Library of Congress Subject Headings Changes for Aliens and Illegal Immigrants

On November 12, 2021 the Library of Congress (LOC) announced they were replacing subject headings containing "aliens" and "illegal aliens". The LOC replaced "aliens" with "noncitizens" and "illegal immigrants" with "illegal immigration" (click here to see a list of all affected LOC subject headings).

Since the announcement, the Library of Congress subject headings for "aliens" and "illegal immigrants" have been changed by the LOC and OCLC (cataloging agent who provides our bibliographic records). The changes to the LOC subject headings are reflected in physical bib records in SUNY's shared catalog (Network Zone). Electronic titles in the Community Zone that are used by SUNY libraries are reliant on updates from vendors and they may or may not reflect the LOC subject headings changes.

On March 14, 2022, the SLC LSP Advisory Board accepted the SUNY Metadata Standards and Policies Working Group's recommendation to:

1. Use the LOC's subject heading of "noncitizens" for "aliens"
2. Use the SUNY local subject heading of "undocumented immigrants" instead of LOC's subject heading of "illegal immigration"
   a. Defined in January 2020 Local Subject Heading Initiative

To implement the SUNY local subject heading for "undocumented immigrants", the SUNY Library Services (SLS) will create local authority records for "undocumented immigrants" and "undocumented immigrants in literature" that will be used instead of the LOC authority records for "illegal immigration" and "illegal immigration in literature". The local authority records allow users to search in Primo VE without needing to know the SUNY local subject heading. Authority records (LOC and local) in Primo VE search the authorized subject heading (MARC 150) and the non-authorized subject headings (MARC 450) in the authority record. This allows

   a. Example, performing an advanced subject search for "illegal immigration" will return all records containing the subject heading for "undocumented immigrants"

The SLS will implement the following changes for all SUNY libraries beginning on Monday, March 21, 2022:

1. Network Zone:
   a. Create a local Library of Congress subject authority record for "undocumented immigrants" and "undocumented immigrants in literature"
   b. Update the "SUNY OCLC Import Normalization Rule"
   c. Update the Subjects display norm rules for Primo VE in 600 and 650 to:
      i. Omit aliens from displaying since there are still physical and electronic bibliographic records contains aliens to represent extraterrestrials
      ii. Change "illegal immigration" to "undocumented immigrants"
   d. Update Network Zone records containing "illegal immigration"

2. Institution Zones (affect IZ only records):

a. Create a local Library of Congress subject authority record "undocumented immigrants" and "undocumented immigrants in literature"
b. Update the "SUNY OCLC Import Normalization Rule"
c. Update the Subjects display norm rules for Primo VE in 600 and 650 to:
    i. Omit aliens from displaying since there are still physical and electronic bibliographic records contains aliens to represent extraterrestrials
    ii. Change "illegal immigration" to "undocumented immigrants"
d. Update Institution Zone only records (not linked to the Network) updated by the Change the Subject Project