

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





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





LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AUTHORITIES



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

LC control no.: sh 85003553

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

HEADING: Illegal aliens

000 01001cz a2200337n 450
 001 4656749
 005 20130906055956.0
 008 860211i| anannbaba |a ana
 010 __ |a 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?





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



SECOND EDITION

The
Accidental
Taxonomist



Heather Hedden

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