

# Making Meaning Together: Decolonizing Descriptions in Local Digitized Collections

*Sharon Farnel, Metadata Coordinator  
University of Alberta Libraries*

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*The University of Alberta Libraries is committed to cooperatively developing and incorporating more accurate, appropriate, and respectful subject headings into the cataloguing records within the ILS, and into the metadata applied to the institutional repository, archives, and **locally digitized collections.***

UAL Decolonizing Description Working Group Final Report.  
<http://bit.ly/2wvArQh>



Photo: Andy Grabia



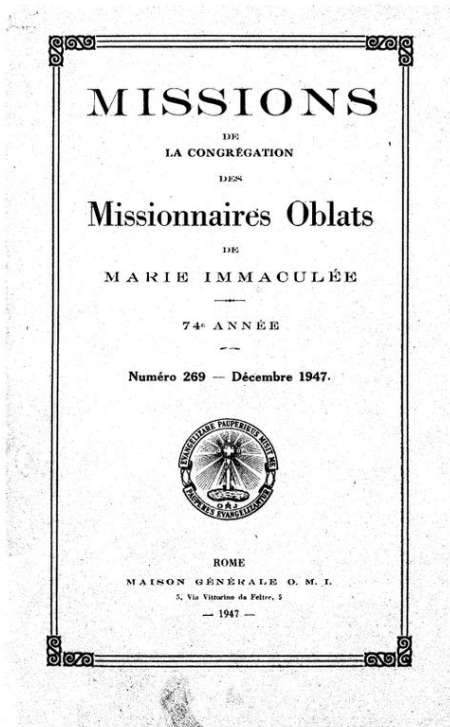
## ***Peel's Prairie Provinces***

- *western Canadian history and the culture of the Canadian prairies*
- *images, texts, maps, newspapers*

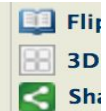
<http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/index.html>

*“uplifting the whole people”*

— HENRY MARSHALL TORY, FOUNDING PRESIDENT, 1908



## Peel 9833



**Scannell, Joseph (1877-1966); Oblates of Mary Immaculate; Hall, W.A. "Report from St. Peter's Province Canada (1938-1947)".** *Missions de la Congrégation des missionnaires oblats de Marie Immaculée* (Rome: Maison Générale O.M.I) no.269 (Dec 1947), pp. 488-520.

**Physical description:** 22 cm.

**Language:** English

**Subject headings:**

- **Church colleges**
- **Indians of North America--Missions**
- **Missions--History**
- **Employees**
- **Off-reservation boarding schools**

## Manitoba Archival Information Network - Library of Congress Subject Heading (MAIN-LCSH) Working Group

The MAIN-LCSH Working Group was struck in 2013 for the purpose of devising and implementing a strategy to replace Library of Congress Subject Headings in the Manitoba Archival Information Network that are considered culturally insensitive, specifically those terms pertaining to Manitoba's Indigenous Peoples, with terms that more accurately reflect the identity of Manitoba's Indigenous Peoples. The MAIN-LCSH Working Group is partnership between members of Manitoba's archival and library communities, and once it has completed its work it will be dissolved.

Current LCSH	Change to... OR delete
Indians of North America--Alabama--Antiquities	Indigenous peoples--Alabama--Antiquities
Indians of North America--Alaska	Indigenous peoples--Alaska
Indians of North America--Alaska--Antiquities	Indigenous peoples--Alaska--Antiquities
Indians of North America--Alaska--Languages	Indigenous peoples--Alaska--Languages
Indians of North America--Alberta	Indigenous peoples--Alberta
Indians of North America--Alberta--Antiquities	Indigenous peoples--Alberta--Antiquities
Indians of North America--Alcohol use	Indigenous peoples--Alcohol use--North America
Indians of North America--Alcohol use--Law and legislation	Indigenous peoples--Alcohol use--Law and legislation--North America
Indians of North America--Anecdotes	Indigenous peoples--North America--Anecdotes

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- **Comparing the MAIN LCSH headings with Peel**
  - approx. 5,000 records identified
  - most common terms: Indians of North America (and variations), Off-reservation boarding schools, Indian women, Indian children, Cree Indians, Athapascan Indians, Chipewyan Indians
- **Other vocabularies in use in Peel will need to be examined**

## Challenges ...

- Multiple vocabularies
- Less integration with other systems

## And opportunities ...

- Less integration with other systems
- Smaller collection, more hands-on
- Infrastructure enables contextualized review, feedback, and revision



*“One task of decolonization is to replace the sameness of universality with the concepts of diversity, complementarities, flexibility, and equity or fundamental fairness”*

Henderson, J. Y. (2000). *Ayukpachi*: Empowering Aboriginal thought. In M. Battiste (ed.), *Reclaiming Indigenous Voice and Vision* (248-278). Vancouver, British Columbia: UBC Press.

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# Thank You!

[sharon.farnel@ualberta.ca](mailto:sharon.farnel@ualberta.ca)