

# Controlled vocabulary in library cataloging & metadata

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# 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

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# Controlled vocabulary in the CML Postcard Collection

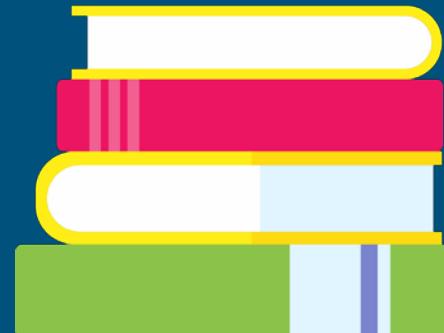
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# “Illegal Aliens”

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

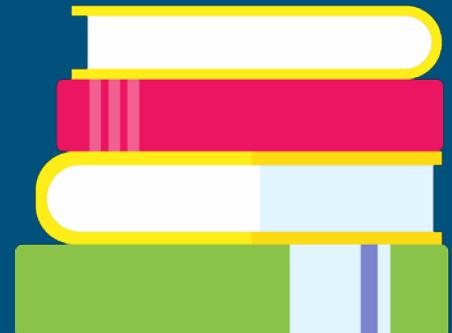




# “Illegal Aliens”

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HR 4926 - Stopping Partisan Policy at the  
Library of Congress Act





# LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AUTHORITIES

Help New Search Search History Headings List Start Over  
◀ Previous Next ▶  
**MARC Display** **Labeled Display**

LC control no.: sh 85003553

LCCN Permalink: <https://lccn.loc.gov/sh85003553>

HEADING: Illegal aliens

000 01001cz a2200337n 450  
001 4656749  
005 20130906055956.0  
008 860211i ananmbabn |a ana  
010 \_\_ |sh 85003553  
035 \_\_ |a (DLC)sh 85003553  
035 \_\_ |a (DLC)5983260  
035 \_\_ |a (DLC)sp 85003553  
035 \_\_ |a (DLC)302085  
035 \_\_ |a (DLC)7168604  
035 \_\_ |a (DLC)358299  
040 \_\_ |a DLC |c DLC |d DLC |d WaU  
150 \_\_ |a Illegal aliens   
450 \_\_ |a Aliens |x Legal status, laws, etc.  
450 \_\_ |w nne |a Aliens, Illegal  
450 \_\_ |a Illegal aliens |x Legal status, laws, etc.  
450 \_\_ |a Illegal immigrants  
450 \_\_ |a Illegal immigration  
450 \_\_ |a Undocumented aliens  
550 \_\_ |w g |a Aliens  
550 \_\_ |a Alien detention centers  
550 \_\_ |a Human smuggling  
670 \_\_ |a Work cat.: 2007017970: Illegal immigration, 2007: |b eCIP data sheet (Illegal immigrants)  
906 \_\_ |t 0721 |u te04 |v 0  
910 \_\_ |a Proposal saved by tc03 on 06/28/2013 at 14:48:21  
953 \_\_ |a xx00 |b ec04  
906 \_\_ |t 1308 |v 0



# Why?

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# Doesn't everyone just keyword search anyway?

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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



SECOND EDITION

The  
*Accidental*  
Taxonomist



Heather Hedden

# Bethany Pierce

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