

Preface : 1993

It's frankly tempting, some 21 years later, to gloat over the many recommendations that have become reality. JEWISH QUESTION and YELLOW PERIL were both abolished, while RACE RELATIONS and AFRO-AMERICANS rightly replaced RACE QUESTION and NEGROES. The Library of Congress (LC) properly dropped "rogues and vagabonds" as a "see also" reference to GYPSIES, and likewise deleted the prejudicial link from "Sexual perversion" to HOMOSEXUALITY and LESBIANISM. Similarly, LC compacted dozens of WOMEN AS . . . forms—WOMEN AS ACCOUNTANTS for instance becoming simply and nonjudgmentally WOMEN ACCOUNTANTS. And CHILD REARING eventually supplanted the ageist heading CHILDREN—MANAGEMENT.

But these changes, however welcome, are no cause for gloating. It took 13 years for LC to scrap JEWISH QUESTION and 18 to eliminate YELLOW PERIL, hardly examples of swift response and profound sensitivity. GYPSIES, it's true, are no longer tarred as "rogues and vagabonds," but neither are they called by their own, self-preferred name: ROMANIES (or ROMA), and no heading yet denotes their experience during the Third Reich, which directly parallels what happened to Jews. Christocentrism continues to permeate the LC scheme, and most "Primitive" forms persist, despite the fact that anthropologists have renounced the term as unhelpful and "loaded," and an American Library Association committee in 1983 made specific, sensible suggestions for either cancelling or replacing nearly every "Primitive" descriptor. "Oriental" headings still abound, even though what's usually being represented is really "Asian," and the very word, "Orient," seems to be in disfavor among Asian-Americans.

Even more importantly, the original “tract” just didn’t go far enough. It should have been at least three times longer, examining not only biased subject headings (including many more inauthentic ethnonyms and scores of slanted, sometimes defamatory, forms concerning seniors, disabled persons, sexual minorities, women, and poor people), but also LC’s monumental

- failure to promptly create and begin using headings for people-related topics actually appearing in books and other media;
- failure to helpfully assign headings that are already available: i.e., undercataloging a given work or rendering important aspects of it invisible; and
- failure to compose “public notes” that clarify the scope and meaning of new or unusual topics, perhaps like these done at Hennepin County Library (Minnesota):

SAND CREEK MASSACRE, 1864.

Here are entered materials on the November 29, 1864, massacre of Cheyenne Indians at Sand Creek, Colorado, by United States troops commanded by Colonel John Chivington.

HATE CRIMES.

Here are entered materials on “criminal acts that target individuals or groups because of the victim’s sex, race, color, religion, sexual orientation, disability, age or national origin.” Such “terrorizing and often violent acts include arson, bombings of homes and businesses, cross burnings, vandalism (like swastika drawings), personal assaults, harassing or obscene phone calls and threatening letters or packages.”

ZOUK MUSIC.

Here is entered Caribbean dance music blending West Indian chants, African rhythms, and Western pop.

So this preface concludes not with smugness nor self-satisfaction, but rather with an invitation, a challenge, to help finish the work started in 1971 by copying, signing, circulating, and mailing these petitions:

TO: Chief, Cataloging Policy and Support Office, The Library of Congress, Washington DC 20540

WE, the undersigned, urge the Library of Congress to speedily create and assign the following subject headings for women-related materials:

AFRO-AMERICAN FEMINISM	FEMINIST FICTION	NONSEXIST LITURGY
ANARCHA-FEMINISM	FEMINIST HUMOR	NONSEXIST PARENTING
ANTIFEMINISTS	FEMINIST PERIODICALS	NONSEXIST TEENAGE LITERATURE
ANTIPORNOGRAPHY MOVEMENT	FEMINIST SONGS	NONSEXIST WRITING GUIDELINES
ARRANGED MARRIAGE	FEMINIST SPIRITUALITY	PARENTAL NOTIFICATION LAWS
BIOLOGICAL DETERMINISM	GAY MEN'S WIVES	RADICAL FEMINISM
CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT	GYNOCIDE	SEX TOURISM
CHRISTIAN FEMINISM	JEWISH LESBIANS	SEXUAL SLAVERY
FAMILY PLANNING	LESBIAN AUTHORS	SOCIALIST FEMINISM
FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES	LESBIAN BATTERING	VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
FEMINIST ART	LESBIAN FEMINISM	WOMEN-FRIENDSHIP
FEMINIST COLLECTIVES	LESBIAN SEPARATISM	WOMEN TROUBADOURS
FEMINIST DRAMA	LESBIAN TEENAGERS	WOMEN'S BOOKSTORES
FEMINIST ESSAYS	LESBIANS—COMING OUT	WOMEN'S MOVEMENT
FEMINIST ETHICS	LOOKSISM	WOMEN'S MUSIC
FEMINIST FAIRY TALES	NONSEXIST CHILDREN'S LITERATURE	WOMEN'S POWER

*Name

*Position

*Library/School/Organization

*Address

*Date

TO: Chief, Cataloging Policy and Support Office, The Library of Congress, Washington DC 20540

WE, the undersigned, urge the Library of Congress to (a) change the present heading HOLOCAUST, JEWISH (1939-1945) to HOLOCAUST, JEWISH (1933-1945), thus making the Holocaust coincide with the Third Reich instead of appearing to be merely a byproduct of World War II; (b) replace NATIONAL SOCIALISM and NATIONAL SOCIALISTS with the more familiar and commonly-used forms, NAZISM and NAZIS; (c) convert FALASHAS, ESKIMOS, and GYPSIES to these people's self-preferred, authentic names: BETA ISRAEL, INUIT, and ROMANIES (or ROMA); (d) fully implement recommendations made in 1983 by the American Library Association's Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Concepts Denoted by the Term "Primitive" (for details, see *Technical Services Quarterly*, v. 2, nos. 1/2, Fall/Winter 1984, p. 121-53); (e) eliminate "Christian primacy" in all religion-related headings; e.g., assign to works on the Christian deity a new form, GOD (CHRISTIANITY), instead of the unmodified and therefore preeminent GOD; (f) substitute HANSEN'S DISEASE and HANSEN'S DISEASE PATIENTS, both terms sanctioned by the U.S. Public Health Service, for the stigmatizing LEPROSY and LEPPERS; (g) abandon PYGMIES, instead using the names of specific "pygmy" groups; e.g., MBUTTI (AFRICAN PEOPLE); and (h) establish and assign these warranted and essential headings:

AFROCENTRIC EDUCATION	INTERACIAL FRIENDSHIP	NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS
AFROCENTRIC HISTORIOGRAPHY	JEWS, SPANISH - HISTORY - EXPULSION,	PANDAV APPLIQUE
AMISTAD REBELLION, 1839	1492	PALESTINIAN STATE (PROPOSED)
ANTI-ARABISM	MAKOSSA MUSIC	POWPOWS
ANTI-SEMITES	MBAONGA MUSIC	RACISM IN BIOLOGY
ANTISEMITISM IN CHRISTIANITY	MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION	RACISM IN CAPITAL PUNISHMENT
ANTISEMITISM IN THE ARMED FORCES	MULTIETHNIC NEIGHBORHOODS	RACISM IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
ARPLERAS	MUSLIMS - SPAIN - HISTORY - EXPULSION,	RACISM IN CHRISTIANITY
BLACK-ON-BLACK CRIME	1502	RACISM IN EMPLOYMENT
CULTURAL IMPERIALISM	NATIONALITY POLICY	RACISM IN HOUSING
DISABILITY RIGHTS MOVEMENT	NATIVE AMERICAN HOLOCAUST (1492-1900)	RACISM IN LAW
DREADLOCKS	NAZI COLLABORATORS	RED POWER
ETHNIC POLICY	NAZI FUGITIVES	SKINHEADS
ETHNOCENTRISM IN CHILDREN'S	NAZI HUNTERS	SOKA MUSIC
LITERATURE	NEOCOLONIALISM	SOKOUS (MUSIC)
ETHNOCID	NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER	TEK-MEX MUSIC
FOOD AS A WEAPON	NEW WORLD INFORMATION ORDER	THIRD WORLD SUPPORT GROUPS
HATE GROUPS	NONALIGNED MOVEMENT	VIOLENCE AGAINST GAY MEN & LESBIANS
HOLOCAUST, ROMANI (1933-1945)	NONRACIST CHILDREN'S LITERATURE	VIOLENCE AGAINST MINORITIES

For further reading:

- "Access/Equity," *The Joy of Cataloging: Essays, Letters, Reviews, and Other Explosions* (Oryx Press, 1981), p. 61-155.
- "Cataloging Tools and 'Copy': The Myth of Acceptability—A Public Librarian's Viewpoint," *Cataloging Heresy: Challenging the Standard Bibliographic Product* (Learned Information, 1992), p. 31-6.
- "Compare and Contrast, or, The Unexamined Cataloguing Record Isn't Worth Inputting," *Alternative Library Literature, 1988/1989* (McFarland, 1990), p. 173-81.
- "The 'Fucking' Truth About Library Catalogs," *Progressive Librarian*, no. 5 (Summer 1992), p. 19-25.
- "Politics of Cataloging," *National Librarian*, August 1990, p. 2-7.
- Subject Cataloging: Critiques and Innovations* (Haworth Press, 1984), especially "Two Changed Headings: Documentation" (p. 155-65), "Out of the Kitchen—But Not into the Catalog" (p. 167-71), and "Beyond the Pale: Subject Access to Judaica" (p. 173-89).
- "Things Are Seldom What They Seem: Finding Multicultural Materials in Library Catalogs," *Alternative Library Literature, 1990/1991* (McFarland, 1992), p. 132-36.
- "Tips on Cataloging and Classification for Library Users: A Generic Hand-out," *Public Image*, v. 3, no. 1 (Oct. 1990), p. 1-3.
- Worth Noting: Editorials, Letters, Essays, an Interview, and Bibliography* (McFarland, 1988), especially "Herrenvolk Language" (p. 3-8), "Fiction Access" (p. 9-20), "Where Have All the Moonies Gone?" (p. 23-31), and "The Terrible Truth About Teenlit Cataloging" (p. 38-50).

Sandy Berman

Edina, Minnesota, January 1993