the Librarian for the Mount Zion Temple Congregation in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

1. I think at one time or another we have all experienced frustration or exasperation at the particular term, lack of a term, or inadequate term when assigning a subject heading from LCSH (Library of Congress Subject Headings). Do we use Handicapped (I grew up with that one), Disabled (the term we use now), or Differently Abled, a term I believe disabled activists prefer? Do we use Native Americans, American Indians, Indians of North America, or Amerindians? Do we refer to people from other countries who came to the United States to find freedom, safety, and employment Undocumented Workers or Illegal Aliens? Do we use Pentateuch, Torah, or Five Books of Moses for the first five books of the Bible? Do we use Jewish Bible, Hebrew Bible, Tanakh (an acronym for Torah, Nevi‘im, Khetuvim), or Bible. Jewish or Bible. Tanakh for Bibles which include only the books of the Hebrew Bible?
Do we use Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) for the Shoah, making it coterminous with the Second World War, which LC uses, which flies in the face of scholarly publications, or use Holocaust, Jewish (1933-1945), which is coterminous with the Third Reich (1933-1945)? See for instance, Lucy Dawidowicz’s *The War Against the Jews, 1933-1945*; Saul Friedlander’s 2-volume history, *Nazi Germany and the Jews, Volume I, the Years of Persecution, 1933-1939*, and *Nazi Germany and the Jews 1939-1945, Volume II, the Years of Extermination*; and Leni Yahil’s *The Holocaust: the Fate of European Jewry, 1932-1945*. 
The implications have consequences: do we respect what an ethnic group prefers as a name or preferred description of their group, or proper name of their religious literature, or what they regard as the accurate time period which bookends a particularly horrible disaster in their history, or do we ignore them? I am not advocating that each library go its own way – that route leads to chaos.

In the modern world, where cooperative cataloging, internationally agreed upon cataloging rules, and subject headings demand that there be uniformity and consensus among the members of the cataloging community, there must be agreed upon subject headings and usage. So – when I catalog for Hennepin County Library System, I must adhere to the established international standards.
To be fair to the Library of Congress, there are avenues to challenge current terminology and usage by petitioning either SACO or NACO. Successful challenges do not happen very often. What other alternatives are there? At the local level, you can use your library’s preferred form of a term – but only locally. It cannot be considered a vetted and accepted Library of Congress subject heading.

At Mount Zion Temple I do go my own way by using subject headings that reflect recognized norms of Jewish usage such as Holocaust, Jewish (1933-1945) and Bible. Torah (for the first five books of the Jewish/Hebrew Bible) and Bible. Tanakh for the complete Jewish/Hebrew Bible.
I referenced some possible remedies in my response to question 1. Beyond challenging or petitioning the Library of Congress, or resorting to local usage, I would advocate something one of my former cataloging colleagues at Hennepin County, Judy Burtis, advocated and expressed to me on her last day of her job: add as much useful description and keywords in your summaries and contents as you possibly can in order to assist your colleagues at the Reference Desk and patrons, especially when they are searching for an obscure subject for which the Library of Congress does not provide a subject heading or (for the purposes of your search) an adequate subject heading. If you are looking for a book about the wading birds of Europe (say, Lars Gejl’s *Waders of Europe*), you’ll want as much description as possible, because I doubt if there’s more than a handful of us out there who would think to look under the LC subject headings Ciconiformes or Charadriformes. You might also add (as my Cataloging supervisor, Scott Markham did): Shore birds (a recognized LC heading). Making your contents notes, descriptive notes, and
summaries as useful and complete as possible makes titles and information findable by our patrons and fellow staff members.

3. Local staff and users may be able to find needed information via local subject headings and useful content description. But outside users (if you are members of WorldCat) may not be able to find/locate this information – unless they go on the internet and access your local catalog. I have heard that some libraries use broad classifications such as those used in commercial book stores like Barnes & Noble. But if you do not have sufficient
description in your catalog, your users may not be able to find what they are looking for by browsing or perusing your catalog. It’s a trade-off: you substitute possible patron familiarity with commercial categories for classified access. I would say a lot of this depends on how well you know your patrons or clients and their preferences and information needs, and what method of access to books (and other formats) and information works best for you and them. About 30 years ago at Mount Zion Temple I decided to move from an Alpha-mnemonic classification created by the founding librarian in 1929 (A = Art; AS= Antisemitism; B = Biography; H = History; I = Israel, etc.) to a classed Decimal system. (A Classification System for Libraries of Judaica, in short form referred to as the Elazar System (or simply, Elazar) for its two authors, David H. Elazar and Daniel J. Elazar) because in the alpha-mnemonic system, the History section had become especially unwieldy, jumping from one era to another, then back again, in what had become a mostly random area of shelving. I needed something that provided logical access to Jewish literature, history, and civilization, and a
classification system that wouldn’t cram most of the library into 220s, 296s, and 956s in Dewey, and BM, BS, and DS in Library of Congress. From my perspective, this has been mostly successful.

4. Yes. Know your patrons or your community. Make an informed decision on where to stick with Dewey or LC, and where and when to depart from them. And listen to Judy Burtis, cited above: do your best to provide useful and broad content so your staff and patrons can find what they are looking for.

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5-5-18

Dear Colleague,

Here's a "little" more documentation.

When your zine's published, I'd much appreciate 10 copies to share with cataloging (and zine) afficionados like Tina Gross and Jenna Freedman. I'll gracefully pay for the extras.

With heartfelt greetings to your teacher & classmates,

Sanford Berman

NOT IN MY LIBRARY!
Meeting Sandy shows the power of networking but also the spirit of service and helping others that persists in the library world. It was such an honor to have received that phone call while commuting on the number seventeen bus. I was stunned at first. I was telling Rachel the Zinester that it was kind of like meeting Prince. Thank you Sandy for graciously sharing your time and your article with me and for so many of us that you inspire to fight for what is right. We need to send letters to Congress too.

I am honored to present: *Omissions & Distortions Abound in Libraries Too*. By Sanford Berman (reprinted with Sandy’s permission given on 5/2/18 over the phone)
OMISSIONS AND DISTORTIONS ABOUND IN LIBRARIES, TOO

by
Sanford Berman

Much recent reportage and editorializing has concerned the removal of racist public monuments, changing objectionable place names (like Lake Calhoun and Lindbergh Terminal in the Twin Cities), and the enshrinement of colonialism in galleries and museums. Never mentioned is the alarming and pervasive fact that libraries, too, often misrepresent, overlook, and even defame marginalized, exploited, indigenous, and ostracized communities.
Try searching almost any school, public, or academic library catalog under the subject "Native American Holocaust" (or "Native American Genocide"). You'll find nothing. It will seem as if the library either owns nothing on that topic or that such an event or experience never happened. Why? Because nearly all libraries rely totally on the Library of Congress (LC) to create subject headings. And LC has thus far failed to recognize the 1492-1900 Indian tragedy by establishing a heading to denote it. If LC won't do it, neither will anyone else. (The nearest LC comes to such a descriptor is "Indians, Treatment of." Which would be tantamount to cataloging materials on the Jewish Holocaust under "Jews, Treatment of"!)}
Similarly, LC refuses to replace "Armenian Massacres" with "Armenian Genocide," although scholars and historians overwhelmingly endorse such a change, which better reflects what some million and a half Armenians in Turkey underwent between 1915 and 1923. Likewise, Indian nations were undeniably victims of "ethnic cleansing," but that history is euphemistically masked, hidden, under subject headings like "Choctaw Indians--Relocation" and "Cherokee Indians--Relocation," instead of the more accurate and honest "Choctaw Indians Indians--Forced removal" and "Cherokee Indians--Forced removal." Also, resources on the World War II confinement of some 150,000 Japanese-Americans are listed in library catalogs under "Japanese--Americans--Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945," grotesquely
Not in My Library!
Sanford Berman
Foreword by Maurice J. Freedman

“Berman’s Bag” Columns from
The Unabashed Librarian, 2000–2013
suggesting that what happened to them was essentially benign and charitable. A better heading would be "Japanese-Americans—Mass internment, 1942-1945."

Right now, despite the American Library Association having denounced the heading "Illegal aliens" as pejorative and inaccurate, that hurtful, anachronistic, and embarrassing rubric remains alive in library catalogs. (ALA had suggested replacing it with "Undocumented immigrants."). And both "Leprosy" and "Leprosy patients" continue as active headings, although affected persons and the U.S. Public Health Service prefer the non-stigmatizing "Hansen's disease" and "Hansen's disease patients."
Finally, many bona fide themes and topics relating to disdained and oppressed peoples simply don’t appear in catalogs, again because LC hasn’t sanctified them. “Native American Holocaust” is one example. Here are more: “Mass incarceration,” “White privilege,” “Male privilege,” “Broken windows policing,” “Anti-Arabism,” “Historical trauma,” “Universal basic income,” “Affordable housing,” “Wage theft,” “Demo-
ocratic socialism," "Genderqueers," and "Drag queens." Also: "Middle Passage (Atlantic slave trade)" and "Afrofuturism."

Local librarians can correct these omissions and distortions, but lamentably won't do so unless users demand it. It would also be helpful for people who value both libraries and justice to ask LC itself to do the Right Thing. Their address: Policy and Standards Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540–4305.
The presence of "Illegal aliens" in nearly all library catalogs, as well as the absence of a heading that represents over 500 years of Indian subjugation and near-extinction, may not be as prominently obvious as public statues of Confederate generals, but they're no less reprehensible. And fixable.

May 2018
Sanford Berman, Head Cataloger at Hennepin County Library in Minnesota from 1973 to 1999, is a contributing editor to the Unabashed Librarian and editorial advisor for the Journal of Information Ethics. His latest book is Not in my library! (McFarland, 2013).
Zine Core Entry in XML

- `<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>`
- `<zc:title>Tag A Zine about Cataloging</zc:title>`
- `<zc:creator>Edited by Sarah Small</zc:creator>`
- `<zc:creator>Contributors: Anita B., Sandford Berman, </zc:creator>`
- `<zc:creator>Bob Epstein, Clint Farguson, </zc:creator>`
- `<zc:creator>Jessica Holton, Anne Ness, Peter Silvestro, </zc:creator>`
- `<zc:creator>Sarah Small, and Julie Swierzek</zc:creator>`

- `<zc:subject>LC Subject Headings and Bias, Zines</zc:subject>`
- `<zc:subject>Librarianship, Cataloging, Activism, Information Technology</zc:subject>`
- `<zc:subject>Sociology, Cultural Studies, Race, Class, and Gender</zc:subject>`
- `<zc:subject>Librarians, Democracy, Open Access, Travel, Networking</zc:subject>`
- `<zc:subject>Post-punk</zc:subject>`
Zine Core Entry in XML

- <zc:genre> Non-fiction, Memoir, Articles, Interviews, Poetry</zc:genre>
- <zc:genre>Photography, Drawing, and Collage</zc:genre>
- <zc:genre>Academic (Library & Information Science)</zc:genre>
- <zc:genre>Zines about Zines</zc:genre>
- <zc:description>Physical description: Designed and created in PowerPoint. Printed in black and white to preserve cost effectiveness. Photography and Collage utilized. 8.5 x 11.5 folded in half. First printing on white paper. Color paper may be used in future publications.</zc:description>
- <zc:abstract>A zine that manifested Sarah Small's Final Project for her Cataloging class. The zine incorporates photography and visual art with interviews with Librarians & Catalogers, essays, poetry, and memoir writing to explore Library of Congress Subject Headings and Bias. Also an homage to Zines. Special guest appearance from Sanford Berman. A must read!</zc:abstract>
Zine Core Entry in XML

- <zc:tableofcontents>Acknowledgements
- Preface/Introduction
- Table of Contents
- Interview Julie S Cataloger & Academic Librarian
- A Word from your Holistic Nurse Anne N
- Interview with Anita B Academic & Public
- Interview with Free Library of Philadelphia Catalogers Peter, Jessica, & Clint
- Bob Epstein Cataloger & Special Librarian
- Omissions & Distortions Abound in Libraries Too. By Sanford Berman (reprinted with Sandy’s permission)
- Photos & visual art throughout zine
- Epilogue, Zine Core entry, and APA

- </zc:tableofcontents>
- <zc:publisher>Self-published</zc:publisher>
- <zc:datecreated>May 2018</zc:datecreated>
- <zc:extent>small scale zine</zc:extent>
- <zc:dimensions>8.5 x11.5</zc:dimensions>
- <zc:medium>articles, esssays, indepth interviews, poetry</zc:medium>
- <zc:medium>photography, collage, drawing</zc:medium>
- <zc:identifier>N/A</zc:identifier>
Zine Core Entry in XML

- `<zc:language>English </zc:language>`
- `<zc:volume>1</zc:volume>`
- `<zc:issue>1</zc:issue>`
- `<zc:placeofpublication>Minneapolis, MN</zc:placeofpublication>`
- `<zc:rights>c May 2018</zc:rights>`

- **Meriam Webster's Definition of XML**
- “a markup language with use and design similar to HTML but employing tags that indicate the logical structure in addition to the display specifications of the coded data.”

**APA**
https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/XML (retrieved on 5/12/18)
Additional Resources on the Subject

- Teaching the Radical Catalog by Emily Drabinski
- Article on Putnam used previously by Minneapolis Public Library
- Indigenous Resources Alternatives to Dewey by Anna Crossland
- https://georgesvanierlibrary.edublogs.org/2017/06/08/cataloging-indigenous-resources-alternatives-to-dewey/
- A Library Matter of Genocide Part II by Michael Dudley
- Read anything and everything by Sandford Berman including:
  - Prejudices and Antipathies: A Tract on LC Subject Heads Concerning People Not in my Library!