Eluna Learns DEI Session Q & A

Can other libraries (non-members) have access to your MARC record templates?

These are being presented to PCC and CCM (in Canada) before they are being shared. Should be movement on this at ALA Annual 2023

What type of training do you see necessary for cataloging, metadata and discovery staff? Can you give examples?

Erin Johnson: We can start with critical self-reflection within our cataloguing departments. There is a lot of literature that critiques cataloguing standards and how we describe and organize information from a colonial lens. Pair this with examination of your department’s practices. For example, read the foundational article “Don’t class me in antiquities” and pair it with an analysis of how your institution uses the E schedule. Are there items there that should be classed elsewhere? What subject headings do those items have? Explore alternative subject headings, such as those in the First Nations House of Learning Indigenous Thesaurus (FNHL)

Do you see the role of the Alma community zone to be a way of shared authority work? How might that work?

Erin Johnson: I think that the Community Zone can be enhanced by including smaller alternative vocabularies such as FNHL as part of the knowledge base. Additionally, linked data authorities provide new ways to make connections between different works. Adding linked data authorities such as the homosaurus vocabulary to the Community Zone authorities diversifies the options available for a cataloguer to apply when describing library materials.

I’m curious to know your opinion on replacing existing terminology with indigenous terminology or keeping both?

Erin Johnson: There is historic value in retaining terminology that we’ve used to describe materials. This doesn't mean that we need to use it in indexing or in display. In indexing though, it can be a teachable tool if the user is redirected to use alternative terminology.