Virtual AskQC Office Hours

Rapid Harm Reduction Through Locally Preferred Subjects in WorldCat Discovery

OCLC Metadata Quality
August 2023
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Enter questions in chat to “Everyone” at any time during the presentation
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After the session, you will be directed to a brief, optional survey
On the call today

Shanna Griffith
Senior Data Analyst

Grace McGann
Associate Product Manager

Laura Ramsey
Senior Metadata Operations Manager

Hayley Moreno
Senior Data Analyst
Rapid Harm Reduction Through Locally Preferred Subjects in WorldCat Discovery

Grace McGann
Associate Product Manager
August 2023

Rapid Harm Reduction Through Locally Preferred Subjects in WorldCat Discovery

Grace McGann, Associate Product Manager
OCLC
Locally preferred subjects in WorldCat Discovery supports libraries’ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts.
What we will cover

• "Reimagine Descriptive Workflows"
  – What it is
  – How it fueled this work

• Locally preferred subjects in WorldCat Discovery
  – How they function
  – User interface

• Directions for future work
"Reimagine Descriptive Workflows"
Reimagine Descriptive Workflows

• The framework presented in this report is in three categories:
  – Organizational shifts
  – Operational workflows
  – Professional and personal development
Applying Learnings/Takeaways

• Convening of library community broader than specific products

• Takeaways from working sessions:
  – **Urgency:** Reduce harm rapidly while more effective solutions develop within the library community and ecosystem
  – **Multiplicity:** Global problems require culturally contextual solutions, not one-size-fits-all solutions
"To remain neutral about these systems is the very opposite of what it means to be a librarian in the twenty-first century."

-Crystal Vaughan in "The Language of Cataloguing: Deconstructing and Decolonizing Systems of Organization in Libraries"
### Libraries as Development Partners

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consult</th>
<th>Adjust</th>
<th>Iterate</th>
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<td>• Libraries have been our key partners in developing the current state of this feature as well as future releases</td>
<td>• The first approach isn't always the right one. We began discussions with libraries in November 2021 and continued into March 2022 as we adjusted our approach based on feedback.</td>
<td>• This feature has had two releases so far in August and October of 2022, with additional functionality on the way. We are continuing to build and grow this feature as libraries adopt it.</td>
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Locally preferred subjects - how they work
Basic Concept

Libraries locally define subjects that reflect the identities, lived experiences, and values of their users to reduce harm in item description.
With this document, libraries can:

- Share their work and collaborate
- Benefit from the contributions of others
- Access/share region-specific re-mappings
Subject mapping types

• Libraries can define:
  – 1:1 subject replacements
    *Homeless people* > people experiencing homelessness
  – Wildcard subject replacements
    *Homeless people* > people experiencing homelessness
    *Homeless people > people experiencing homelessness
    *Homeless people* > people experiencing homelessness
    Homeless people* > people experiencing homelessness
• Libraries upload their local configuration file to implement subject re-mappings in their WorldCat Discovery interface.
WorldCat Discovery user interface
Users see the terms you define

Subject search for “su: homeless persons”

My library has chosen to replace any subjects including “homeless persons” with “people experiencing homelessness”
Item details display replaced subject

Users will see the replaced subject on the item details page. The subject is hotlinked, so they can click to perform a search on that term.
Libraries can customize language to warn users before they see harmful language when a search is performed on an original subject.
Future Work
More granular subject replacement

- Libraries will be able to define the authority source for subject replacements by providing the following information:
  - 6XX field 2nd indicator value
  - 6XX field $2 value (if 2nd indicator was 7)
Library-defined search expansions

- With local search expansions, libraries can:
  - Eliminate the need for this harmful language warning.
  - Ensure users can search library-supported language and bring back all the relevant search results.

User search/hotlinked subject
People experiencing homelessness

Local search expansion
Homeless people
Because what is known must be shared.

Thank you.

Grace McGann
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August 2023
Thank you!

September Virtual AskQC Office Hours
Get Informed about Genre/Form Terms

Tuesday, 12 Sept. at 9:00 AM Eastern
Thursday, 21 Sept. at 4:00 PM Eastern

Registration and session links available at oc.lc/askqc

Send cataloging policy questions at any time to askqc@oclc.org

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