

# **Decolonizing Description at UAL**

**Debbie Feisst**

**Indigenizing Instruction      March 15, 2017**

# The Role of the Decolonizing Description Working Group

*to investigate, define and  
propose a plan of action  
for how UAL can more  
accurately, appropriately,  
and respectfully  
represent Indigenous  
peoples and contexts  
through our descriptive  
\_\_\_\_\_ metadata practices.*

# **Meet the Decolonizing Description Working Group**

# UAL Decolonizing Description Working Group

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**Sharon Farnel**

Metadata Coordinator

**Anne Carr-Wiggin**

NEOS Manager/Indigenous  
Initiatives

**Kayla Lar-Son**

Indigenous Intern

**Ian Bigelow**

Cataloguing Coordinator

**Denise Koufogiannakis**

AUL, Bibliographic Services,  
Collection Strategies, Access  
Services

**Debbie Feisst**

Public Services Librarian

# Project Background



Truth and  
Reconciliation  
Commission of Canada

## **Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action**



# Why Description?

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Increasingly, descriptive metadata is the first, most frequent, and in some cases the *only* interaction point between us and our users.

It is vital that all of our users can see themselves appropriately and respectfully represented in those metadata records.

# **The Canadian Context**



**XWI7XWA LIBRARY**  
**FIRST NATIONS HOUSE OF LEARNING**  
1985 West Mall  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z1  
604-822-8738  
[www.library.ubc.ca/xwi7xwa](http://www.library.ubc.ca/xwi7xwa)

**BC FIRST NATIONS  
SUBJECT HEADINGS**

CAPs indicate Xwi7xwa subject headings  
(LC) are Library of Congress subject headings  
(other) are non-Xwi7xwa and non-Library of Congress subject headings  
02 March 2009

**ATHAPASKAN**

*Search also:*

CARRIER  
CARRIER-BABINE  
DAKELH  
DUNNE-ZA  
SEKANI  
SLAVE  
TAGISH  
TSILHQOT'IN  
TUTCHONE  
WET'SUWET'EN

Athapaskan Indians (LC)

*Search also:*

Carrier Indians (LC)  
Carrier Indians (LC)  
Chilcotin Indians (LC)  
Sekani Indians (LC)  
Slave Indians (LC)

**COAST SALISH**

*Search also:*

COMOX  
COQUITLAM  
COWICHAN  
HALKOMELEM  
HOMALCO  
KLAHOOSE  
MUSQUEAM  
NUXALK  
SECHELT  
SLIAMMON  
SONGHEES  
SQUAMISH  
STO:LO  
STRAITS or STRAITS SALISH  
TSAWWASSEN  
TSLEIL-WAUTUTH

Coast Salish Indians (LC)



Athapascan beadwork	Dene beadwork	
Athapascan embroidery	Dene embroidery	
Athapascan Indians	Dene	
Athapascan Indians--Asian influences	Dene--Asian influences	
Athapascan Indians--Western influences	Dene--Western influences	
Athapascan languages	Dene languages	
Athapascan mythology	DELETE	
Athapascan women	Dene women	
Athapascan youth	Dene youth	
Autobiographies--Indian authors	Autobiographies--Indigenous authors	
Bible stories, Ojibwa	Bible stories, Ojibwa (Anishinabe)	
Blacks--Relations with Indians	Blacks--Relations with Indigenous peoples	
Caciques (Indian leaders)	Caciques (Indigenous leaders)	
Calumets	Sacred pipes	
Canada--Civilization--Indian influences	Canada--Civilization--Indigenous influences	
Canadian drama--Indian authors	Canadian drama--Indigenous authors	
Canadian fiction--Indian authors	Canadian fiction--Indigenous authors	
Canadian literature--Indian authors	Canadian literature--Indigenous authors	
Canadian poetry--Indian authors	Canadian poetry--Indigenous authors	
Canadian prose literature--Indian authors	Canadian prose literature--Indigenous authors	
Children's poetry, Indian	Children's poetry, Indigenous	
Chipewyan Indians	Chipewyans	
Chipewyan mythology	DELETE	
Christian art and symbolism--Mexico--Indian influences	Christian art and symbolism--Mexico--Indigenous influences	

**What Does This Have to do  
With Instruction?**

# Decolonizing Description in Instruction

Anyone had this  
experience?  
Please share.

At the service desk,  
during a consult, or in  
an instruction session:

**“Well, the official  
Library of Congress  
Subject Heading is for  
*Indians of North  
America...*  
I know, that *does* seem  
very outdated.”**

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**Thank you**