Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

- The final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) included 94 Calls to Action which were released in 2015.
- These Calls to Action focus on the educational system, as it has contributed to the negative relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.

Libraries, as sites of learning in and of themselves as well as key units within post-secondary institutions, have a responsibility and opportunity to contribute to reconciliation through collaborations and partnerships.

- The Canadian Federation of Library Associations (2016) recognizes this role, and has created a Truth and Reconciliation Committee to “promote initiatives in all types of libraries to advance reconciliation by supporting the TRC Calls to Action and to promote collaboration in these issues across the Canadian library communities” (p. 1).

Library Context

From June, 2017 there are 5,374,506 titles in the UAL database and 5,737,330 titles across NEOS (Networking Edmonton’s Online Systems) including UoA.

- Based on the Manitoba Archival Information Network (MAIN) – LCSH Working Group’s list of identified LCSH headings that could be either deleted or replaced, 62459 records were identified in the UAL’s ILS that had matching LCSH terms.
- From the 62459 UAL records extracted based on the MAIN headings, 9149 unique headings were identified associated with the titles, with the most common headings shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heading</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blackfoot</td>
<td>6914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cree (mainly Plains Cree but some Woods Cree), Chipewyan, Dene, Sarcee and Stoney (Nakoda Sioux), Metis people living throughout the province, including in the Metis Settlements. In Alberta the Indigenous languages spoken by Metis people include Cree and Michif.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Decolonizing Description Working Group

- Fall of 2016, University of Alberta Libraries (UAL) struck a Decolonizing Description Working Group (DDWG) to investigate, define, and propose a plan of action for how we could represent Indigenous peoples and contexts through our descriptive metadata practices.
- DDWG included Metadata and Cataloguing Coordinators, Public Service Librarians, UAL’s coordinator of Indigenous initiatives and an Indigenous intern (MLIS student).
- A literature review sought out publications or presentations describing practical implementations.
- An environmental scan was aimed at discovering similar initiatives proposed or under way in institutions throughout Canada, and to seek opportunities for collaborations and partnerships.
- An analysis of metadata from the ILS and local digital/digitized collections was used to estimate the scope of work required to enhance existing metadata, and to revise workflows for metadata yet to be created.

Key Recommendations

1. Cooperatively develop and incorporate revised subject headings that more accurately, appropriately, and respectfully represent Indigenous peoples and contexts, and which can be seen as a model for change and widely implemented.
2. That UAL take the lead on working with Indigenous communities and partners to develop revised subject headings reflective of the Alberta and appropriate Northern contexts.
3. UAL engage an individual to coordinate and conduct consultation and outreach which is groundwork critical to the success of moving forward with this project. This outreach must occur before developing or applying new subject headings.
4. UAL retroactively apply revised subject headings to appropriate library resources including all categories covered. Going forward, the same approved subject headings will be applied to new content added to our library resources, whether done by UAL staff or our cataloguing vendors.

References

Keywords: metadata, cataloguing, decolonization, LIS practice, diversity of description, inclusive description, information ethics

References for this poster can be found here: http://bit.ly/2xK9KcU