



The African American Subject Funnel Project

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A Brief History of SACO

- Key terms:
 - PCC: Program for Cooperative Cataloging - parent organization over SACO
 - SACO: Subject Authority Cooperative Program
 - SACO Funnel: Group of catalogers from institutions around the world who contribute to enhancing and improving LCSH
- 1970s: PCC conceived
- 1994: PCC established as a formal organization for libraries to contribute to facilitating increased availability of acceptable-quality records.
- 1995: SACO (and funnels) established as part of PCC for institutions to contribute headings to LCSH and other LC vocabularies

History of the Funnel

- 1999: Funnel conceived by Dorothy Washington of AFAS
- 2000: Funnel officially started
 - Focused on establishing terminology that reflects the African American experience
 - Early additions to LCSH included changing “Afro-Americans” to “African Americans” and new terms “African Americans--Reparations,” and “African American social reformers”
- 2016: AFAS changed to AASLIG
- 2017: Funnel reorganized and grown by Dr. Gemmicka Piper
- 2019: Current Co-Chairs became involved as members

Current work of the Funnel

- Members include catalogers, subject specialists, and others with an interest in this work
- Work collaboratively on proposals
- Outreach through current members' diverse affiliations
- Training for non-catalogers to contribute to proposal work
- Developing workflows for regular proposal work
- Advocate to the Library of Congress for improvements to LCSH

SACO Process

1. Funnel member(s) writes up the proposal
2. Member adds proposal to ClassWeb and notifies SACO
3. LC adds proposal to the monthly Tentative List
4. LC publishes Summary of Decisions

 ClassWeb

LIBRARY of CONGRESS

LC Subject Heading Proposal Menu

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT HEADINGS
TENTATIVE MONTHLY LIST 06 (June 18, 2021)

The proposed headings on this list are NOT YET APPROVED and not yet available for use in current cataloging.

Send all comments on this list to Libby Dechman, Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division - Email: edec@loc.gov

"(A)" indicates pre-approved proposals for material in Priority 1. "(C)" indicates proposals submitted by libraries in the Subject Authority Cooperative Program (SACO).

Summary of Decisions, Editorial Meeting Number 2104

Programs of the PCC:

BIBCO

CONSER

NACO

SACO

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April 19, 2021

PSD policy specialist responsible for this list: J. Young

Types of proposals

- New concepts not in LCSH
 - Black wall streets
 - Sundown towns
- Improvements to established vocabulary
 - Change “Blacks” to “Black people”
 - Change “Slaves” to “Enslaved persons”

Successes: New headings added

- Blackface
- Digital blackface
- Yellowface
- Jewface
- Redface
- Brownface
- Black wall streets
- Afrofuturist fiction
- Sundown towns
- Ax Handle Saturday, Jacksonville, Fla., 1960
- Night riders
- Night riding

Challenges

- LCSH is an old vocabulary (begun in 1898)
- Terms are interconnected and can't be easily updated
- The Library of Congress retains control of LCSH (and can be resistant to change)

Case study: Jim Crow laws

Current subject headings:

African Americans--Legal status, laws, etc.

African Americans--Segregation.

Segregation--Law and legislation.

Proposed subject heading:

Jim Crow laws.

Case study: Jim Crow laws

Library of Congress response:

“... it would be better to assign all works about segregationist laws the same headings, regardless of the time period.”

Case study: White fragility

Current subject headings:

Racism.

Whites--Psychology.

Fragility (Psychology)

Proposed subject heading:

White fragility.

Case study: White fragility

Library of Congress response:

“LCSH does not include any headings that ascribe an emotion or personality trait to a specific ethnic group or race, and the meeting does not want to begin the practice.”

Case study: Racism

Current scope note:

“... Works on racism directed against a particular group are entered under the name of the group with subdivision Social conditions, or similar subdivision, e.g. Civil rights ...”

Proposed scope note:

“... For works on racism directed against a particular group, an additional heading is assigned for the name of the group with subdivision Social conditions, or similar subdivision, e.g. Civil rights ...”

Case study: Racism

Library of Congress response:

“If this change were approved, general works about racism would be mixed with [works] about racism toward specific groups ... That said, the headings used for racism against specific groups are probably **not intuitive** to users, who may find it difficult to find the works that interest them. Therefore, the meeting would be willing to consider well-formulated proposals for headings in the form **Racism against [ethnic group]**.”

Challenges: Inclusive language vs. LCSH patterns or established usage

“Racism against Blacks” vs. “Racism against Black people”

“Slave hiring” vs. “Leasing of enslaved labor”

How you can get involved

- Email us with ideas or if you want to join
- Tell interested colleagues about the Funnel
- More information at <https://tinyurl.com/afamfunnel>

Thank you!

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