#critlib 11/02/15: lc classification

storified tweet archive of the 11/02/15 #critlib chat on dismantling white, upper class, cisgender, & colonial LC classification

**Introductions**

**Nimisha Bhat**
mishieb@mishiebhat

Hey #critlib - it's time for another fantastic chat on LC classification! Roll call - introduce yourself and where you're chatting from.

2 YEARS AGO

**Kyle Shockey**
kshockey@kshockey04

hey #critlib kyle, northwest indiana, unemployed cataloger type; lurking due to interview later.

2 YEARS AGO

**Charlotte E. Price**
PoorCharlotte

Hi #critlib! Academic librarian Charlotte reporting from NYC, whilst eating lunch.

2 YEARS AGO

**Laurel Narizny**
@ekelistic

Hi #critlib, I'm Laurel, a systems librarian and original cataloger at an academic library in California.

2 YEARS AGO

**April Hathcock**
AprilHathcock

I'm April, academic lib in NYC, tweeting from an open science meeting in Berkeley. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Hey #CritLib, I'm Netanel, cataloger out of the Boston area -- he/him/his

Hey who wrote something relevant to this week's #CritLib over the weekend? Why, it was me! inevermetadatadidntlike.wordpress.com/2015/10/31/ant...

Hi #critlib! I'm a cataloger/metadata librarian at a small-ish university in the middle of Minnesota. Thrilled about this topic!

Hi #critlib. Adam, Ref and Inst librarian from Widener U in Chester PA. Limited participation today due to not having done the readings.

Hi #critlib. I'm Nora, Instruction academic librarian from NYC. Hooray for daytime chats.

Hi #critlib! Kevin here. Academic instruction person in Denver. Finding it slightly odd to be chatting during my lunch hour?
Hi #critlib -- Megan, Research & Instruction Librarian in Maryland.

This is Jenna #critlib-ing from NYC. I blog about #LCSH sometimes lower eastsidelibrarian.info/taxonomy/term/... (sorry for the error msg on my website)

Hi daytime #critlib! Joanna from Baltimore, instruction librarian.

Hello #critlib, Danielle Cataloging Librarian and Student from Pratt Int. from NYC here!

Hello #critlib ... I’m tweeting from the desk at @LibJuicePress ... Not a cataloger, but interested in these issues. Mostly lurking.

#critlib Hi I'm Wendy, former serials cataloger, Iowa City, academic library

Hey! I’m an Information Assistant @nypl specializing in children and teen services! Also getting my MLS from @PrattInfoSchool #critlib
Jennifer
@gonesquirrelly

#critlib lurking from Windsor, Ontario!

2 YEARS AGO

Ian Beilin
@ibeilin

Hi #critlib, Ian here, academic librarian in nyc excited to learn from #critcatalogers!

2 YEARS AGO

Tim Spalding
@librarythingtim

@librarythingtim Hi #critlib. I'm the founder of LibraryThing and generally interested in classification theory. Mostly lurking.

2 YEARS AGO

Anna Neatour
@annaneat

Hi #critlib, I'm Anna, metadata librarian in Utah.

2 YEARS AGO

Lindsay Cronk
linds_bot

#critlib resources librarian in Houston! Excited for today's topic, though mostly here to observe.

2 YEARS AGO

Coral Sheldon-Hess
web__librarian__librarian

Hi, #critlib! I'm Coral, a librarian and developer in Pittsburgh, PA.

2 YEARS AGO

Mohamed Berray
@meta_cat

@meta_cat thought you might be interested in today's #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Hi #critlib - I'm Anastasia, lurking from Temple University; currently in reference, soon to rotate to acquisitions, then cataloging.

2 YEARS AGO

Hi #critlib! Cataloger from Michigan, lurking on her lunch hour.

2 YEARS AGO

hey #critlib! Turner Masland, Access Services/Resource Sharing professional at Portland State University Library

2 YEARS AGO

Hi #critlib. Melissa, nearly done LIS student. Looking forward to the discussion!

2 YEARS AGO

Hi #critlib! Unit Head of Metadata Services here.

2 YEARS AGO

Hey #critlib! I'm a systems librarian in NYC. I work on the meta-metadata.

2 YEARS AGO

Hey #critlib! I'm one of the library folk at @InterferenceArc and am stoked for this chat...in and out of meetings, so might catch up later!

2 YEARS AGO
Jessica Colbert
Hi #critlib! MLIS student here. Hopeful future cataloger. Sandy Berman wanna-be.
2 YEARS AGO

Jonathan Cope
Hi #critlib I am a reference/instruction/generalist lurking while I work.
2 YEARS AGO

Sara Howard
Yes! Hi, Sara, research librarian from CT #critlib twitter.com/PoorCharlotte/...
2 YEARS AGO

Ethan Fenichel
Hi! Ethan from Florida - doing technical services stuff - following along #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

Patricia Gimenez
I'm Patricia and I do reference/instruction in Savannah #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

Donna Witek
(btw #critlib I'm Donna acad ref/instruction lib*n in PA lurking bc just got to work& will be doing email triage as I learn from all of you)
2 YEARS AGO

Derrick
Keeping an eye on #critlib; Derrick from DC, ref/instr academic librarian in the midst of office hours. *waves*
2 YEARS AGO
Q1: How does LCSH affect the work you do at your institution (or wherever you encounter it!)

Nimisha Bhat

Welcome all! As more join us, let’s start jumping into Q1: How does LCSH affect the work you do at your institution? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Nimisha Bhat

@mishiebhat LCSH = Library of Congress Subject Headings #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Danielle Jacobs

@DanjelleJ

I know when I catalog anything relating to Native Americans, We instead put it under Indians of North America T_ T (relating to Q1) #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Charlotte E. Price

@PoorCharlotte

A1: I’m a research librarian, so LCSH determines how I find anything in the catalog, teach students, & also do acquisitions #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Violet Fox

@violetbfox

A1. LCSH is less relevant for users as we’ve moved to OCLC’s Discovery, which currently doesn’t really do advanced browsing well. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Violet Fox

@violetbfox

@violetbfox ...and as we provide more searchable keywords in records. Those keywords often come directly from item being described. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Shana L. McDanold
@slmcdanold

A1: we use LCSH in multiple systems (catalog, institutional repository, etc.) but we try to incorporate other vocabs when needed #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Netanel Ganin
@OpOnions

A1 it affects my work everyday -- I create orig. records and enhance records -- both using #LCSH #CritLib

2 YEARS AGO

Netanel Ganin
@OpOnions

A1.2 and that means that the choices we *have* in the vocabulary end up in records disseminated across the world #CritLib

2 YEARS AGO

Netanel Ganin
@OpOnions

A1.3 So, that vocab *matters* a heckuvalot #CritLib

2 YEARS AGO

Coral Sheldon-Hess
@weblibrary

A1: I am currently institutionless. 😞 Subject headings are less important for my current work than name and title authority. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Megan Browndorf
@LiberryCobbler

#critlib A1: I do instruction about how to use LCSH for better browsing with students, talking about and teaching organization of knowledge

2 YEARS AGO
A1: I catalog works by living creators. Sometimes they don't like the #LCSH I assign/that exist, like Sexual minorities for queer. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

A1-Though I'm not a cataloger, LCSH (and all metadata) play a big role in my work w/r/t ref & inst. "Search with these words." #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

A1: I will be starting a collection eval on how robust our support for scholarship of diversity is. ID the relevant SHs to start? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

A1 I work at a cultural institution that uses SEVERAL vocabs, not just LCSH, because we need them all. It's a hot mess. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

A1 can be very helpful for remote catalog searches. I really miss browsing stacks #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

A1. LCSH plays role when teaching students how to search. It's not the only tool used, but it's there so we talk about it. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
kyle shockey
kshockey04
a1: subject headings allow me as an unemployed person to browse library holdings off-site for research. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Barnard Library
barnlib @barnlib
A1: my relationships with the people whose work I describe is important to me personally & professionally so bad #LCSH is a drag. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Charlotte E. Price
PoorCharlotte
A1.2 Until recently, I used to catalog a lot (for music) which really restricted options since LCSH are used in lieu of genre terms #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Jaime, a librarian
rowmyboat twmyboat
A1 We prolly use LCSH the most, though. As systems person, I was recently playing with SH display in Primo, our discovery layer... #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Karl Ericson
kinderone1
A1: LCSH's obfuscate information unnecessarily. Slow to change or add new. Need to be more intuitive #critlib #mytwocents

2 YEARS AGO

MARCinaColdClimate
marcco@marccold
A1. #LCSH - the primary vocabulary we use in lib cataloging. I think most users' lib experiences are more affected by #LCC, though. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Jennifer
@gonesquirrelly

A1. Find that subj headings most relevant when full text searches don’t work or info on subject too sparse, then handy. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

J. Turner Masland
deweys@snotdead

#critlib A1: discoverability. Both for our own patrons within our collection and for other patrons through interlibrary loan

2 YEARS AGO

Danielle Jacobs
@DanJelleJ

A1: for my institute it would be hard to transfer material to the new subject headings because of the sheer volume of it 500k+ #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Jennifer
@gonesquirrelly

A1. In full text searching world how much do subj headings matter? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Stevie Feliciano
StevieFeliciono

A1: I’m not a cataloger either but it does play a large role for me as a student #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Nora Almeida
nora_almeida

A1: Important for discovery. But in instruction context, feel like LCSH / keyword distinction is challenge for students. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
A1.3 the pickiness/obsolescence of some LCSH makes it v. tough for patrons to find items sometimes. They blame themselves, too #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

A1 + because we'd realized the original setup wasn't displaying the hierarchical nature of LCSH at all. Oops! #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

A1 As a #scholcomm librn, LCSH shows me how researchers work will b organized/distributed/found (or not). Also shows what's valued. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

@gonesquirrelly A great question that I ask myself often! I'd like to see a comprehensive study of this. Is there one out there? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

A1 love a cute #LCSH, a funny one, an oddball one - but is v. imp. to ne. lose sight of the fact that these terms rep. a sing. view #CritLib

2 YEARS AGO

@nora_almeida Definitely! I usually save controlled vocab discussion for consultations or upper div instruction. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Megan Browndorf  
@LiberryCobbler
@gonesquirrelly #critlib I find my students often don't have the vocab to adequately full-text search. LCSH help adv students get there.

Coral Sheldon-Hess  
web_librarian librarian
A1 @gonesquirrelly Some indexes (I think Summon is one) prioritize expert-applied metadata over full-text. #critlib

Laurel Narzisky  
@ekelistic
A1 LCSH less relevant now that we have a keyword-centered discovery layer, but I do still assign in original cataloging. #critlib

Shana L. McDanold  
@stlmcdanold
A1: there are several studies (including covering dissertation use) proving that controlled LCSH increases circulation/findability #critlib

Charlotte E. Price  
@Charlotte 
And outdatedness often = racist/sextist/homophobic terms are used bc. they were "the norm" #critlib

Coral Sheldon-Hess  
web_librarian librarian
A1 @gonesquirrelly And then, of course, not everything in the catalog is available for full-text search, so it gets weird. #critlib
Nora Almeida @violetbfox @gonesquirrelly Agree that LCSH are less important but we still need em for books. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Jennifer @gonesquirrelly Isn't collocation in e-world search results grouped by search terms used in conjunction, not assigned subj #critlib twitter.com/jessicalcolber...

2 YEARS AGO

Netanel Ganin @mishiebhath @gonesquirrelly A1 #CritLib -- #LCSH tells us the libs. and them, the patrons -- here's YOU. You are a "sexual minority" not "queer"

2 YEARS AGO

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber @mishiebhath @gonesquirrelly Don't know about specific studies, but using controlled vocab seems to influence relevancy ranking IME. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Jaime, a librarian @gonesquirrelly .@gonesquirrelly I think it still does! Collation of things under one term that might get several different with natural language. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

MARCinaColdClimate @mccolmarccold ITA with this- controlled vocabularies can bring a lot of joy, as well as having terrible probs. #critlib twitter.com/OpOnions/statu...

2 YEARS AGO
A1: there is a less visible aspect of #LCSH--how they boost relevance to a record/results sort. #critlib Systems folks, can you comment?

@LiberryCobbler @gonesquirrelly I tell my students to browse subject headings to give them new keyword vocabulary #critlib

So subj headings used for "crippled" texts, DVDs etc...things not fully searchable yet? #critlib twitter.com/web_librarian/...

I'm not clear on how LCSH influences our EDS rankings, but would love to hear about this from others. #critlib twitter.com/barnlib/status...

Books or e-books? #critlib twitter.com/nora_almeida/s...

@gonesquirrelly Both. Lots of our ebooks aren’t full text searchable. #critlib
Danielle Jacobs
@DanjelleJ

I personally think learning how to catalog with #LCSH has expanded my vocab, but with lack up term update it can really mess ppl up #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Laurel Narizny
@ekelistic

@barnlib Also interested in how genre terms might influence relevance. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber

@barnlib Not a systems person, but my work w/ web scale disc mostly found relevancy is a black box. But yeah, LCSH seem to factor? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Coral Sheldon-Hess
web_librarian

A1 @gonesquirrelly Exactly. They use what we give them if the item doesn't have full-text indexed. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

MARCinaColdClimate
marcco@marccold

@rowmyboat @gonesquirrelly There have been great articles by A. Taylor/T. Gross about how #LCSH improve results for keyword search. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Jennifer
@gonesquirrelly

But currency of headings is a described issue...so use for IL purposes? #critlib
twitter.com/liberrycobbler...

2 YEARS AGO
Jaime, a librarian
rowmyboat
And, anyway, how do you full-text search something that's not text? #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

Derrick
@geekandahalf
A1 I'll never stop giving shout outs to our tech svcs folks because the work they do allows me to do my thing in ref/inst. #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

DPWaybrarian
@DPWayman
Hi, Pacific NW academic cataloger here. A1-We use LCSH so I perform subject analysis on all records with an eye to enhancing them. #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

Coral Sheldon-Hess
web_librarian
A1 I think a lot of people forget that we don't have full-text for everything, even post-Google Books. Metadata matters! #CritLib
2 YEARS AGO

Nora Almeida
nora_almeida
@kevinseeber @barnlib seriously! Secret algorithms irk me. I want to know what my discovery tool means by 'relevancy' #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

Brett D. Currier
brettdcurrier
A1.1 even if the words I'm LCSH change we still have problems of cross comparing #critlib
2 YEARS AGO
Q2. Is there a better alternative to the SACO process of LCSH review to ensure that change happens?
Nimisha Bhat

A1: Interesting to see how LCSH affects everyone's work differently! Keeping that in mind... #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Nimisha Bhat

Q2. Is there a better alternative to the SACO process of LCSH review to ensure that change happens? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Nimisha Bhat

Q2. SACO = Subject Authority Cooperative Program. In other words, what's a better way to enact a swifter change in terms? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Charlotte E. Price

A2 I sure wish there were a better review process. So far have gotten turned down for every suggested change re: Fat Studies. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Barnard Library

@PoorCharlotte Me, too! lowereastsidelibrarian.info/fatacceptancep... #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Netanel Ganin

@PoorCharlotte and the proposal form is awful! #CritLib

2 YEARS AGO
Netanel Ganin
OpOnions

Q2 -- as a non-member (yet?) I find the SACO process obscure and distant. #CritLib

2 YEARS AGO

Stevie Feliciano
StevieFeliciano

Q2: There has to be a better alternative to SACO process. It should not take years for a subject heading to change #thanksberman #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Nimisha Bhat
mishiebhat

@OpOnions It does seem like a pretty mysterious process, doesn't it? Answer three riddles, find a golden key...? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Charlotte E. Price
PoorCh@rlotte

@OpOnions yes! esp. when one is not a member of SACO, you're totally cut out of the process. Which is a LOT of important libraries #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Netanel Ganin
OpOnions

A2 -- it feels distant to the work we do daily -- TERMS DESCEND FROM ON HIGH "yes to this" "nahhhhh we feel what we have is suff." #CritLib

2 YEARS AGO

Charlotte E. Price
PoorCh@rlotte

@barnlib yes! Lots of <3 to you, Sandy Berman, and many others petitioning for change from SACO #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Danielle Jacobs
@DanjelleJ

A2 ppl use volume of collection as excuse to keep horrible SH which makes vocab advancement dang near impossible to fix/update #critlib

Shana L. McDanold
@slmcdanold

A2: Technically, ANYONE can submit a #LCSH or #genre proposal to #SACO: loc.gov/aba/pcc/saco/p... #critlib

Nimisha Bhat
@mishiebhat

A2: I find it difficult to comprehend how a circle of a few institutions gets say in the matter and it isn’t a more open process #critlib

Jennifer
@gonesquirrel

Limited use(s) or relevance of LCSH then? Assumption of LCSH as holistically useful breaking down? #critlib twitter.com/web_librarian/...

Tim Spalding
@librarythingtim

@null Q2. Dare I suggest a distributed, no-final-authority system? Could be messy. But LCSH in the “wild” is pretty wild already. #critlib

J. Turner Masland
deweysisdead@snotdead

Q2 maybe if we get an actual librarian as librarian of congress we can see some improvements?? #critlib #loc #librarianofprogress
Laurel Narizny
@ekelistic

A2 I know I say this for everything, but linked data. Allow everyone to add variants, and we can choose which to use. #critlib

Christina Harlow
cm_har@cm_harlow

A2. (butting in) empower yourselves by learning how LOD + non-trad data can extend/explose trad concept/gated area of 'authorities' #critlib

Violet Fox
@violetbfox

A2. Grateful for @barnlib's efforts to share/publicize efforts to change LCSH terms, see her website: lowereastsidelibrarian.info/taxonomy/term/... #critlib

Megan Browndorf
@LiberryCobbler
@gonesquirrelly #critlib I see currency issues as teaching moment. To me IL is pulling back the curtain on info creation process. LCSH inc

Caligula von Bingen
@marxalot

Think both the large slow and the small fast models have advantage: they push and check each other. #critlib twitter.com/librarythingti...

Barnard Library
barnlib @barnlib

And full text doesn’t always contain useful descriptive terms. +1 #MetadataMatters #critlib twitter.com/web_librarian/...
Laurel Narizny  
@ekelistic

A lot like cooperative cataloging, in fact. Let everyone contribute. We have a lot more experts than are SACO members. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Coral Sheldon-Hess  
@web_librarian

Caveat: I don’t work for ProQuest, haven’t seen their code. I am repeating what we were told when we asked these q’s at MFPOW. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Ian Beilin  
@ibeilin

@slmcdanold This was underscored in the interview w/Tillett - she says LC serves congress members - look who they are, have been! #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

DPWaybrarian  
@DPWayman

A2-Possibly, but regulation produces stability & consistency; rapid change could create difficulties for authorization and control. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Rory Litwin  
@rorylitwin

2 separate issues: LC’s specific choices in SH, general issue of having an authoritative, hierarchical SH system. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

John Mark Ockerbloom  
@JMarkOckerbloom

I find links to LCSH terms from other places (e.g. related terms, Wikipedia, FAST) make it easier to find right one for what I seek #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Caligula von Bingen
@marxalot

As long as you can fund the backend operators, this times a million. #critlib twitter.com/ekelistic/stat...

2 YEARS AGO

Nora Almeida
nora_almeida_almeida

@LiberryCobbler@gonesquirrelly but hard to handle critical analysis of LCSH & knowledge prod & research strategies in a one-shot #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

J. Turner Masland
deweysnotdead

#critlib as a non-cataloger, great to learn about SACO!

2 YEARS AGO

MARCinaColdClimate
marccold

A2. I sometimes wish we could discuss new #LCSH more openly- have physical or virtual fora. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Violet Fox
@violetbfox

@ekelistic That's the way NACO is going, encouragingly, but not sure LC would be willing to let go of tight control of LCSH. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Karl Ericson
kinderone1

@marxalot But where is the "small fast" model to balance the large slow SACO? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
a2 - has anyone considered the problematic terminology we use? "authority and control" #critlib 2 YEARS AGO

a2.1 it's hard to fight for decentralized, democratic institutions and subsequently support the LCSH system. #critlib 2 YEARS AGO

@nora_almeida @LiberryCobbler nice place to be contrary though! And interesting. #critlib 2 YEARS AGO

Apparently the ppl making Authority Rs make jack squat in pay (takes my super. weeks to get AR. updated) GL with diverse SH #critlib 2 YEARS AGO

Don't look to The Institution for swift response: a LOT of disadvantages go with being big and "powerful" #critlib twitter.com/ibeilin/status... 2 YEARS AGO

I'm not saying it's ideal by any means, but it might be interesting to compare & contrast how WP & SACO do subject auth control #critlib 2 YEARS AGO
Jennifer
@gonesquirrel

Q2. Don’t think crowdsourcing as an end goal would be useful. Maybe as an interim step? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Caligula von Bingen
@marxalot

Now, see that's what we need to have! Ditch the view of LC as the *only* source #critlib
twitter.com/kinderone1/sta...

2 YEARS AGO

Violet Fox
@violetbfox

@marccold Do you think #critlib might be a place to do that? I'm imagining a virtual clearinghouse of change efforts...

2 YEARS AGO

Brett D. Currier
brettdcurrier

Just because LCSH is the best system we have today does not make it the theoretical best system in the universe #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Caligula von Bingen
@marxalot

LC doesn't necessarily need our support: use it when it's useful, let it catch up when it isn't. #critlib twitter.com/kshockey04/sta...

2 YEARS AGO

Barnard Library
barnlib @barnlib

A2 Not sure adding *more* ppl to decision-making process is the answer. Maybe diversifying SACO & consulting communities affected. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Laurel Narizny
@ekelistic

There are already so many other vocabs out there! LCSH isn’t the end-all, be-all. #critlib
twitter.com/marxalot/status...

2 YEARS AGO

Nora Almeida
nora_almeida_almeida

@adammizelle @kevinseeber yes, labor of human catalogers may be important component of IL
instruction #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Derrick
@geekandahalf

I would love to hear from @erinaleach re: LCSH in particular on this since I respect her
expertise and POV. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Anna Neatour
@annaneat

As an aside #critlib the ALCTS Metadata Interest Group will soon be releasing a CFP for ALA
Annual on Diverse + Inclusive Metadata....

2 YEARS AGO

Netanel Ganin
OpOnionsOpOnions

"We’re more inclined to react favorably to constructive suggestions than to coercive techniques
such as petitions, hostile articles #CritLib

2 YEARS AGO

Barnard Library
barnlib @barnlib

A2: following LT: like how SACO made this 100% wrong decision w/o consulting people who
catalog fanzines. #critlib lowerestsidelibrarian.info/lcsh/2009/week...

2 YEARS AGO
Caligula von Bingen
@marxalot

Lots of places have "in house" manuals etc for specialty collections. Some way of sharing those?
#critlib twitter.com/brettdcurrier/...

2 YEARS AGO

Jennifer
@gonesquirrelly

A2. Maybe from hierarchical to this, though not read yet: researchgate.net/publication/26...
#critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Violet Fox
@violetbfox

@marccold I was thinking a separate wiki section on #critlib website, actually... *she says, already ridiculously overextended*

2 YEARS AGO

Anna Neatour
@annaneat

Please keep the CFP for Diverse + Inclusive Metadata in mind if you have further thoughts on #critlib discussion today and wish to present!

2 YEARS AGO

Anna Neatour
@annaneat

We'll be posting to lists, sending out CFP very soon! #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Jaime, a librarian
rowmyboat@barnlib

.@barnlib Maybe more like different decision making *structure* and more people doing the *work*? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Coral Sheldon-Hess
web_library_librarian

I feel like ILSs should allow us to make local terminology that hotlinks into the formal LCSH terms. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Megan Browndorf
@LiberryCobbler

Yes. This is work, living people are making these things findable, not by magic! #critlib
twitter.com/nora_almeida/s...

2 YEARS AGO

Nimisha Bhat
mishiebhat

A2. This is what I struggle with. We all have our frustrations with the current system, but what do we do differently? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Caligula von Bingen
@marxalot

@barnlib Also: this is 2 issues; SH/access terms for discovery etc *now*, and LCSH reform processes for the *long term* #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Adam Mizelle
adammizelle

@nora_almeida @kevinseeber Patrons are fuzzy about my work already. Lib inst to shout-out the hidden library workers. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Shana L. McDanold
@slmcdanold

#critlib It's important to remember that LCSH is only ONE set of controlled vocabulary. It's limited. "Literary warrant" is hard to show.

2 YEARS AGO
Barnard Library
barnlib @barnlib

A2 (?): Back to relevance rankings discussion, systems librarians really have no say?!?
#SmashProprietaryLibrarySoftware #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Shana L. McDanold
@slmcdanold

#critlib Apply/use other controlled vocabularies liberally. And by "controlled" I mean has an identifier for #linkeddata

2 YEARS AGO

chiuchiutrain
@chiuchiutrain

@marxalot @barnlib Do they have to be separate things? Isn’t the frustration that the 2 aren’t dealt with as 1 issue? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Caligula von Bingen
@marxalot

Also very specific to its holdings, which don’t have everything (gasp!) and are tailored to its purpose #critlib twitter.com/slmcdanold/sta...

2 YEARS AGO

Jennifer
@gonesquirrelly

Why was LCSH created in the first place? Do we still need it for that? Have we moved beyond it? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Coral Sheldon-Hess
@ibellin @gonesquirrelly @marcCold
I was taught "It's better than Dewey." I think we can all agree: true for many (most?) subjects. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Wendy Robertson
wendycr
@gonesquirrelly Wasn’t it created by Library of Congress for their collection needs, for the Congress? Not created for our needs #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

Wendy Robertson
wendycr
@gonesquirrelly And created around limitations of a card catalog #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

Charlotte E. Price
PoorCharlottePrice
@barnlib re: relevance rankings, I wonder how a homegrown system like the one UPenn is using works with that... #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

Allana Meilleur
allanaaa@mailbox.berkeley.edu
I’ve been in multiple conference Q&As where an LC cataloguer has announced that they appreciate feedback and want to make changes #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

Netanel Ganin
OpOnions
Literary warrant (B.T. men. ) can be a crock, I’ve found #LCSH with a single usage in the LC catalog - but they approved THAT one #CritLib
2 YEARS AGO

Barnard Library
barnlib @barnlib
Following up on @cm_harlow's comment on #LOD. It may be time to build smaller/distinct authority files (aka mutual metadata). #critlib
2 YEARS AGO
Q3. Should we be localizing efforts at our individual institutions to create a more inclusive SH system? Or is a nation-wide system the only way to go?
Q3. Should we be localizing efforts at our institutions to create a more inclusive SH system? Local thesauruses? #critlib

J. Turner Masland
dewey@subway snotdead

#critlib Q3 I would argue that this work could also be done among consortia. Maybe more power to enact change is we work together?

Shana L. McDonold
@slmcdanold

A3: local vocabularies keep our resources in our silos. We should focus on building/contributing to existing #linkeddata vocabs #critlib

Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber

A3- As far as reforming national system of subject headings, perhaps #JebCanFixIt? #critlib #humor #topicalhumor #politicalhumor

Caligula von Bingen
@marxalot

@violetbfox @barnlib get the impression it's either handwavey or they don't want you to know or both? #critlib

Danielle Jacobs
@DanjelleJ

Why not have an open tagging system where patrons come up with alt. SH while catalogers use LCSH SH? #critlib
@FromtheShelves @slmcdanold Also there are loads of proprietary controlled vocabs used by indexing and content providers. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

@ibellin @gonesquirrelly Will voice the minority view here and say that controlled vocabularies are extraordinarily important now. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

. @barnlib yeah some folks are already doing this, and building relationships btwn LOD authorities/data gives you lots of power. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

@web_librarian reflective of world where newer people expect full text thus to them "crippled" #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

@FromtheShelves @slmcdanold They can be less open to influence of non-priviliged communities than LCSH, if not as widely used. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

YES. Controlled vocab = IDENTIFIER in #semanticweb which builds #linkeddata and increased discoverability #critlib twitter.com/marccold/status...
Jennifer
@gonesquirrelly
@web_librarian @ibeilin @marccold problem with agreement as "one size doesn't fit all" #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

Karl Ericson
kinder01
@deweysnotdead would think many institutions would need to share the work load as catalogers and systems ppl workload already maxed #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

Jaime, a librarian
rowmyboat
A3 We totally should! As long as we do it correctly (MARC indicators & subfields, say) & consistently! #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

Stevie Feliciano
StevieFeliciano
A3 Localizing efforts is one solution that I am for but shouldn't we look at the larger problem at hand? #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

J. Turner Masland
deweysnotdead
#critlib Q3 also, I wonder if more opportunity for change is created as cataloging activities become more collaborative
2 YEARS AGO

Adam Mizelle
adammizelle
@kevinseeber Only if the results are close. #critlib
2 YEARS AGO
Jaime, a librarian
rowmyboat
A3 I'm also totally down with tags, natural language, user added, or otherwise—but as distinct from SH, because they're different. #critlib

Coral Sheldon-Hess
web_librarian/librarian
A3 I do NOT think we should localize subject headings unless there's some way to link them together intelligently. #critlib

J. Turner Masland
dewey/notdead
@kinderone1 I know orbis cascade is exploring collaborative cataloging work loads, to share the burden #critlib

Charlotte E. Price
PoorCh@Rate/Charlotte
A3 I feel conflicted. I want more user participation, but I want consistency that a folksonomy can't really bring. I want it all! #critlib

Shana L. McDanold
@slmcdanold
A3 Ontologies and vocabularies are what we need to build, OUTSIDE of library catalogs #critlib w3.org/standards/schema...

Caligula von Bingen
@marxalot
Consistency is key. We're in the business of making things findable: that means predictable/learnable #critlib twitter.com/rowmyboat/stat...
DPWaybrarian  
@DPWayman

A3-Discovery layers often offer the ability to "tag" items; if searchable in the same interface, that functionality is provided. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Jennifer  
@gonesquirrelly

Q? Isn't changing LCSH rewriting history to suit current perceptions? #critlib How is that different from past applications of subj headings

2 YEARS AGO

Ian Beilin  
@ibeilin

@gonesquirrelly it's not rewriting history, but retiring it #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Jennifer  
@gonesquirrelly

@ibeilin Not even when LCSH goes and retroactively changes old headings to new ones? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Wendy Robertson  
wendyrobertson

@gonesquirrelly Yes. Their view of what is important both for what is cataloged and what to call it #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Nimisha Bhat  
mishiebhat

@gonesquirrelly @rowmyboat More like seeing what worked/didn't, creating a new open consortium system of implementation/change? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Emily Drabinski
@edrabinski
@gonesquirrelly I always wonder what history will reveal as my most appalling ideological commitment. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Jamie Howe
@marxalot @ibeilin @gonesquirrelly It's an artifact if we like it or not. We should support documentation of outmoded use at least #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Wendy Robertson
@wendycr_ @gonesquirrelly Do you mean we should continue to use terms appropriate for the era of publication, not terms in use today? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Jennifer
@wendycr_ @gonesquirrelly Both. History is important and should understand where we have been re:construction of knowledge/identity/acceptance #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Caligula von Bingen
@marxalot
@ibeilin @gonesquirrelly The purpose of the LCSH isn't historical: it's use. It's a tool, not an artifact (or should be) #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Danielle Jacobs
@DanjelleJ
@Gaymerbrarian @marxalot @ibeilin @gonesquirrelly it would be documented in the material but no need for outdated SH? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
@wendycr_ @gonesquirrelly I feel like we’d need both, right? If I were doing historical research, I’d search period terms. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Caligula von Bingen
@marxalot

Sure, as "deprecated terms," but not at the expense of keeping it relevant. #critlib twitter.com/Gaymerbrarian/...

2 YEARS AGO

Jennifer
@gonesquirrelly

@marxalot @ibcilin It is both because it speaks to the politics of knowledge #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Ian Beilin
@ibcilin

@gonesquirrelly If the point is current use, why would they want to keep the outmoded SH in place? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Shana L. McDanold
@slmcdanold

@FromtheShelves @kevinseeber LCSH was designed for congress & items being kept in LC b/c of copyright. It’s inherently biased. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Melissa A
@MelissaA1763

@ekelistic Unfortunately paywalled, this article has more info: tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.10... A # of Indigenous libraries use Brian Deer #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber
@FromtheShelves Totally. I'm more on the side of reforming academic discourse, then the SH will follow. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

John Mark Ockerbloom
@JMarkOckerbloom
A lot of LCSH discussion focuses on the headings, but the relationships are also important, & IME often underdeveloped. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Shana L. McDanold
@slmcdanold
#critlib previous #LCSH terms are kept in the record as "see" references. This can be maintained in #linkeddata environment

2 YEARS AGO

Coral Sheldon-Hess
@web_librarian
A3 And I know that won’t fix it all. We have some systemic problems to fix (e.g. “Black history” search brings up white violence). #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

MARCinaColdClimate
@marccold
OT, but it seems convos often focus on #LCSH, rather than #LCC. Prob b/c class schemes change VERY SLOWLY indeed, for obv reasons. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Nora Almeida
@nora_almeida
@slmcdanold Yes! concern should be how to maximize labor, enhance discoverability, & diversify vocabs. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Melissa A
@MelissaA1763

Late to #critlib party. I'm at a small institutional lib. that doesn't actually use LC (b/c inaccurate terminology; bias; specialized coll.)

2 YEARS AGO

Laurel Narizny
@ekelistic

@MelissaA1763 Your institution actually made the decision to not use LCSH? Would love to hear more. Do you guys coop. catalog? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Melissa A
@MelissaA1763

We use modified Brian Deer. Have (some) mapping to help with cataloguing. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Jaime, a librarian
rowmyboat

Bc it's never-ending process. Go ahead & change it again in the future. #critlib twitter.com/gonesquirrelly...

2 YEARS AGO

Caligula von Bingen
@marxalot

Allowing tag suggestions, mediated by backend vocab control/linking, WORKS, but means $$. #critlib twitter.com/PoorCharlotte/...

2 YEARS AGO

MARCinaColdClimate
marcco@marccold

@gonesquirrelly @ibeilin Take LGBT*. How many poss keywords are there? Will any user search every single one? Collocation is key. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Joel Burkholder
@FromtheShelves
Controlled vocabbs privilege acad discourse, not natural lang. Is there a system we could create that doesn’t recog this hierarchy? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

chiuchiutrain
@FromtheShelves
Is there a solution to that? I feel that acad catalogs shouldn’t be divorced from pub catalogs. #smashtheivorytower #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Violet Fox
@violetbfox
@FromtheShelves I think yes, but complexity would be sacrificed. Not necessarily a bad thing, especially when used in combinations. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Danielle Jacobs
@DanjelleJ
@OpOnions I heard a museum in texas or somewhere was using tagging systems to tag their art and even let patrons vote on "best" art.#critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Charlotte E. Price
@shatomica
using alt. fields works great but then we found that WorldCat discovery didn’t display many of them anymore.... #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber
@FromtheShelves But if LCSH is primarily used for acad collections, shouldn’t SH reflect that language? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
A3 I really wish we had something Open Access but with library control, but then you have the same problems of biases etc #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

#critlib Tagging and Controlled vocabs (LCSH, genres, others) are NOT mutually exclusive. You can use both. But the are fundamentally diff.

2 YEARS AGO

A3 Do people think that the concept of universal bibliographic control is inherently authoritarian? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

@DanJelleJ @OpOnions ooo image metadata is a whole other issue #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Not just maintained, but expanded. LOD is *great* for synonym/relationship circles #critlib twitter.com/slmcdanold/status...

2 YEARS AGO

I think using terms appropriate to the era of the material is bull because patrons might not even know old SH Its irrelevant #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Shana L. McDanold
@slmcdanold

TAGS = personal use, not "neutral analysis" of the "aboutness" of an item. Can be misleading. #critlib Hence whey you use BOTH.

2 YEARS AGO

Coral Sheldon-Hess
web_librarian_librarian

@slmcdanold Yeah, you should see some of the tags I use in GoodReads. Not exactly helpful to people-who-aren't-me. :) #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Shana L. McDanold
@slmcdanold

Tis true. We don't have control, only #semanticweb #linkeddata identifiers. :) #critlib twitter.com/edrabinski/sta...

2 YEARS AGO

Joel Burkholder
@FromtheShelves

@kevinseeber Don't think LCSH treat all discourses equally. Makes judgment calls. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Nora Almeida
nora_almeida_almeida

@slmcdanold Agreed! I don't think an either / or approach works. Local reinvention still has problem of top-down desc. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Emily Drabinski
@edrabinski

I love our field's persistent fantasies of total control. It's all very #50shades #critlib twitter.com/stupidplover/s...

2 YEARS AGO
Jaime, a librarian  rowmyboat

Just wanna throw it out there -- the #systems most of use are totally insufficient to support some of the changes we'd like to see. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Jaime, a librarian  rowmyboat

...and we have even less control over most of our systems that we do over LCSH & most other vocabs. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Wendy Robertson  wendycr_

@OpOnions @gonesquirrelly Yes, geographic headings have that issue. But I think other terms can/should modernize #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Wendy Robertson  wendycr_

@gonesquirrelly I think this can be noted effectively as a cross reference in a linked authority record, but not stay on ind record #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Jennifer  @gonesquirrelly

@OpOnions @wendycr_ True. An equally political decision about recognition and refusal of independent authority of countries. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Nimisha Bhat  mishiebhat

@ibelin @gonesquirrelly The archivist in me thinks it's important to keep a record of the changes, but not keep the outmoded SH #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Adam Mizelle

@mishiebhat @ibeilin @gonesquirrelly I agree. Amnesia is a big obstacle to reckoning with racism and other problems. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Danielle Jacobs

@DanjelleJ

I don't understand why we need to keep outdated/racist/sexist/ just messed up overall SH for history keeping? why bother? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Ian Beilin

@ibeilin

@web_librarian yes, they shouldn't be erased from the historical record, only from the catalog record #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

John Mark Ockerbloom

@JMarkOckerbloom

2006 OA paper on indigenous classification schemes: "From Marginalization to Accessibility": commons.pacificu.edu/cgi/viewcontent... #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Coral Sheldon-Hess

@ibeilin I'm suggesting historical terms should be in the record for findability, but NOT that they should be the primary access pt #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Wendy Robertson

@web_librarian @gonesquirrelly For a full text search, sure. But subject, I would think date of publication + current term #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Jennifer
@gonesquirrelly
@ibeilin LCSH continues as placeholders or markers for larger concepts; or morph to become reflective of scholarly conversations? #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

Wendy Robertson
wendycr_wendycr_
@web_librarian @gonesquirrelly You would search war between the states for a book about the Civil War written in the 19th century? #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

Patricia Gimenez
@TriciaGimenez
@wendycr_ @web_librarian @gonesquirrelly don’t y’all mean the war of northern aggression? (joke from a temp southerner) #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

Ciligula von Bingen
@marxalot
@DanelleJ I wouldn’t keep it in the active SH, but include those terms to show how things were described. No amnesia. #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

Coral Sheldon-Hess
web_librarian_web_librarian
@chiuchitrain @FromtheShelves And, in many locales (like southcentral Alaska), public & academic catalogs aren’t separate at all. #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

Jennifer
@gonesquirrelly
@wendycr_ @OpOnions Modernize ok but don’t throw out the old as is part of our tapestry of understanding #critlib
2 YEARS AGO
@ibeilin @web__librarian There needs to be collocation. We don't have that now for countries that have changed names, and it's tough #critlib

@nora_almeida Could UBC be a benign authoritarianism? Should the concept be abandoned? #critlib

#critlib We should be building connections *between* vocabularies (same as, ~ to) etc. Not "reinventing" them. #linkeddata #SemanticWeb

@rowmyboat question becomes how do we agitate for change from vendors who are slow to move? #critlib

Damned if I know. Now, tossing some of THAT in the bin & starting over -- I'm into that. #critlib twitter.com/kinderone1/sta...

@ekelistic We do do copy cataloguing but adjust; have LCC maps, look at other lib's doing similar; but also a learning curve for me #critlib
@TriciaGimenez @wendycr_ @web_librarian @gonesquirrelly Ha. No, but there are plenty of terms that aren't easy 1=1 relationships. #critlib

@violetbfox @TriciaGimenez @wendycr_ @gonesquirrelly True. Some metadata doesn't link cleanly. #critlib

@wendycr_ IMO, some dated terms could describe notable eras for a topic, but they should either be aliases or NTs to current ones. #critlib

(eg. "Information superhighway" captures 1990s what-will-the-Net be discussion, but shouldn't be so high in current LCSH hierarchy) #critlib

Don't disagree: SH should be a living object, but I don't mean to erase past terms, just deprecate #critlib twitter.com/gonesquirrelly...
liberation in information literacy can free one from hegemony. [11] I propose a more modest goal: historicize the catalog. Instead of abandoning or overthrowing it, realize and then teach that catalogs and systems of classification are not only social constructs, created by humans, but also historical constructs, created at specific points in time. Recast in historicist light, Berman's work on LCSHs appears more radical as he and others worked to revise and dismantle subject headings that reflected a white male power structure while many did the same with regards to society at large. In short, by asking the LC to add, amend, or eliminate some subject headings, Berman is historicizing the catalog. I suggest that creation dates of LCSHs be added to LCSH authority records so patrons can see when headings were created. Others, like dates of major reorganizations, should be entered as well. Doing so will make it easier for users to view catalogs as products of their times.

A3 for #critlib: (Also, hi, I'm Jake in Washington, DC.) pic.twitter.com/hTY2xwKnGh

Jessica Colbert
JessicaColbert

Should database subjects be the same as LCSH? It's always hard giving instruction without consistency! #critlib

Melissa A
@MelissaA1763

@ekelistic (should add that doing LCSH from scratch would also be a learning curve - Brian Deer actually makes more sense to me) #critlib

Melissa A
@MelissaA1763

@ekelistic (and Deer makes waaaayyyyy more sense for our library patrons) #critlib
Q4. How can we draw non-catalogers into the fold to help create change?

Nimisha Bhat
mishiebhat

I could continue this for hours if I could! But time for Q4: How can we draw non-catalogers into the fold to help create change? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Jessica Colbert
Jessica.Colbert

A4: I think getting reference librarians’ suggestions on what sort of search terms are used/etc. would be helpful #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Jessica Colbert
Jessica.Colbert

A4: but I generally think reference and cataloging should influence each other more #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Jessica Colbert
Jessica.Colbert

A4: no type of librarian works in a vacuum. No librarian is an island. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
A4: Like in all organizing, identify the support and give them a specific ask for a specific task.  
#critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Stevie Feliciano

A4: Explain to non cataloging professionals the importance of this issue and getting input from librarians in the field #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Jaime, a librarian

I often ask our ref staff if changes I'm considering to display.search make sense for them & patrons. #critlib twitter.com/JessicaLColber...

2 YEARS AGO

Kevin Seeber

A4: We have a good number of non-catalogers in this chat! I'll leave it to catalogers to direct this, but remember you have allies. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Charlotte E. Price

A4: I mostly wish there was an easier/more transparent way to edit these headings, & for non-catalogers to know they can, too #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Netanel Ganin

Totally forgot talk about A4 -- I would want to hear from the communities for their terms #CritLib

2 YEARS AGO
DPWaybrarian
@DPWayman

A4-Change is inherent; change for better, what’s "better"? Distrust authority & control? Why accept it from non-cataloger experts? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Rory Litwin
rorylitw@rorylitwin

Best #critlib to date, imho....

2 YEARS AGO

Violet Fox
@violetbfox

#critlib pitch: keep using #critcat for critical cataloging and classification issues! #critcats with an "s" is for your critlib cat pics.

2 YEARS AGO

Coral Sheldon-Hess
weblibrarian@web_librarian

My librarian heart is SO WARM! People are getting FEISTY about metadata! #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

shatomica
shatomi@shatomica

@JessicaLColbert and definitely starts with building good relationships across depts. territorial behavior is a huge obstacle! #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Nimisha Bhat
mishieb@mishiebhat

Y'all, this was a great chat and I feel like we BARELY skimmed the surface! Can't wait for more discussions to follow #critlib

2 YEARS AGO