What is controlled vocabulary?

⇒ A set of authorized terminology
⇒ A consistent way to describe data
⇒ In library cataloging:
  ◆ Subjects
  ◆ Names
  ◆ Series
  ◆ Physical descriptors
Examples of controlled vocabulary

- Library of Congress Authorities
- Library of Congress Genre/Form Terms
- Thesaurus for Graphic Materials (TGM)
- Bilindex
- RDA
Relationships between terms
Controlled vocabulary in the CML Postcard Collection
“Illegal Aliens”

In March 2016 the Library of Congress canceled the subject heading “Illegal aliens” in favor of “Noncitizens” and “Unauthorized immigration”.

“Illegal Aliens”

HR 4926 - Stopping Partisan Policy at the Library of Congress Act
Why?
Doesn’t everyone just keyword search anyway?

One-third of hits would not be retrieved (35.9% of hits would not be found)

Higher number of false hits

Retrieval of relevant records

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