Underrepresented Collections in the Howard B. Waltz Music Library: Analyzing and Improving Subject Headings for Music Materials

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Linda Bagley, Music Cataloging Specialist, CU Boulder
Clara Burns, Music Copy Cataloger, CU Boulder
Kelsey Fuller, PhD, Ethnomusicology
linda.bagley@colorado.edu ; mary.burns@colorado.edu
Good morning!

Researching LCSH terms to enhance description & access for music of underrepresented communities:

- World music
- Indians
- Simplistic, redundant, inadequate or inaccurate usage
Project Impetus

Library of Congress descriptor: Illegal aliens

Local description: Undocumented immigrants
7 Alternative subject headings for inappropriate terms

- Aliens: Noncitizens
- Illegal aliens: Undocumented immigrants
- Alien detention centers: Immigrant detention centers
- Children of illegal aliens: Children of undocumented immigrants
- Illegal alien children: Undocumented immigrant children
- Illegal aliens in literature: Undocumented immigrants in literature
- Women illegal aliens: Women undocumented immigrants
Context

Issue: inadequate and/or inaccurately applied descriptors -- for example:

- World music
- Indians
- Folk music

Solution:

- Identify instances
- Correct inappropriate/non-specific descriptors
- Add specificity -- e.g. region, genre, instrumentation.
Developing a Strategy

Adapting to circumstances

- Scalable project: World Music
- Remote collaboration
- Remote research
How we moved forward

- Research
- Identification
- Correction
Mapping “world music”
Orientalism and Analysis of “world music” Usage

- “Orientalism can be discussed and analyzed as the corporate institution for dealing with the Orient--dealing with it by making statements about it, authorizing views of it, describing it, by teaching it, settling it, ruling over it: in short, Orientalism as a Western style for dominating, restructuring, and having authority over the Orient” (Said, Edward. *Orientalism*, 1979, p. 3)
- Where vs. how world music has been applied to records
World Music Definition

- World Music implies an intentional, transnational, blending of folk and popular music from disparate geographies and traditions, marketed for geographically (often Western European and North American) distant audiences.
Appropriate Use of World Music

- Compilations or fusions of music from multiple global locations or ethnic groups
  - Example: Jayme Stone & Mansa Sissoko’s *Africa to Appalachia*
- Global popular music idioms (jazz, rap, rock, etc.) fused with folk music, and increasing appeal to a global music market.
| n  | 500 | Folk music, China |
| n  | 500 | Performance notes (12 pages) by François Picard, in French with English summary, includes illustrations and photographs. |
| n  | 505 | “Meihua san nong” = Three variations on the plum-flower, (6:47) -- “Yi guren” = GAn, told friend (7:03) -- “Xiao Xiang shui yun” = Water and Dream (8:03) |
| n  | 511 | Li Xiangting, qin zither |
| n  | 518 | Recorded on February 26, Studio 106, Radio France |
| d  | 650 | Qin music, L'Art du qin, The Art of the Qin |
| d  | 650 | Folk music, China, L'Art du qin, The Art of the Qin |
| d  | 650 | Folk music, China, L'Art du qin, The Art of the Qin |
| d  | 650 | World music, L'Art du qin, The Art of the Qin |
| d  | 651 | China, L'Art du qin, The Art of the Qin |
| f  | 655 | Folk music, L'Art du qin, The Art of the Qin |
| b  | 700 | Li, Xiangting, L'Art du qin, The Art of the Qin |
| y  | 907 | b1023285234b04-02-19.1c11-14-18 |
Our Process

- Identify initial sets of sound recording records with “world music” or “Indians of North America--Music” as a subject heading
- Examine and analyze these records
- Edit and improve local records
- Edit OCLC records as appropriate
Statistics

Initial Categories (World Music)

- Instructional materials
- 5 or fewer traditions
- Inappropriate use
- 6 or more traditions

Initial Categories (Indians of North America--Music)

- Instructional materials
- 5 or fewer traditions
- Not enough information
- 6 or more traditions
Updates to Local Records and OCLC: World Music

LOCAL RECORDS
- Removed world music from 13 records
- Added geographic subdivisions, such as Uganda, Mali, and Cuba
- Added additional headings as appropriate (Jazz-rock, Free jazz, Songs, Hindi, Guinbri music, etc.)

OCLC
- Left world music in most records
- Some records had already been updated by other catalogers, and reflected more accurate subject headings as a result
- If OCLC record had not already been updated, additional headings were added to improve the record
Project Expansion

- Identification and analysis of sound recording records with “Indians of North America--Music”
- 24 sound recordings were identified that did not have any specific subject headings in them
- “Indians” is a colonialist outdated term
- “Indigenous peoples--North America--Music”
- Further exploration of better sources for terms: Mashantucket Pequot Thesaurus and the First Nations House of Learning Subject Headings
Updates to Records
(Indians of North America--Music)

- Added specific subjects
- Over 5 Native American Nations represented
- Not enough information
## Example of Records

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Diabate, Mamadou,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>245</td>
<td>Douga mansa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>260</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>1 sound disc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>650</td>
<td>Kora music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>650</td>
<td>Folk music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>650</td>
<td>Mandingo (African people)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example of Records

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Records</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cree round dance songs</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous peoples [zCanada] [vMusic]</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powwow songs [zCanada]</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance music [zCanada]</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cree Indians [vMusic]</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indians of North America [vMusic]</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powwow songs [2fast] [0(OCoLC)fst01074492]</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music [2fast] [0(OCoLC)fst01423855]</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Songs [2lcgft]</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powwow songs [2lcgft]</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance music [2lcgft]</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Next Steps

● Expand project to include scores
● Use terms from vocabularies outside LCSH in local records
● Expand project to include more broad subject headings
  ○ Folk music
  ○ Popular music


Questions?