

# Less Talk, More Action: Adventures in Inclusive Metadata

October 11, 2023

The logo for atla, consisting of the lowercase letters 'atla' in a white, lowercase, serif font, centered within a dark teal diamond shape. The diamond is part of a larger graphic design featuring several overlapping teal and white geometric shapes, including lines and triangles, creating a dynamic, layered background.

atla

# atla

Collectors & Connectors  
in Religion & Theology



atla



- ▼ Heidi Berthoud, Cataloging Policy Specialist, Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division, Library of Congress



- ▼ Cynthia M. Whitacre, Senior Metadata Operations Manager, OCLC



- ▼ Jill Annitto, Head of Metadata and Editorial Operations at Atla

# Questions

- ▶ Use the chat box for any questions, comments, and technical difficulties. Q&A allows for anonymous questions.
- ▶ We will have time at the end of the presentation for our presenters to answer questions. Please hold all questions until then.



Don't forget to register for the  
final webinar in this series,  
taking place on November 2!

More info available on our website

# Less talk, more action

Adventures in inclusive metadata

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# In the beginning, there were 84,000 words

A case for clean-up

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**Jill Annitto**

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# Beat the bloat

In 2019 Atla's Metadata Team began editing the thesaurus with an eye toward [\(mostly\) faceting](#) the topical and geographic terms. Many terms were single-use or low-use.

Terms were reviewed for currency, redundancy, relevance to our scope, accuracy and usage.

Week	Analyst	Topic	Topic	Topic	Topic
11-Oct	1	Philosophy	God	Mythology	History
18-Oct	2	Liturgy	Christian* sheet 1		
25-Oct	3	Theology	Christian* sheet 2		
1-Nov	4	Catholic	Mass		
8-Nov	5	XYZ Americans	General sheet 1	Black+	
15-Nov	6	Islam	General sheet 2		
22-Nov	7	Eastern Christianity	General sheet 3		
29-Nov	8	Pastoral	Christian* sheet 3		
6-Dec	1	Law and Labor	LGBTQ		
13-Dec	3	Holidays	Protestants		

Atla has the advantage of not relying on bibliographic record-sharing and therefore has the freedom to deviate from Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH).

## Sep-2019

Topics: 83,916

Average use per term: 39.5

Geos: 17,449

Average use: 17.9

## May-2020

Topics: 50,879

Average use: 71.7

Geos: 9,440

Average use: 48.1

## Nov-2021

Topics: 25,618

Average use: 154

Geos: 2,536

Average use: 184



# Low-hanging fruit (but know your audience)

Starting with low-hanging fruit, these types of terms were appended by **state or country names**:

- Abortion--Law and legislation
- Assisted suicide--Law and legislation
- Educational law and legislation
- Educational vouchers--Law and legislation

The **geographic subdivisions** were dropped and added as an additional term in the record:

- Abortion--Law and legislation—Italy
- Abortion--Law and legislation
- Italy

**Geographic headings** were standardized and cleaved of their topical subdivisions

- Bengal--Religion
- Bengal (India)
- Religion

Generalized headings on **antiquities** were split:

- Egypt--Antiquities, Islamic
- Egypt
- Islamic antiquities

We **did not split** specific Biblical archeology sites:  
Egypt--Antiquities--Tell el-Kedwa

Breaking out **temporal headings** means better filtering on time periods, especially as they relate to a specific geography or historical treatment of a topic:

China--History--1937-1945

China

History

Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945

Papacy—History--1309-1378

Papacy—History

1309-1378\*

**Wars, eras, dynasties** were faceted

United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783

American Revolution (United States : 1775-1783)

China--History--Tang dynasty, 618-907

Tang Dynasty (China)

Many **corporate name headings** were redundant with low usage.

Terms matching the following syntax were changed similarly:

Church of England--Clergy--Supply and demand

Church of England--Clergy

Clergy--Supply and demand

Church of England--Clergy--Salaries, Etc.

Church of England--Clergy

Clergy--Salaries, pensions

For consideration: [Catholic Church—Geo headings](#)

# Linguistic and grammatical terms

Atla indexes several journals that focus on the **treatment of language** and the following types of terms were split into their components.

For these types of terms, splitting the headings into parts has made finding articles about obscure languages much easier.

Avestan language—Grammar  
Avestan language  
Grammar, Comparative and general

Eblaite language—Lexicography  
Eblaite language  
Lexicography

**Terms in foreign languages**, critical to finding articles about such treatments, remain unchanged.

Akkadian language--Terms—Atmu  
Hebrew language--Terms—Pishti

# Inaccurate and nonrepresentative terms

Indians of North America  
Indigenous peoples of North America

Circle--Religious aspects--Indian religion  
Circle--Religious aspects  
Indigenous peoples—Religion  
(Indigenous people name)

Hymns, Amerindian  
Hymns, Indigenous  
Indigenous peoples of North America

Folk literature, Indian  
Indigenous peoples—Literature

Indians as mascots

**Tribal names were edited to remove the term “Indians”**  
Mataco Indians → Mataco (South American people)

**Use of the emic term rather than the “commonly” used term**  
Dakota *rather than* Sioux  
Ojibwe *rather than* Chippewa

**Added the broader term/s to each bibliographic record carrying the narrower term *when available***

Sotho (African people) + Bantu-speaking peoples

Inuit + Arctic peoples

Garifuna (Caribbean people) + Indigenous peoples of the West Indies + Indigenous peoples of Central America

Blog series on [inclusive subject headings](#) at Atla

# Collaboration

## Mormons → Latter Day Saints

In 2022 Atla was lucky enough to work with the FAST Funnel, a group of cataloging specialists at LC, and experts in the field of Mormon and Latter Day Saint studies, including librarians at BYU, to change the term Mormons to [Latter day Saints](#).

While Atla suggested the change, BYU librarians did the heavy lifting to get this term and its cascading terms prepped for the change which came in July 2023.

This experience was encouraging and invigorating!

## Cults → New Religious Movements

Atla strongly believes that the use of the term Cult as a descriptor for new religious movements is not representative of how those groups are studied or self-identify.

In 2021 Atla began to use both terms (*Cults and New religious movements*) on records to facilitate retrieval.

Atla is currently working with a group of librarians on submitting this change to the Library of Congress.

# Faceted Application of Subject Terminology (FAST)

- ▼ FAST Policy and Outreach Committee (FPOC)
- ▼ Learn more about [FAST](#), faceted application of subject terminology.
- ▼ [FAST Quick Guide](#)
- ▼ [FAST Funnel](#)
- ▼ Submit new/revised terms through OCLC FAST program to LC using this [form](#).



June 24, 2023, updated October 10, 2023

Chicago

# ALA 2023

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# DEI & OCLC Metadata

**Cynthia M. Whitacre**

Senior Metadata Operations Manager

OCLC Membership & Research Division

# What is OCLC doing about DEI & Metadata?

- Virtual presentation and panels
- Research publication
- Changing terminology
- Updating subject headings
- Working in partnership with member libraries

Corporate priority: <https://www.oclc.org/en/about/diversity-and-advancing-racial-equity.html>



# Presentations

- DEI metadata panels at virtual OCLC Cataloging Community meetings
  - Featuring SACO funnels (African American funnel, Latin American & Indigenous Peoples funnel, Gender & Sexuality funnel)
  - Changing derogatory geographic names
  - Local subject headings in Discovery layers
  - Alternate subject vocabularies (Homosaurus)
  - Local projects (Columbia University Rare Books “Mrs” project, Florida’s Digital Public Library of America, etc.)

<https://www.oclc.org/go/en/events/cataloging-community-meeting.html>

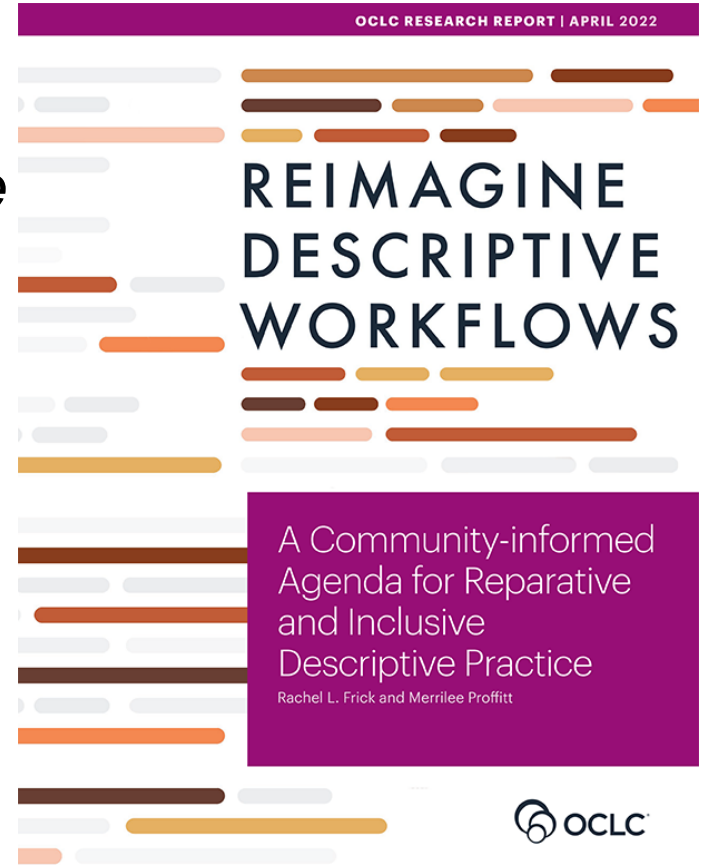
# Recorded presentations

- Virtual AskQC Office Hours (Available at [oc.lc\askqc](https://oc.lc/askqc))
  - July 2023 Topic: **Debiasing Dewey: Righting the past by rewriting the classification**
  - August 2023 Topic: **Rapid Harm Reduction with Locally Preferred Subjects in WorldCat Discovery**

# Published Report

2022 Report: *Reimagine Descriptive Workflows: a community-informed agenda for reparative and inclusive descriptive practice*

Report on the 2021 convening  
Sponsored by the Andrew W.  
Mellon Foundation



# Words Matter

- In 2021 OCLC changed terminology to use **WorldCat records** instead of the insensitive term **Master records**



# Implement LCSH changes

- Timely implementation
- Controlled heading changes
- Manual changes
  - Most recent example:

**Slaves** became **Enslaved persons**

30,591 WorldCat records changed April 2023

13,096 WorldCat records changed May 2023

Work is ongoing as records are added to WorldCat



# Partner with Libraries

- University of British Columbia
  - Change outdated Canadian subject headings (CSH) in WorldCat records to new more inclusive LCSH. Examples:



**Deleted CSH: \$a Native art \$z Canada**

**New LCSH: \$a Indigenous art \$z Canada**

**Deleted CSH: \$a Native peoples \$z Canada**

**New LCSH: \$a Indigenous peoples \$z Canada**

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# Cynthia M. Whitacre

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**Because  
what is  
known must  
be shared.<sup>®</sup>**

Do you have ideas for improving DEI in WorldCat metadata? Contact us ([askqc@oclc.org](mailto:askqc@oclc.org))

**Cynthia M. Whitacre**  
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# A revised classification for Ukraine: Update on work at the Library of Congress

**Heidy Berthoud**, Cataloging Policy Specialist, Policy,  
Training, and Cooperative Programs Division



# Meet the project team

- **Heidy Berthoud**, Cataloging Policy Specialist, Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division (PTCP)
- **Jurij Dobczansky**, Librarian, East Central Europe Section, Germanic and Slavic (G&S) Division
- **Christine Korytnyk Dulaney**, Chief, G&S Division



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# How it started

1. We were very surprised and outraged to see the presence of 2 quasi-formations “Donetskaia Narodnaia Respublika” and “Luganskaia Narodnaia Respublika” in the ciphers responsible for the administrative units of Ukraine. According to the [Constitution of Ukraine](#) (Articles 132-133), **Donets’ka oblast’ and Luhans’ka oblast’** are part of the territory of Ukraine (there are no so-called DNR and LNR).
2. The code in the "history" section - Ukraine Conflict, 2014 - is also a cause for concern. This is not a completely correct term that does not reflect a number of important events, such as the Revolution of Dignity, the annexation of Crimea, and the russian-ukrainian war. Since February 24, 2022, martial law was officially introduced in Ukraine by [presidential decree](#), and the **war (not a conflict)** continues.

*Email from Oksana Mykytyn, Director of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) Library, and the UCU Library team to the Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs (PTCP) Division at the Library of Congress, January 30, 2023 (capitalization and emphasis retained from original email)*

# Timeline of DK development



- **DK Russia**
- DK508 Ukraine (Little Russia, Ruthenia)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> edition
- **DK Russia. Poland. Finland. Russia in Asia**
- DK508.8 Ukraine (Little Russia, Ruthenia)—History—By period—1917-




- Slavic and East European Subject Headings and Classification Committee (SEESHAC)
- DJK Eastern Europe (General)
- Classification for Poland expanded

- 3<sup>rd</sup> edition
- **DK Soviet Union. Poland**
- Extensive expansion of Ukrainian classification introduced on List 223 (1986)

- **DK Russia. Soviet Union. Former Soviet Republics. Poland**

including official gazettes, bylaws, statutory orders, regulations, and general works, as well as works on specific legal topics

Including autonomous regions

Cherkas'ka oblast'  Chernihivs'ka oblast'  Chernivets'ka oblast'  


KKY2935.C45  
 KKY2935.C46  
 KKY2935.C47  
 KKY2935.D54  
 KKY2935.D66  
 KKY2935.I73  
 KKY2935.K53  
 KKY2935.K54  
 KKY2935.K56  
 KKY2935.K64  
 KKY2935.K67

KKY2935.L84  
 KKY2935.L86  
 KKY2935.M95  
 KKY2935.O44  
 KKY2935.P65  
 KKY2935.R68  
 KKY2935.S86  
 KKY2935.T47  
 KKY2935.V56  
 KKY2935.V65  
 KKY2935.Z35  
 KKY2935.Z37  
 KKY2935.Z55

KKY4891-4899  
 KKY4901-4909  
 KKY4911-4919

## Ukraine—De facto jurisdictions under Russian sponsorship


KKY2935.V56

Vinnyts'ka oblast'  


KKY2935.V65

Volyns'ka oblast'  


KKY2935.Z35

Zakarpats'ka oblast'  

KKY2935.Z37

Zaporiz'ka oblast'  

KKY2935.Z55


ZHytomyrs'ka oblast'  De facto jurisdictions under Russian sponsorship  

KKY4891-4899




Crimea [TABLE KJ-KKZ4](#)  

Previously Krymskaia oblast'

KKY4901-4909

Donetskaia Narodnaia Respublika [TABLE KJ-KKZ4](#)  

KKY4911-4919

Luganskaia Narodnaia Respublika [TABLE KJ-KKZ4](#)  Galicia see [KKP4900-4909](#)  Cities, communities, etc.  Zakarpats'ka oblast'  Zaporiz'ka oblast'  ZHytomyrs'ka oblast'  Autonomous republics  [Crimea Table KJ-KKZ4](#)  


Previously Krymskaia oblast'

[Donetskaia Narodnaia Respublika Table KJ-KKZ4](#)  [Luganskaia Narodnaia Respublika Table KJ-KKZ4](#)  Galicia see [KKP4900-4909](#)  Cities, communities, etc.  


DK508.84

General works  

DK508.842

Biography and memoirs  

DK508.843.A-Z


Collective  

Individual, A-Z  

DK508.845

1991-  


DK508.846

• Sources and documents  

DK508.847

General works  

DK508.848


Social life and customs. Civilization. Intellectual life  

DK508.849


Political history  

Foreign and general relations  

DK508.850


Biography and memoirs  

DK508.851.A-Z

Collective  


DK508.852

Individual, A-Z  

Ukraine Conflict, 2014-  

DK508.9.A-Z

Local history and description  

Regions, oblasts, etc., A-Z  

DK508.9.B47

e.g.

Berezhany Region  

# Revised classification for Ukraine

Move Ukraine from DK508 to **DK5001-DK5995**

## Important changes:

- Closes out existing open span of 1991- with 2014
- Creates new span for 2014-
- Creates new classification numbers for the Russo-Ukrainian War
- Expands local classification for Ukrainian cities, with new spans for Kharkiv, L'viv, and Odesa
- Removes names used by various empires and replaces them with Ukrainian names

***LC will not reclassify cataloged materials.***



*Back cover image of The Kobzar of Ukraine, by Taras Shevchenko.*

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# Periodization for Ukrainian history

## DK508:

Early to 1340

*(does not exist as a separate span)*

1340-1569. Period of Polish-Lithuanian domination

1569-1648. Period of Polish rule

1648-1775

1775-1917

## Revised classification:

### Early to 1199

**1199-1340.** Principality of Galicia-Volhynia.  
Halyts'ko-Volyns'ke kniazivstvo

**1340-1569.** Crown of the Kingdom of Poland.  
Grand Duchy of Lithuania

**1569-1648.** Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth

**1648-1775.** Cossack Hetmanate. Zaporozhian Sich

**1775-1917.** Austrian and Russian Imperial rule

*We recommend that classification for Kyivan Rus' be revised and moved from DK to*

*DJK*



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# 20<sup>th</sup> century Ukrainian history

**DK508:**

**Revised classification:**

Each subdivision of history will now have specific numbers for **Sources and Documents; Historiography; General works; Social life and customs. Civilization. Intellectual life; Political history. Politics and government; and Diplomatic history. Foreign and general relations**

DK508.832 1917-1921. Period of independence

**1917-1921.** Period of independence.  
General works  
Other topics, A-Z

*(does not exist in current classification)*

**1945-1991**

Ukrainian resistance movement, including Ukrainian dissidents

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General works  
By group, A-Z

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# 21<sup>st</sup> century Ukrainian history

## DK508:

DK508.845 1991-

*(does not exist as separate span)*

DK508.852 Ukraine Conflict, 2014-

Local history begins at DK508.9

## Revised classification:

### 1991-2014

Political history. Politics and government

General works

Orange Revolution.

Pomarancheva

revoliutsiia

### 2014-

**Russo-Ukrainian War, 2014-** with detailed classification based on classification for World War II (D731-D838) and the Spanish Civil War (DP269)

Span for 2014- currently ends at DK5513, with local history beginning at DK5850, leaving over 300 intervening numbers for expansion

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# Local history

## Cities with spans:

Kyiv

Kharkiv *(new to revised classification)*

L'viv *(new to revised classification)*

Odesa *(new to revised classification)*

Each of these has a span of 20 numbers.



*Sunflowers in Donetsk. Photo by Aleksandr Eremin.*

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## Progress and next steps

- ✓ Share expanded classification with Policy Specialists in PTCP (5/8/23)
- ✓ Share expanded classification with colleagues at the Ukrainian Catholic University (5/31/23)
- ✓ Share plan for expanded classification with Slavic cataloging community (6/8/23)
- ✓ Share expanded classification with Library of Congress Administrators (6/16/23)
- ✓ Share plan for expanded classification with the broader library community at ALA Annual panel presentation, "Less talk, more action: Adventures in inclusive metadata" (6/24/23)
- ✓ Share detailed expanded classification with Slavic cataloging community at LC/SCMC webinar (7/18/23)

✓ Share plan for expanded classification with the broader library community at Atla webinar "Less talk, more action: Adventures in

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# Long term recommendations

- **With cooperation of PTCP and G&S Divisions:**

- Move classification for Kyivan Rus' out of DK and into DJK (*part of the original SEESHAC plan of 1974*)
- Create revised classification for Belarus (at DK2001-DK2995) and Moldova (at DK3001-DK3995)
- Move classification for Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia out of DK and into DL (*part of the original SEESHAC plan of 1974*)
- Possibly rename DJK; rename DL History of Northern Europe. Scandinavia. The Baltics

- **With cooperation of PTCP, G&S, and Asia and Middle Eastern (ASME) Divisions:**

- Move classification for Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia out of DK and into a newly defined area of DS, possibly DSA The Caucasus (*original SEESHAC plan had elements of this*)
- Move classification for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan out of DK and into a newly defined area of DS, possibly DSB Central Asia

# Thank you! Дякую!

**Questions or comments:**

Heidy: [hberthoud@loc.gov](mailto:hberthoud@loc.gov)

**Special list for Ukraine:**

<https://classweb.org/tentative-subjects/2310a.html>

Editorial meeting: Oct. 20

To attend, email  
[policy@loc.gov](mailto:policy@loc.gov) by Oct. 13



*Flower Power, Chicago, Illinois, created by Sean Archer in summer 2022. Photo by Sean Archer (wiredforlego).*