## Proposed Inclusive Cataloging Statement (Wenzler v.2)

The California State University libraries do not seek to instruct users on their political opinions but aim to provide impartial access to the scholarly record so that users can develop their own informed judgments. Nevertheless -- despite our best efforts to be impartial -- librarians are human, and no library catalog will ever be completely free of bias. Moreover, because politically oppressed groups lack equal access to education and to publishing platforms, much of the bias in our existing catalog reflects the exclusion of their points of view. To build a more inclusive catalog, we will continue to identify areas in our cataloging that reflect prejudice against marginalized groups by:

1. Engaging in conversation with our library and campus communities about potential bias in our descriptions
2. Collaborating with members of the CSU SACO Funnel Project to propose changes and additions to LCSH, LCDGT, LCGFT, and LCC that promote more inclusive and accurate descriptors
3. Collaborating with members of the Primo VE Norm Rules Task Force to transform the display of problematic headings when a proposal is either not viable or has been rejected.
4. Educating users that some descriptions used for archival materials may be considered offensive because of historical language and content that reflect the time when the material was created and the view of the creator.
5. Exploring the use of more inclusive alternative vocabularies such as the Homosaurus
6. Acknowledging that description is a continuous and necessarily iterative endeavor.

**Additional resources and further reading:**

* Archives for Black Lives in Philadelphia Anti-Racist Description Resources
* Guidelines for Inclusive and Conscientious Description
* Library of Congress Subject Headings Related to Indigenous Peoples
* Metadata Best Practices for Trans and Gender Diverse Resources
* Nineteenth-Century Depictions of Disabilities and Modern Metadata: A Consideration of
* Material in the P. T. Barnum Digital Collection

**Selected list of Alternate Vocabularies:**

* Art and Architecture Thesaurus: code in OCLC: aat.
* GSSO (the Gender, Sex, and Sexual Orientation ontology): code in OCLC: gsso.
* Homosaurus: code in OCLC: homoit
* Ngā Upoko Tukutuku: code in OCLC: reo
* First Nations House of Learning: code in OCLC: fnhl

## Background (JW)

When I first read the proposed draft of the Inclusive Cataloging document at the COLD meeting on September 30, 2022, it struck me as a statement of political beliefs rather than a statement about cataloging policy. I was not prepared to articulate my concerns at the meeting but was asked why I voted against it afterwards. While formulating my response, I decided that my concerns were worthy of COLD’s attention. The draft above is a version of the statement that I would be able to support.