

To: Program for Cooperative Cataloging, PCC Advisory Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Prepared by: Katherine Witzig & Brandon Castle, co-chairs

Preliminary Report

PCC Task Group for Metadata Related to Indigenous Peoples of the Americas

Summary

The Task Group for Metadata Related to Indigenous Peoples of the Americas has accomplished several preliminary activities identified by the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) Advisory Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, approved by the PCC Policy Committee. Thus far, the task group has identified vocabularies to describe Indigenous groups and topics as alternatives to the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) and has identified both national and international groups that are working with library metadata related to Indigenous peoples.

Our group has accomplished these tasks through the formation of five subgroups which correspond to the charge. Each Task Group participant has been assigned to a subgroup addressing specific points of the charge, including (1) identify and evaluate vocabularies and advising LC in terminology changes, (2) identifying groups doing metadata work while finding opportunities for collaboration, (3) creating a statement acknowledge harm of traditional PCC standards and identifying Indigenous scripts available in UNICODE, (4) creating a report on proposed revisions to LC Classification for E75 - E99, and (5) creating a statement encouraging reparative practices in metadata.

The Task Group has created a working Google Drive folder which includes all communications, shared documents, and meeting note summaries. Beginning in July 2023, the Task Group has met synchronously a total of five times in 2023 on the following dates: July 6th, August 30th, October 3rd, November 14th, and December 12th. In 2024, our group met twice, on January 18th and February 29th. Across the meetings from 2023 to 2024, the task group met to discuss the following items:

- PCC Resources and the LC Interim Guidelines for subject headings for Indigenous Peoples
- Creation of five subgroups and subgroup assignments
- Scheduling subgroup meetings and round-robin reports to broader Task Group
- Creation of combined survey, distributed between February 19th and March 15th, 2024

Subgroup Activities

Subgroup 1: Identifying alternative vocabularies, advising LC

Members: Kaia MacLeod, Amy Tims

Subgroup 1 was charged with identifying and evaluating vocabularies to describe Indigenous groups and topics and with advising and supporting LC in its project to revise Indigenous terminology. They looked at and evaluated all of the alternative vocabularies they and other Task Group members identified, including published, unpublished, and in-progress vocabularies; vocabularies that are not publicly available are listed in their document. They note that the identification of non-LCSH terms varies slightly across these lists, and although local mapping may change, it is of note that several terms are agreed upon across organizations. For the second part of their charge, they look forward to working with the Program Specialist (Indigenous Peoples).

Subgroup 2: Identifying groups doing metadata work, avenues for collaboration

Members: Susanne Brilliant, Brandon Castle, Margarita Perez

Subgroup 2 was tasked to identify groups working on metadata and find avenues for collaboration. Our group initially decided to create a survey on metadata projects and examples related to Indigenous Peoples and collect any documentation of those projects or examples. We started a list of organizations and associations to distribute the survey to. Our survey was then included in the combined survey that our broader Task Group created.

Subgroup 3: Creating statement acknowledging harm of traditional PCC standards; identifying Indigenous scripts in UNICODE, major library systems able to handle those scripts

Members: River Freemont, Devon Murphy, Michael Scott

Subgroup 3 was tasked with creating a statement that acknowledges harm incurred by traditional PCC standards, as well as identifying Indigenous scripts available in UNICODE and reporting on what major library systems can handle those scripts. The subgroup split these tasks amongst the three members.

For the first charge, one member began a literature review of materials related to barriers to participation in the PCC. They also drafted and distributed survey questions regarding barriers and challenges, as part of the larger survey from all subgroups.

For the latter tasks, two members worked on the larger, combined survey to identify Indigenous scripts using UNICODE format and what institutions have implemented them (or barriers/challenges to implementation.) Preliminary results from the survey were analyzed. One member also conducted a small literature review on existing Indigenous scripts using UNICODE.

Subgroup 4: Creating report on proposed revisions to LC Classification E75-E99

Members: Allison Bailund, Cleire Lauron

Subgroup 4 was tasked with creating a report on proposed revisions to LC Classification E75-E99. The subgroup drafted questions for a survey on some of the problems surrounding the current classification scheme for Indigenous peoples which were combined into a group wide survey. They reviewed literature related to classification and have begun to look at the E class in detail by creating an E class spreadsheet. Initial thoughts include that classification should match other ethnic groups and nationalities. The current historicization separates Indigenous peoples. As subject headings for Nations change, the classification should also be updated for both the Nation and the language (if applicable).

Subgroup 5: Creating statement to encourage reparative metadata practices

Members: Katherine Witzig, Brian Stearns

Subgroup 5 was tasked with creating a statement encouraging reparative practices in metadata. The initial step was to create an outline for the statement's content in order to identify priorities for inclusion and gaps in research to support the statement. Currently, subgroup members are engaging in research to create a more robust and contextually-informed statement. The statement will also include elements from other subgroups' work in order to create a cohesive recommendation statement.

Indigenous Peoples of the Americas Metadata Survey:

The Task Group has created and distributed a Google Form survey, distributed between February 19th and March 15th, 2024 to the following US, Canada, and other international networks:

United States:

- American Library Association (ALA)
- ALA: Association for Library Collections & Technical Services
- American Indian Library Association (AILA)
- American Association of Law Libraries (AALL)
- Association for Linguistic Typology (ALT)
- Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM)
- Native American Archives Section of Society of American Archivists (SAA)
- Native American Collections Roundtable of Northwest Archivists (NACR-NWA)
- Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC)
- Society of American Archivists (SAA): Description Section
- Subject Authority Cooperative Program (SACO): Latin American and Indigenous Peoples of the Americas Funnel (LAIPA)

Canada:

- British Columbia Library Association (BCLA)
- Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians (CAPAL/ACBES)
- Canadian Federation of Library Association - Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB)
- Fédération des milieux documentaires (FMD)
- National Indigenous Knowledge and Language Alliance - Alliance nationale des connaissances et des langues autochtones (NIKLA-ANCLA)
- Ontario Library Association (OLA)
- Quebec Library Association - Association des bibliothécaires du Québec

International:

- Decolonization of Arctic Library and Archives Metadata (DALAM Network)
- Digital Endangered Languages and Musics Network (DELAMAN)
- International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA): Subject Analysis and Access Section (SAA)
- Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM)

Survey link: <https://forms.gle/iExuzVFq7hQJMcC76>

The survey is organized into the following sections: Institutional information, UNICODE and Indigenous scripts, classification problems and local solutions, projects and initiatives related to metadata on Indigenous Peoples, and participation in PCC. The survey will remain open for responses until June 2024 (specific date TBD).

Preliminary Recommendations

There are no recommendations at this time. The Task Group will make recommendations once the survey results have been analyzed and summarized.

Action Items for Consideration

In consideration of action items, the main priority in preparation for the final report will be to analyze the Google Form survey results for each section, follow up with requests for additional information from survey respondents, and identify possible avenues for collaboration.

Guidance Required

As the Task Group continues to identify and network with professionals within the United States, Canada, and other international groups, we are interested in establishing avenues for collaboration and guidance on how to facilitate this collaboration within the Task Group in a productive, meaningful way.

Additionally, the Task Group has discussed making recommendations and reports without the inaugural LC Program Specialist - Indigenous Peoples and has decided to proceed in order to complete these tasks by the original due date of September 15th, 2024. However, if it is possible to push the final report date back, it might be worthwhile to try and incorporate an onboarded LC contributor.