

Building Community Through the Indigenous Metadata Working Group

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Agenda

- Introduction
 - Background of the group
 - Poll everywhere activity
 - Our objectives for this session
- Community building
- Resources



INTRODUCTION



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Introduction

Maria





Jordan



The Indigenous Metadata Working Group (IMWG)

- Established February 2021
- Fluctuates around 20 members with various job roles
- Grew out of an Indigenous matters book club and other past initiatives





Are you working on projects that aim to improve access to material that relate to Indigenous peoples and/or other marginalized groups and knowledges in your collections?

Yes

No

No, but there is interest.

What barriers or challenges have you encountered when working on these projects?

Our objectives for this session

- Share reflections on the progress of our goals
 - Be transparent about the discomfort that can come with participating in EDI initiatives
- Connect with others who are doing similar work
- Share resources that IMWG has benefitted from/used in our current projects



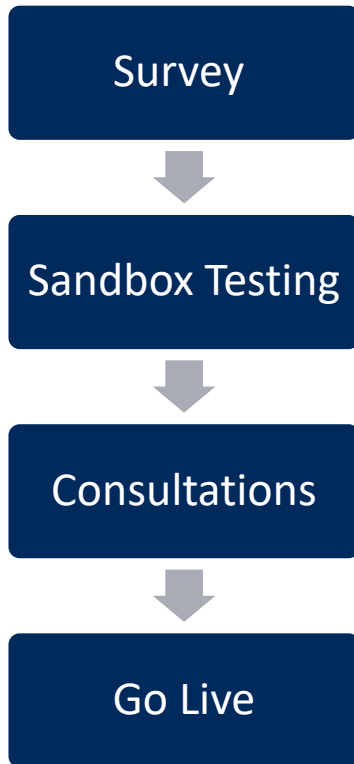
Progress of Goals

- IMWG Terms of Reference and Goals
 - "Use normalization rules to change the display of problematic or offensive subject headings in order to support researchers using preferred terminology in their searches."
- Two projects were started to support this goal
 - Subject heading masking
 - Statement on harmful language

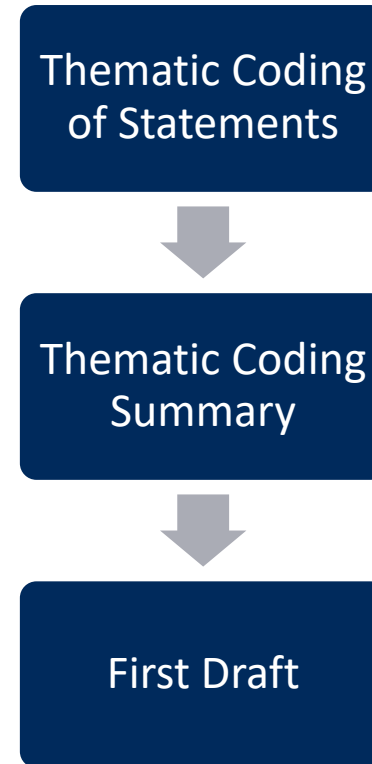


Steps Taken

Subject heading masking



Statement on harmful language



Challenges

- Mixed perspectives stemming from different library-related roles
 - Both a challenge and a strength
- Maintaining momentum
 - The work is (mostly) not in people's job descriptions, so time commitments fluctuate and rely on supervisor consent
- Fear of making mistakes
 - Doing or saying the "wrong thing"



COMMUNITY BUILDING



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How did we build community?

- Early initiatives to build trust and knowledge
- Developing Indigenous cultural competency as a group
- Incorporating member feedback into goals
- Being open to flexible participation and engagement



Early Initiatives

- Introductory meeting
- Indigenous Canada MOOC



Developing Cultural Competency

- Sharing learning opportunities (e.g., workshops) and resources (e.g., articles)
 - Listserv
 - Teams Channels/Chats
- Learning circles

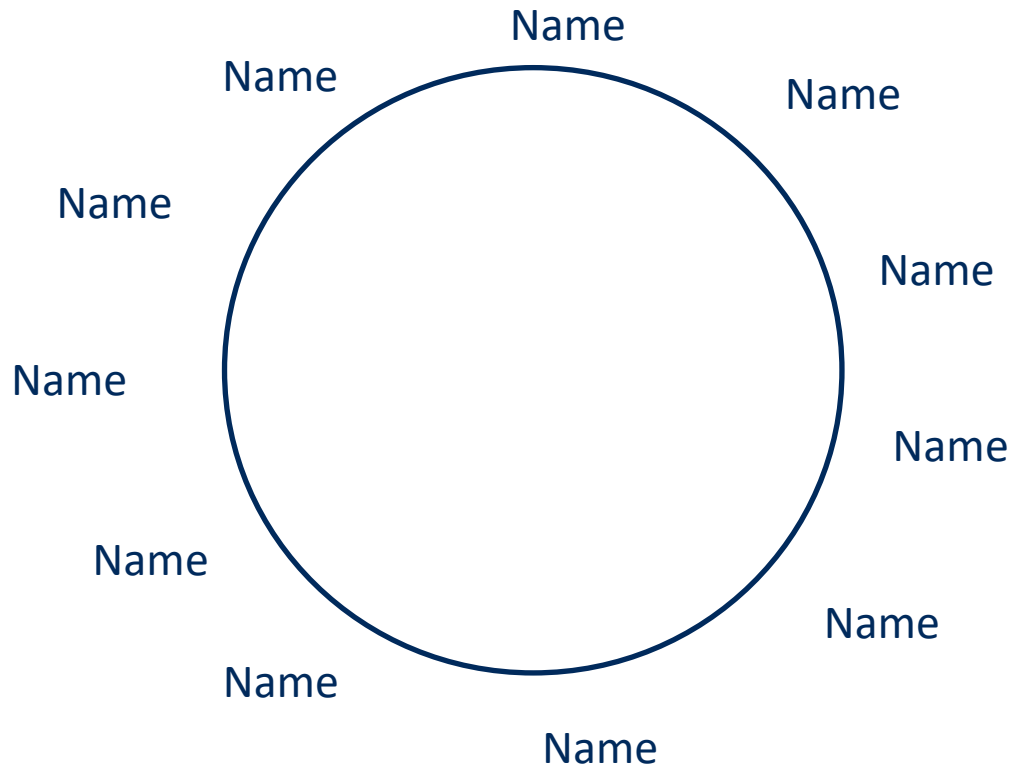


Learning Circles

- Format
- Reading choices
- Feedback from the group



Talking Circle Slide



Member Feedback

- Reaching out to members and asking what they want to achieve through this group
 - Using member feedback to determine the direction of future projects



Flexible Participation and Engagement

- Being open to different ways of participation and engagement
 - Encouraging use of IMWG as a resource



RESOURCES



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Project

- Subject Heading Masking
 - Go Live documentation
 - includes scripts, technical checklist, guide to searching, and limitations
- Statement on Harmful Language
 - Summary of Thematic Coding of Bias Statements in Library and Archives Catalogues



We owe a great debt to other libraries and groups who have done similar work, and we're especially grateful for the documentation shared by:

- [University of Manitoba - LCSH Changes in MAIN](#)
- [CRKN - Interim Indigenous Subject Headings](#)
- [SACO Summary of Decisions, editorial meeting number 2110 - Enslaved persons](#)
 - This change was approved and announced in March 2022 ([Summary of Decisions, editorial meeting number 2203](#))
- [First Nations, Métis, and Inuit – Indigenous Ontology \(FNMIIO\)](#) from NIKLA (currently in draft form)
- [Triangle Research Libraries Network - List of terms currently being overlaid](#)
- [SUNY - List of terms and project steps](#)
- [List of Statements on Bias in Library and Archives Description](#)



Community Building

- Indigenous Canada (MOOC)
- Learning meeting format
 - More information about sharing circles
- Learning meeting readings



Thank you

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