

# **METADATA JUSTICE**

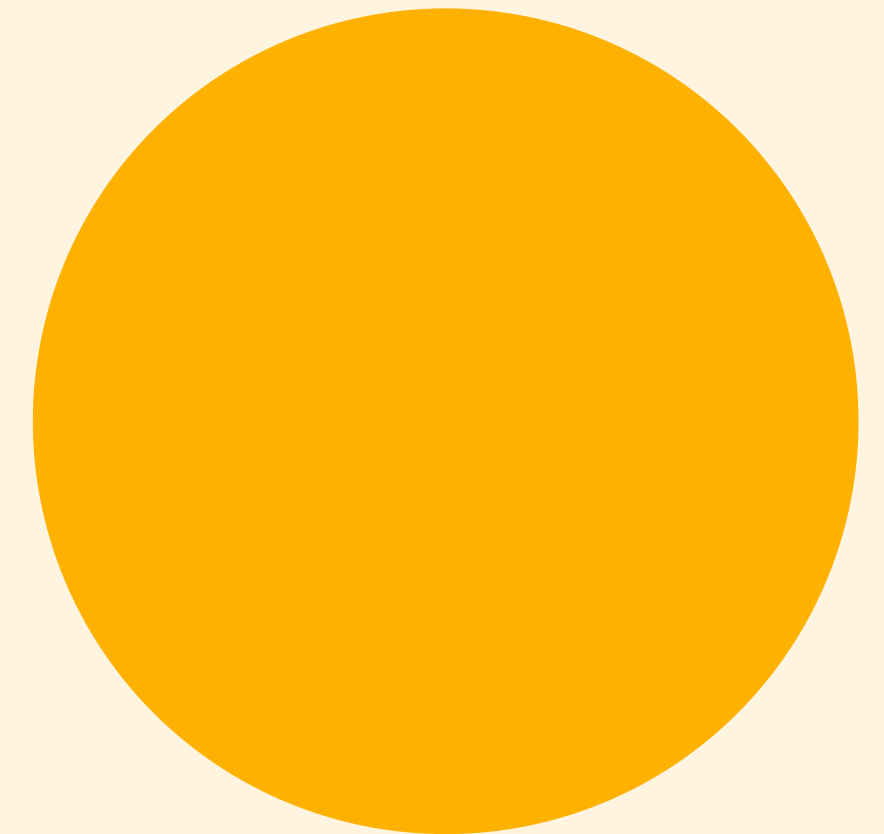
at the University of Oklahoma Libraries

Presenter: Bailey Hoffner, MLIS

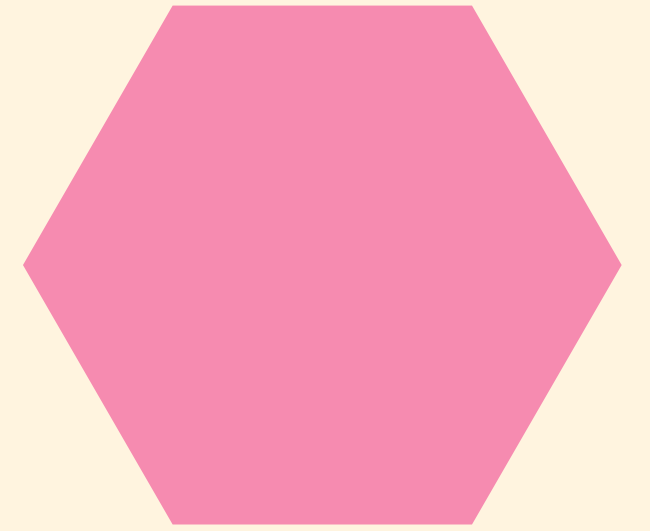


# What We'll Talk About Today

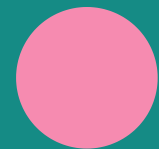
- Tulsa Race Massacre Task Force
- LCSH Proposal Process
- Learning & Working Group on Metadata Justice
- How this Relates to ArchivesSpace
- Words of Gratitude & Resources
- Contact Info



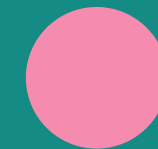
# A Few Questions



How can we continually work to create archival description that is more accurate and more respectful to all of our users?



How might we grapple with and address forms of discrimination, not just in our "archival work," but in the structures of our workplaces themselves?



How to balance the work of regularly updating the catalog and controlled vocabularies with the work of rebuilding library knowledge structures?

# Tulsa Race Massacre Change Proposal

Technical Process & Our Approach



# LCSH Proposal Process

ALA Draft Resolution:

"Greater Transparency in the Library of Congress Subject Headings Revision Process"

- SACO and Program for Cooperative Cataloging

“For newly emerging topics and disciplines, it is not always easy to find consensus among authorities as to what term should be used for the topic. Generally, prefer *current American usage* for a concept. In cases where there is no consensus among American authorities, SHM H 187 instructs catalogers to *make an intuitive judgment based on available evidence*...It is important to remember that *sources consulted must be relevant to the topic being established*.” [emphasis mine]



TRM

# LCSH Proposal Process

- Sources
- Formatting
- Difficult for Catalogers to do all of this work alone

```
010 sh2019000150
040 DLC #b eng #c DLC
150 Tulsa Race Riot, Tulsa, Okla., 1921
450 Tulsa Massacre, Tulsa, Okla., 1921
450 Tulsa Race Massacre, Tulsa, Okla. 1921
550 #w g #a Race riots #z Oklahoma

670 Work cat: 2018054090: Krehbiel, R. Tulsa, 1921, reporting a
massacre, 2019 : #b CIP summary (Examines the events and players
contributing to, participating in, and responding to Tulsa's 1921 race
riot and massacre and the social, political and historical context in
which it occurred) galley (Tulsa Massacre; Tulsa Race Riot; during the
evening of May 31 and the early morning hours of June 1, 1921)

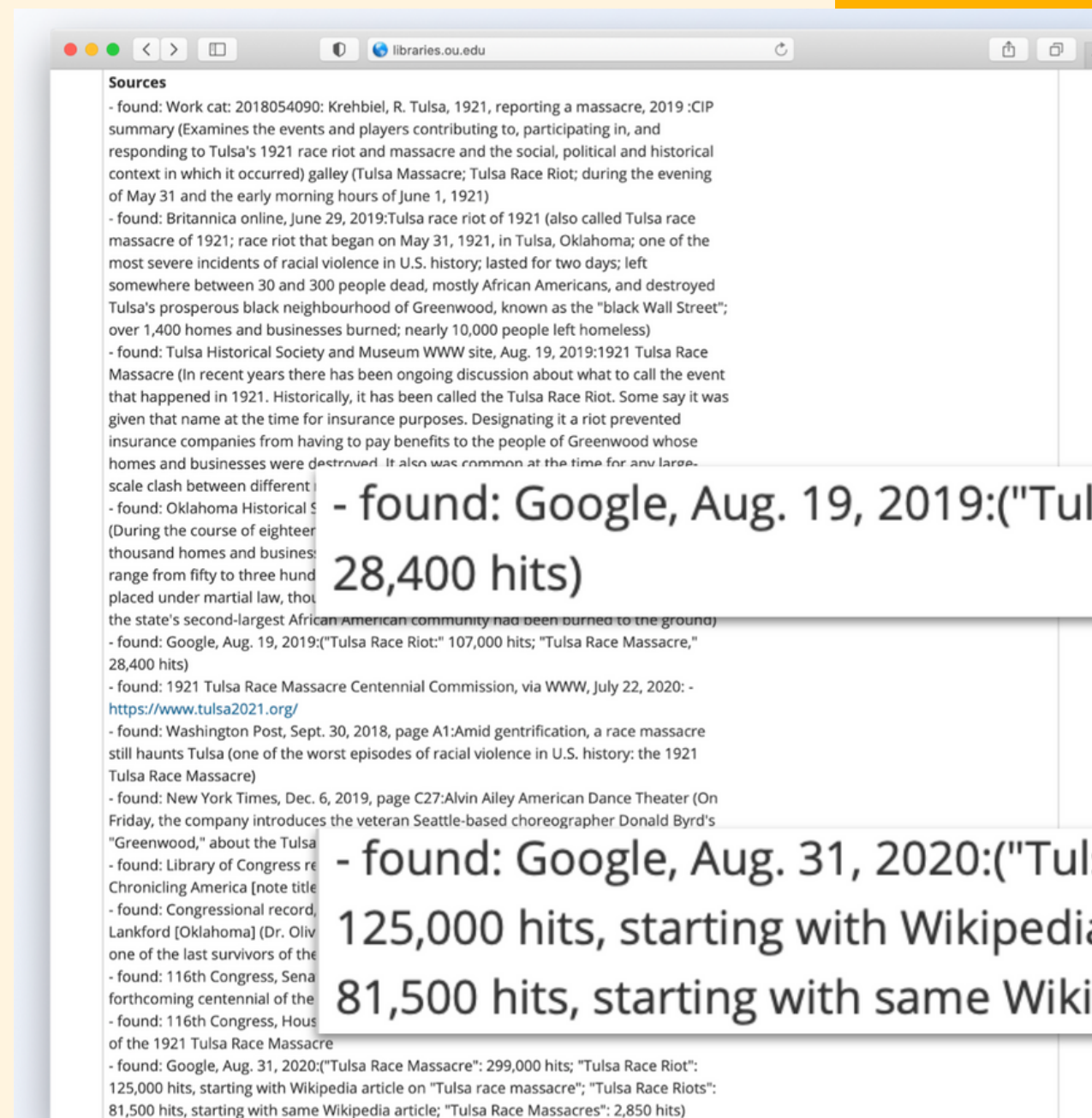
670 Britannica online, June 29, 2019: #b Tulsa race riot of 1921
(also called Tulsa race massacre of 1921; race riot that began on May
31, 1921, in Tulsa, Oklahoma; one of the most severe incidents of
racial violence in U.S. history; lasted for two days; left somewhere
between 30 and 300 people dead, mostly African Americans, and
destroyed Tulsa's prosperous black neighbourhood of Greenwood, known
as the "black Wall Street"; over 1,400 homes and businesses burned;
nearly 10,000 people left homeless)
```

A pink circular logo with the letters "TRM" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

TRM

# Source Examples

- Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission
- LC Guide
- Congressional Record
- Google Hits



- found: Google, Aug. 19, 2019:( "Tulsa Race Riot:" 107,000 hits; "Tulsa Race Massacre," 28,400 hits)

- found: Google, Aug. 31, 2020:( "Tulsa Race Massacre": 299,000 hits; "Tulsa Race Riot": 125,000 hits, starting with Wikipedia article on "Tulsa race massacre"; "Tulsa Race Riots": 81,500 hits, starting with same Wikipedia article; "Tulsa Race Massacres": 2,850 hits)



# Our Approach

Collaborative &  
Interdepartmental



- Archivists
- Catalogers
- Subject Librarians
- Administrative Staff
- User Services Staff



# Our Approach

Shared Labor

A yellow circle containing the text "TRM" in white, bold, uppercase letters.

**TRM**

- Organization
- Research
- Proposal  
Creation/Submission
- PR & Outreach

# Success

TRM

**LIBRARY** LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library of Congress > Linked Data Service > LC Subject Headings (LCSH)

### Tulsa Race Massacre, Tulsa, Okla., 1921

**URI(s)**

- <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/subjects/sh2019000150>
- [info:lc/authorities/sh2019000150](http://info:lc/authorities/sh2019000150)
- <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/sh2019000150#concept>

**Instance Of**

- MADS/RDF Topic
- MADS/RDF Authority
- SKOS Concept

**Scheme Membership(s)**

- Library of Congress Subject Headings

**Collection Membership(s)**

- LCSH Collection - Authorized Headings
- LCSH Collection - General Collection

**Variants**

- Tulsa Massacre, Tulsa, Okla., 1921
- Tulsa Race Riot, Tulsa, Okla., 1921

Creation Date ▾

Location ▾

Subject ▲

- African Americans (29)
- Tulsa Race Massacre, Tulsa, Okla., 1921 (28)**
- Tulsa (Okla.) (23)
- Riots (18)
- African American neighborhoods (14)
- Racism (13)

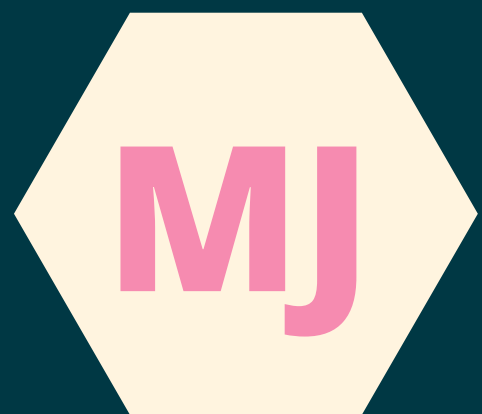
Available at Bizzell Memorial Library Stacks

3 BOOK  
2 versions of this record exist. See all versions  
**Death in a promised land : the Tulsa race massacre**  
Ellsworth ; foreword by John Hope Franklin  
Scott Ellsworth  
c1982  
Available at Bizzell Memorial Library Exhibit

4 BOOK  
**Reconstructing the Dreamland : the Tulsa race massacre, reparations, and reconciliation /** Alfred L. Brophy  
Alfred L. Brophy  
2002

But plenty more work to be done . . .

# **The Learning & Working Group on Metadata Justice**



# Membership



**Important to acknowledge both the labor of all those involved, and the ways in which we are and are not proportionally diverse.**

Joey Albin  
Karie Antell  
Barb Laufersweiler  
Jamie Dye  
Tyler Franklin  
Todd Fuller  
Bailey Hoffner

Courteny Oliphant  
Lina Ortega  
Jackie Reese  
Jay Shorten  
Tom Steele  
Jenny Watson  
Tyler Young

# Library Committee Charter

## The Learning and Working Group on Metadata Justice - Charter

### Scope

The Learning and Working Group on Metadata Justice (Metadata Justice) and its mission are informed by a growing recognition in the LIS field that “library neutrality” is an antiquated notion. Power structures in our society still favor certain groups over others. To paraphrase Elie Wiesel, neutrality is not neutral; it always favors the oppressor. We therefore must challenge library neutrality if we wish to dismantle our profession’s inherent systems of injustice, such as (but not limited to) the whiteness of libraries and the widespread linguistic biases of our metadata. Metadata Justice has a twofold mission: (1) working on specific projects that bring about progressive change in metadata conventions and naming practices, especially as they relate to social justice for people and groups in Oklahoma and the American Southwest, and (2) educating ourselves, our colleagues, and our fellow LIS professionals about emerging debates and developments in metadata justice, critical librarianship, and related subjects.

### Areas of Focus

- Correcting Library of Congress Subject Headings with outdated terms
- Identifying and correcting the absence of Library of Congress Subject Headings
- Readings and discussions on relevant and useful topics
- Presentations and other outreach activities to other campus, local, and national groups



# Guiding Principles

Committed to:

Learning

Listening

Respect

Shared Labor

Progress Without Pressure



# Approach to Work

## Membership Levels

- Working Members
- Affiliate Members

"Bottom-Lining" or "Anchoring"

Grievance Process



# Grievance Process



- **1st Call-In**  
Conversation Towards Understanding
- **2nd Call-In**  
Step Back & Learn
- **3rd Call-In**  
Step Back from Active Membership

How to resist the functional uses of shame and punitive forms of justice in our own group dynamics?

Call-Ins vs. Call-Outs



# Project Management

## Communication

- Email
- Slack
- Zoom



## Organization

- Google Drive
- Airtable

# Major Areas of Work

**Outreach**

**LCSH Proposals**

**Beyond LCSH**

**Liaisons**

**Collaborations**

**Admin**

**Learning, Growing, Brainstorming**



# Major Areas of Work

## Outreach

- Reading Group
- LibGuide
- Presentations & Papers
- PR & Marketing

The logo consists of a yellow hexagon with the letters 'MJ' in white, bold, sans-serif font inside it.

**MJ**

# Major Areas of Work

## LCSH Proposals

- Change: TRM
- New: Green Corn Rebellion, Oklahoma, 1917
- Funnel: Elaine Massacre, Elaine, Ark., 1919

The logo consists of a dark teal hexagon with the letters 'MJ' in white, bold, sans-serif font centered inside it.

**MJ**

# Major Areas of Work

## Beyond LCSH

- Local Subject Heading Change: Undocumented Immigrants

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MJ

# Major Areas of Work



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION  
*The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA*



**Liaisons**



**Chambers  
Library**

**CARCERAL  
STUDIES  
CONSORTIUM**

**MJ**

# Major Areas of Work

- University Libraries Joint Task Force on Inclusive Metadata with UL DEI Committee (2022)
- University of Central Oklahoma
- University of Arkansas

## Collaborations



# Major Areas of Work

- Foundational Documents
- Documenting Workflows
- Project Management

**Admin**





# Major Areas of Work

- Undocumented Immigrants
- Describing Disability
- Native American Subject Headings
- Describing Incarceration



**Learning, Growing, Brainstorming**

# How does this work intersect with ArchivesSpace?



## **METADATA JUSTICE**

at the University of  
Oklahoma Libraries



**ArchivesSpace**

# Thinking in and Outside of the "Sand"box



Library of Congress  
Subject Headings -  
Implementing Changes

## **Subject**

African Americans -- Oklahoma **1**  
Chickasaw Indians **1**  
Photographs **1**  
Race relations **1**  
Tulsa (Okla.) -- Pictorial works **1**  
Tulsa Race Massacre, Tulsa, Okla., 1921 **1**

# Thinking in and Outside of the "Sand"box

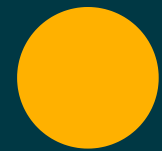


Dealing broadly (and specifically) with outdated/offensive language

## Subject

Photographs	94
Clothing and dress	69
Indians of North America -- Clothing	48
Kiowa Indians -- Clothing	31
Comanche Indians -- Clothing	30
Schools -- Oklahoma	28
Apache Indians -- Clothing	27
Cheyenne Indians -- Clothing	24
Indians of North America	22
Osage Indians -- Clothing	19
Dakota Indians -- Clothing	18

# Thinking in and Outside of the "Sand"box



Dealing broadly (and specifically) with outdated/offensive language

- Forthcoming: statement on main AS page regarding outdated/offensive language
- Interest in expansion of subject/agent capabilities & interoperability with ALMA to facilitate regular descriptive language updates

# Future Plans & Ideas

University Libraries Joint Task Force on  
Inclusive Metadata with OU Libraries DEI  
Committee (2022)

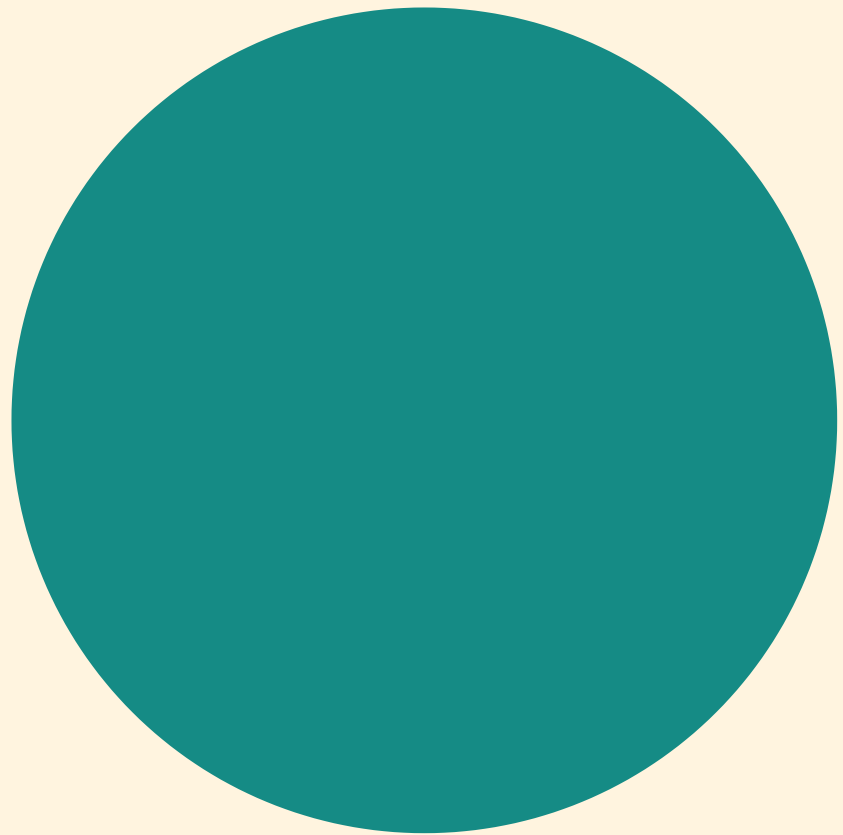
Basic scripts for querying and batch  
updating via API

2022 Presentation?  
"Metadata Justice One Year Later:  
Lessons Learned and Practical  
Applications for ArchivesSpace Users"



AS

# Gratitude



Greenwood Cultural Center  
TRM Centennial Commission  
#critcat community  
Sanford Berman  
Violet Fox  
Dartmouth Group "Illegal Aliens"  
UL Senior Team  
UCO Library  
So many more . . . !

# **CONTACT US**

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