New work in *Controlled Vocabulary for Rare Materials Cataloging*

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*Fascinating Facets: Recent Developments in Genre and Form Vocabularies*  
*IFLA Subject Analysis and Access (SAA) Section*  
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Presentation overview

- Prejudicial Materials Working Group
  ...a subgroup of the Controlled Vocabularies Editorial Group (CVEG)
  of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS)
  of the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL),
  a Division of the American Library Association (ALA)
- History of the “Prejudicial works” terminology
- New “Prejudicial works” terminology
- Ethical concerns in vocabulary building
- Neutrality (or not) in cataloging
Prejudicial Materials Working Group

Purpose:

1. Review, revise, and generate new terminology useful for indexing works that are prejudicial in nature, or that are the byproduct of prejudicial or outright hateful systems and ideologies

2. Critically review and revise the structure of this area of the vocabulary
Controlled Vocabulary for Rare Materials Cataloging (CVRMC)

- A genre/form vocabulary for special collections
- Hosted at id.loc.gov by the Library of Congress (its Linked Data Service)
RBMS Controlled Vocabularies (begun in 1983)

- Separate thesauri
  1. Binding Terms
  2. Genre Terms
  3. Paper Terms
  4. Printing & Publishing Evidence
  5. Provenance Evidence
  6. Type Evidence

- List of Relationship designators
Genre Terms (1983)

Literature of prejudice
UF Hate literature
Prejudice, Literature of
NT Anti-Catholic literature
Anti-clerical literature
Anti-Masonic literature
Anti-Semitic literature

UF = “used for”
NT = “narrower term”
UF = “used for”
BT = “broader term”
NT = “narrower term”
**Genre Terms (1983)**

- Literature of prejudice
  - UF: Hate literature
  - Prejudice, Literature of
  - NT: Anti-Catholic literature
  - Anti-clerical literature
  - Anti-Masonic literature
  - Anti-Semitic literature

**Genre Terms (1991) 2nd edition**

- Literature of prejudice
  - UF: Hate literature
  - Prejudice, Literature of
  - BT: [Political works]
  - NT: Anti-Catholic literature
  - Anti-clerical literature
  - Anti-communist literature
  - Anti-homosexual literature
  - Anti-immigrant literature
  - Anti-Masonic literature
  - Anti-Semitic literature
  - White supremacist literature
  - Xenophobic literature

**RBMS Controlled Vocabularies (2005-2018)**

- **Literature of prejudice**
  - Scope Note:
    - Use for literature that expresses a negative sentiment toward a particular group of society, especially for reasons based on religion, race, gender, creed, or national origin.
  - Used For:
    - Hate literature
  - Used For:
    - Prejudice, literature of
  - Broader Term:
    - Political works
  - Narrower Term:
    - Anti-Catholic literature
  - Narrower Term:
    - Anti-clerical literature
  - Narrower Term:
    - Anti-communist literature
  - Narrower Term:
    - Anti-homosexual literature
  - Narrower Term:
    - Anti-immigrant literature
  - Narrower Term:
    - Anti-Masonic literature
  - Narrower Term:
    - Anti-Semitic literature
  - Narrower Term:
    - White supremacist literature
  - Narrower Term:
    - Xenophobic literature
Prejudicial works

SN: Use for works that exhibit bias in relation to a particular group or groups of people based on religion, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, ability, creed, national origin, etc. For works that express hatred or advocate harm toward a particular group of people, use: Hate works.

UF: Works of prejudice
BT: Content of work (Gathering term; do not assign)
NT: Anti-Catholic works
   Anti-clerical works
   Anti-communist works
   Anti-immigrant works
   Anti-Masonic works
   Anti-queer works
   Anti-Semitic works
   Fascist works
   Misogynistic works
   Nazi works
   Racist works
   Xenophobic works
RT: Hate works

SN = “scope note”
UF = “used for”
BT = “broader term”
NT = “narrower term”
RT = “related term”
Controlled Vocabulary for Rare Materials Cataloging (2022- )

Prejudicial works

SN: Use for works that exhibit bias in representations of a group or groups of people based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, ability, religion, and origin, etc. For works that express hatred or hostility toward a particular group of people.

UF: Works of prejudice
BT: Content of work (Gathering term; do not assign)
NT: Anti-Catholic works
    Anti-clerical works
    Anti-communist works
    Anti-immigrant works
    Anti-Masonic works
    Anti- queer works
    Anti-Semitism works
    Anti-Semitic works
    Fascist works
    Misogynistic works
    Nazi works
    Racist works
    Xenophobic works
RT: Hate works

Anti-Queer works

SN: Use for works that exhibit hostility toward or bias against sexual or gender minorities. [Provisional term proposed by Controlled Vocabulary Prejudicial Materials Working Group, 6/2021, pending review.]

UF: Anti-LGBTQ works
    Anti-LGBTQ+ works
    Anti-LGBTQIA works

BT: Prejudicial works
NT: Homophobic works
    Transphobic works

Racist works

SN: Use for works that exhibit hostility toward or bias against peoples or cultures racialized as other by the dominant group or culture of a specific place or time. [Provisional term proposed by Controlled Vocabulary Prejudicial Materials Working Group, 6/2021, pending review.]

BT: Prejudicial works
NT: Anti-Asian works
    Anti-Black works
    Anti-Indigenous works
    Anti-Latin American works
    Racist caricatures
    White supremacist works
RT: Anti-Semitic works
    Xenophobic works
Controlled Vocabulary for Rare Materials Cataloging (2022- )

Blackface minstrel songs
SN: Use for songs or collections of songs intended to be performed in Blackface minstrelsy, an entertainment form in white popular culture originating in the United States in the mid-19th century. Blackface minstrelsy is based around stereotypical and racist portrayals of African Americans, including mocking dialect, parodic lyrics, and the application of black face paint.
BT: Anti-Black works
Songs
RT: Blackface minstrel jokes

Blackface minstrel jokes
SN: Use for jokes or collections of jokes intended to be performed in Blackface minstrelsy, an entertainment form in white popular culture originating in the United States in the mid-19th century. Blackface minstrelsy is based around stereotypical and racist portrayals of African Americans, including mocking dialect, parodic lyrics, and the application of black face paint.
BT: Anti-Black works
RT: Blackface minstrel songs
RBMS Controlled Vocabularies: Genre Terms

Alphabetical List | Hierarchical List

<< Promptbooks | Propaganda | Hierarchical View | Prospectuses >>

Back to: "P"

Propaganda

Broader Term
Political works

Narrower Term
Anti-abolition literature

Narrower Term
Anti-slave trade literature

Narrower Term
Antislavery literature
Propaganda

Use for materials created or disseminated by a person, organization, or government with the intent to manipulate or control public opinion in support of a specific agenda (political, social, economic, religious, etc.), often through the presentation of biased or misleading information.

This term is in beta testing.
Guidelines for the Construction, Format, and Management of Monolingual Controlled Vocabularies

Abstract: This Standard presents guidelines and conventions for the contents, display, construction, testing, maintenance, and management of monolingual controlled vocabularies. This Standard focuses on controlled vocabularies that are used for the representation of content objects in knowledge organization systems including lists, synonym rings, taxonomies, and thesauri. This Standard should be regarded as a set of recommendations based on preferred techniques and procedures. Optional procedures are, however, sometimes described, e.g., for the display of terms in a controlled vocabulary. The primary purpose of vocabulary control is to achieve consistency in the description of content objects and to facilitate retrieval. Vocabulary control is accomplished by three principal methods: defining the scope, or meaning, of terms; using the equivalence relationship to link synonymous and nearly synonymous terms; and distinguishing among homographs.
“Warrant” for a “concept” or “preferred term” in Z39.19

1. Literary warrant
   “Justification ... because of its frequent occurrence in the literature”

2. Organizational warrant
   “Justification ... due to characteristics and context of the organization”

3. User warrant
   “Justification ... because of frequent requests for information on the concept or free-text searches on the term by users of an information storage and retrieval system.”
Literary Warrant, Privilege, and Language of the Oppressor

Who has access to publishing?

Who is in a position to publish?
What are their interests?

Who has time and support necessary
to write a book, or scholarly article?

Who is in a position to have their work
seriously considered by publishers?

Who is in control of the
vocabulary of “the news”?

Who is heard and considered if they object
to the way they are being described?

Who is in control of naming and what are their interests?
Prejudicial Materials Terminology: Purpose and Effect

- Facilitate the study of oppression
- Mitigate further harm or misunderstanding
- Serve as content warning
- Avoid contributing to harm
- Avoid masking harm

... but what about “neutrality”?
“Neutrality” and the role of the cataloger is changing

“... role of the cataloger is to let an item self-represent, to describe it neutrally, and not label it in a way that might lead to the equivalent of a Wikipedia editing war on the [WorldCat] record”

“... role of the *cataloger* is to make a resource discoverable and the role of a *scholar* is to interpret [and] to contextualize the resource”

“... catalogers and their descriptions of resources intersect with reference librarians and their role in information literacy”

Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) Technical Services Discussion Group, January 2017
“Neutrality” and cataloging today

Neutrality...

... depends on your point of view

... does not always serve description and access

... is possibly invoked because of discomfort

... allows the privileged to do nothing
### Genre terms

- Anti-Asian works
  - narrower term: Anti-Chinese works
  - narrower term: Anti-Indian works
  - narrower term: Anti-Japanese works
  - narrower term: Anti-Pakistani works
- Anti-Black works
- Anti-Indigenous works
- Anti-Latin American works
  - narrower term: Anti-Mexican works
- Anti-queer works
- Bills of sale for enslaved persons
- Colonialist works

### Relationship designators
- enslaver
- enslaved person

- Fascist works
- Freedom documents
- Hate works
- Leases for the rental of enslaved persons
- Manumission documents
- Misogynistic works
- Nazi works
- Racist works
- Transphobic works
Prejudicial Materials Working Group

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