

## INDIAN IN THE METADATA: UNPACKING STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS WITH TERMINOLOGY IN LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT HEADINGS

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Controlled vocabulary subject headings are key to ensuring consistent cataloguing across different institutions. Unfortunately, the language used in controlled vocabularies to describe library materials by and about Indigenous Peoples does not always reflect terms Indigenous Peoples use to describe themselves, leading to tensions in the relationships between students and the library. During the course of my MLIS program I had the opportunity to conduct an exploratory research study which sought to better understand how both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students in the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta related to subject headings that are used to describe Indigenous Peoples. In this presentation, I aim to summarize the process and results of my study and unpack the relationships that students had with particular terms for Indigenous peoples currently used in controlled vocabulary subject headings. Student voices represent a critical missing piece in ongoing efforts to decolonize metadata, and as libraries look to alter their metadata to better support Indigenous users, it is crucial that we as librarians better understand how the terminology we use affects our users.