Virtual AskQC Office Hours

Rapid Harm Reduction Through Locally Preferred Subjects in WorldCat Discovery

OCLC Metadata Quality
August 2023

Housekeeping

This session is being recorded

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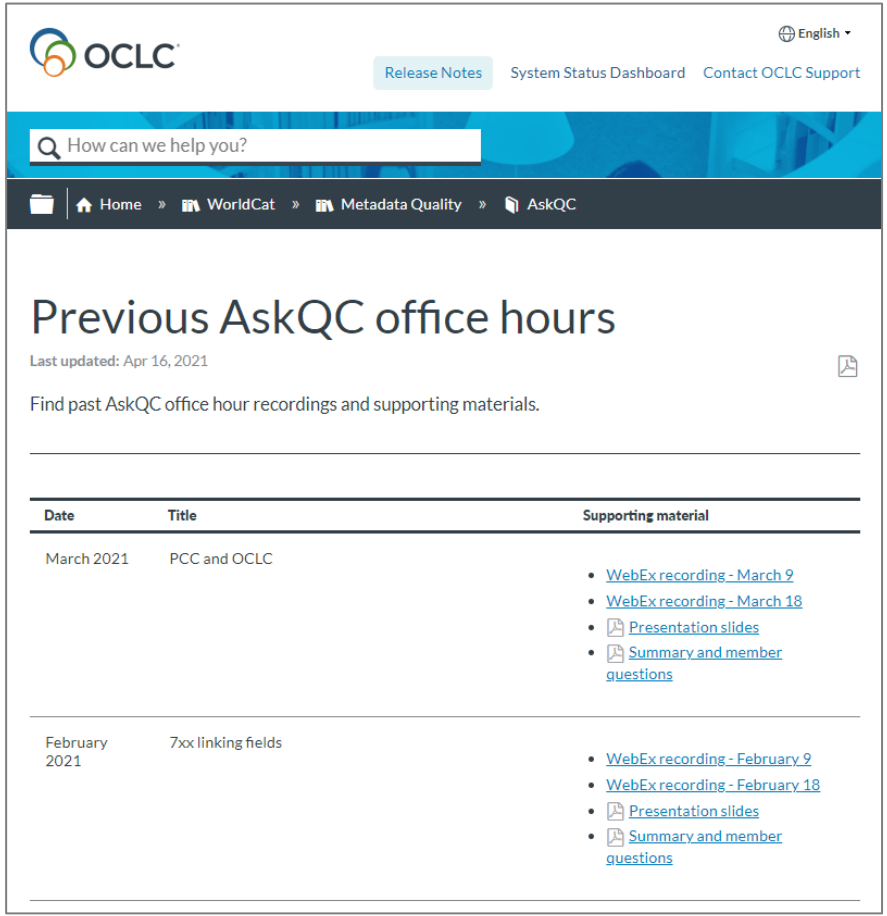
All session recordings, slides, and notes are available at oc.lc/askqc



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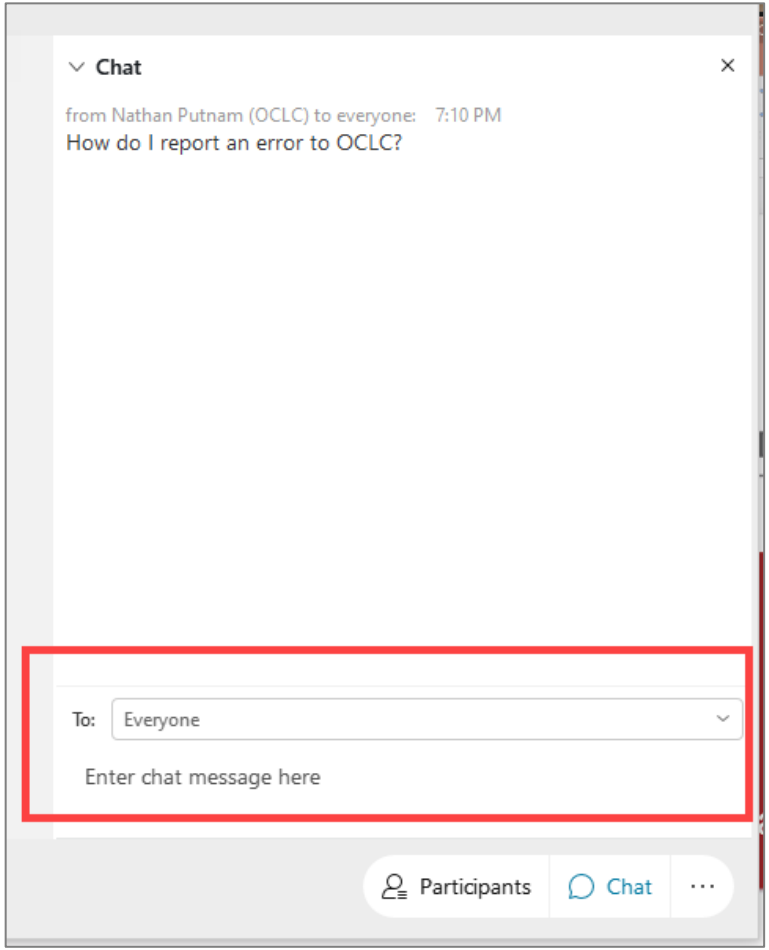
Enter questions in chat to “Everyone” at any time during the presentation



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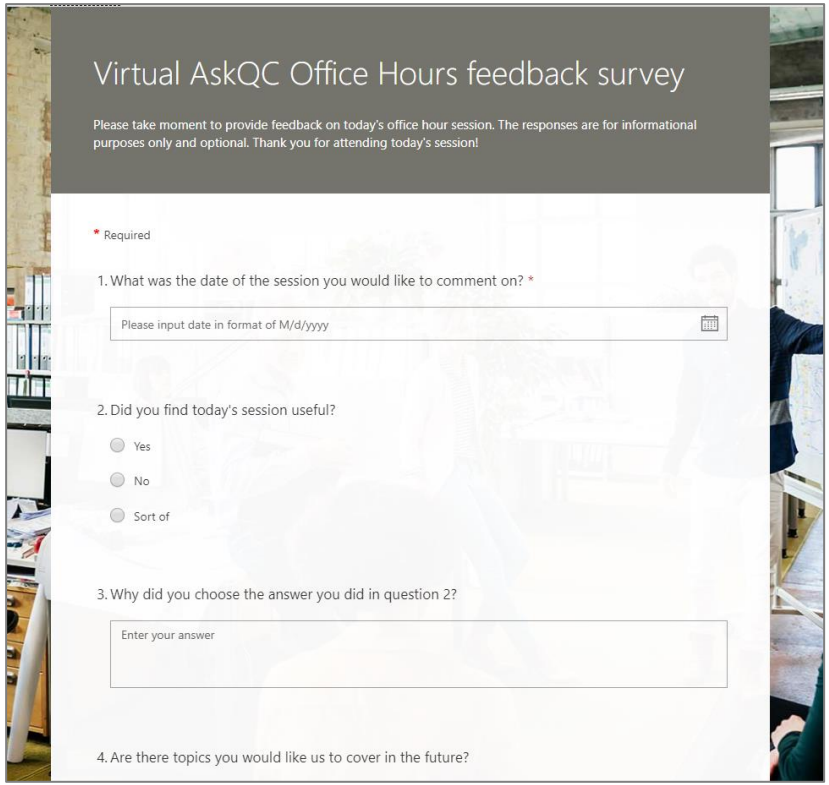
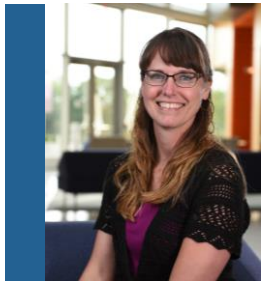
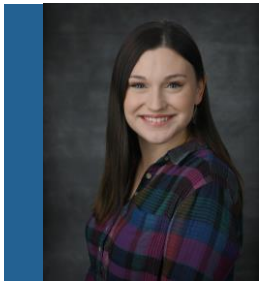
After the session, you will be directed to a brief, optional survey



On the call today

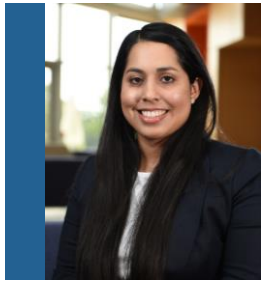


Shanna Griffith
Senior Data Analyst



Grace McGann
Associate Product Manager

Laura Ramsey
Senior Metadata Operations Manager



Hayley Moreno
Senior Data Analyst

Rapid Harm Reduction Through Locally Preferred Subjects in WorldCat Discovery

Grace McGann
Associate Product Manager

August 2023

Rapid Harm Reduction Through Locally Preferred Subjects in WorldCat Discovery

Grace McGann, Associate Product Manager
OCLC

Locally preferred subjects in WorldCat Discovery supports libraries' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts.

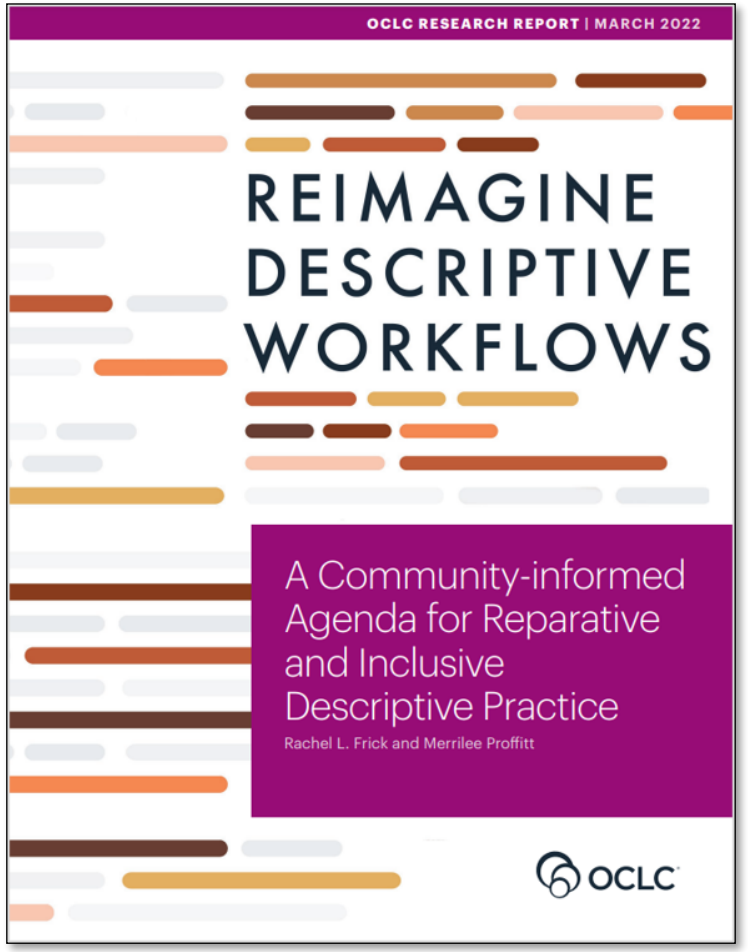
What we will cover

- "Reimagine Descriptive Workflows"
  - What it is
  - How it fueled this work
- Locally preferred subjects in WorldCat Discovery
  - How they function
  - User interface
- Directions for future work

"Reimagine Descriptive Workflows"

Reimagine Descriptive Workflows

- The framework presented in this report is in three categories:
  - Organizational shifts
  - Operational workflows
  - Professional and personal development



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Applying Learnings/Takeaways

- Convening of library community broader than specific products
- Takeaways from working sessions:
  - **Urgency:** Reduce harm rapidly while more effective solutions develop within the library community and ecosystem
  - **Multiplicity:** Global problems require culturally contextual solutions, not one-size-fits-all solutions

"To remain neutral about these systems is the very opposite of what it means to be a librarian in the twenty-first century."

-Crystal Vaughan in "The Language of Cataloguing: Deconstructing and Decolonizing Systems of Organization in Libraries"

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Libraries as Development Partners

Consult

- Libraries have been our key partners in developing the current state of this feature as well as future releases

Adjust

- The first approach isn't always the right one. We began discussions with libraries in November 2021 and continued into March 2022 as we adjusted our approach based on feedback.

Iterate

- This feature has had two releases so far in August and October of 2022, with additional functionality on the way. We are continuing to build and grow this feature as libraries adopt it.

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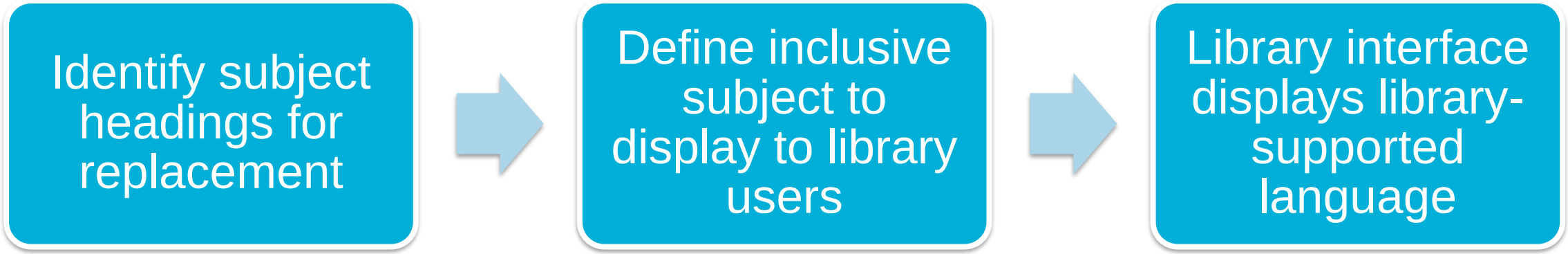
Locally preferred subjects- how they work

Basic Concept



Libraries locally define subjects that reflect the identities, lived experiences, and values of their users to reduce harm in item description.

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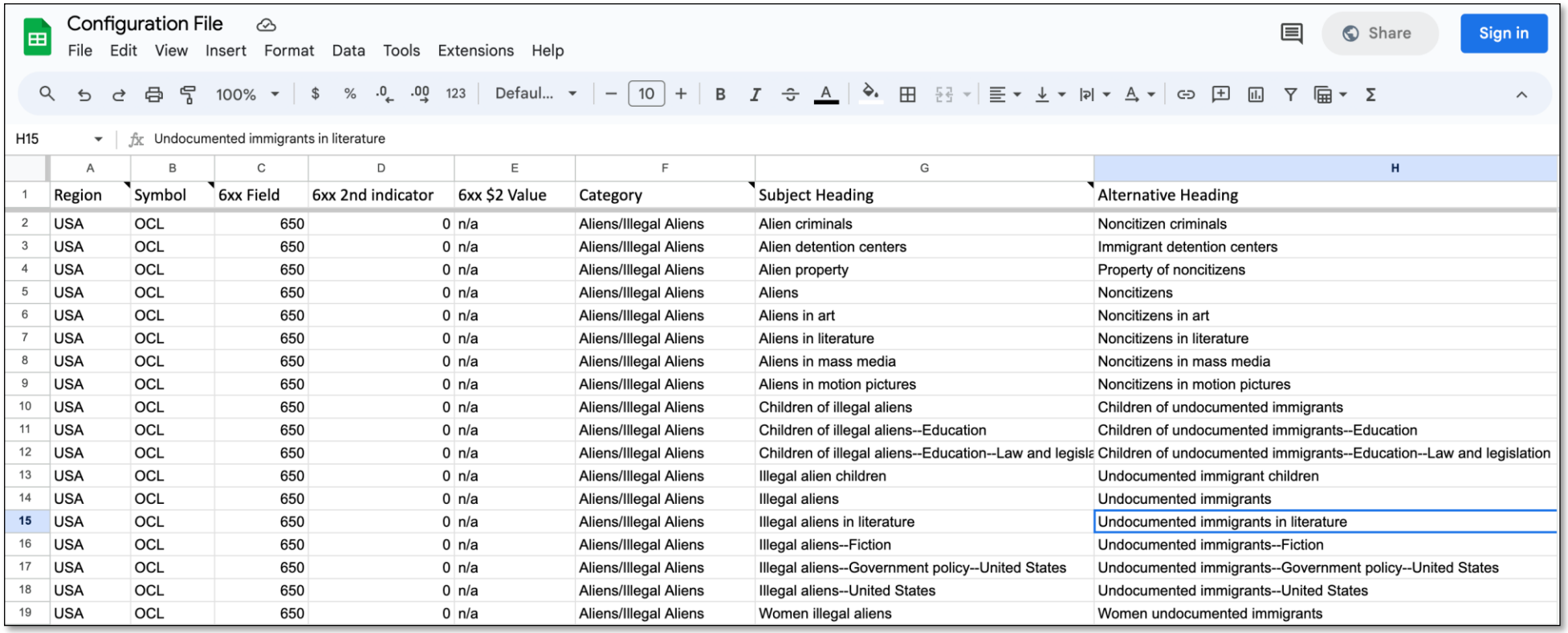
Local subject re-mapping template



Configuration File

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Extensions Help

Share Sign in

H15 | fx Undocumented immigrants in literature

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Region	Symbol	6xx Field	6xx 2nd indicator	6xx $2 Value	Category	Subject Heading	Alternative Heading
2	USA	OCL	650	0	n/a	Aliens/Illegal Aliens	Alien criminals	Noncitizen criminals
3	USA	OCL	650	0	n/a	Aliens/Illegal Aliens	Alien detention centers	Immigrant detention centers
4	USA	OCL	650	0	n/a	Aliens/Illegal Aliens	Alien property	Property of noncitizens
5	USA	OCL	650	0	n/a	Aliens/Illegal Aliens	Aliens	Noncitizens
6	USA	OCL	650	0	n/a	Aliens/Illegal Aliens	Aliens in art	Noncitizens in art
7	USA	OCL	650	0	n/a	Aliens/Illegal Aliens	Aliens in literature	Noncitizens in literature
8	USA	OCL	650	0	n/a	Aliens/Illegal Aliens	Aliens in mass media	Noncitizens in mass media
9	USA	OCL	650	0	n/a	Aliens/Illegal Aliens	Aliens in motion pictures	Noncitizens in motion pictures
10	USA	OCL	650	0	n/a	Aliens/Illegal Aliens	Children of illegal aliens	Children of undocumented immigrants
11	USA	OCL	650	0	n/a	Aliens/Illegal Aliens	Children of illegal aliens--Education	Children of undocumented immigrants--Education
12	USA	OCL	650	0	n/a	Aliens/Illegal Aliens	Children of illegal aliens--Education--Law and legisla	Children of undocumented immigrants--Education--Law and legislation
13	USA	OCL	650	0	n/a	Aliens/Illegal Aliens	Illegal alien children	Undocumented immigrant children
14	USA	OCL	650	0	n/a	Aliens/Illegal Aliens	Illegal aliens	Undocumented immigrants
15	USA	OCL	650	0	n/a	Aliens/Illegal Aliens	Illegal aliens in literature	Undocumented immigrants in literature
16	USA	OCL	650	0	n/a	Aliens/Illegal Aliens	Illegal aliens--Fiction	Undocumented immigrants--Fiction
17	USA	OCL	650	0	n/a	Aliens/Illegal Aliens	Illegal aliens--Government policy--United States	Undocumented immigrants--Government policy--United States
18	USA	OCL	650	0	n/a	Aliens/Illegal Aliens	Illegal aliens--United States	Undocumented immigrants--United States
19	USA	OCL	650	0	n/a	Aliens/Illegal Aliens	Women illegal aliens	Women undocumented immigrants

With this document, libraries can:

- Share their work and collaborate
- Benefit from the contributions of others
- Access/share region-specific re-mappings

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Subject mapping types

- Libraries can define:
  - 1:1 subject replacements

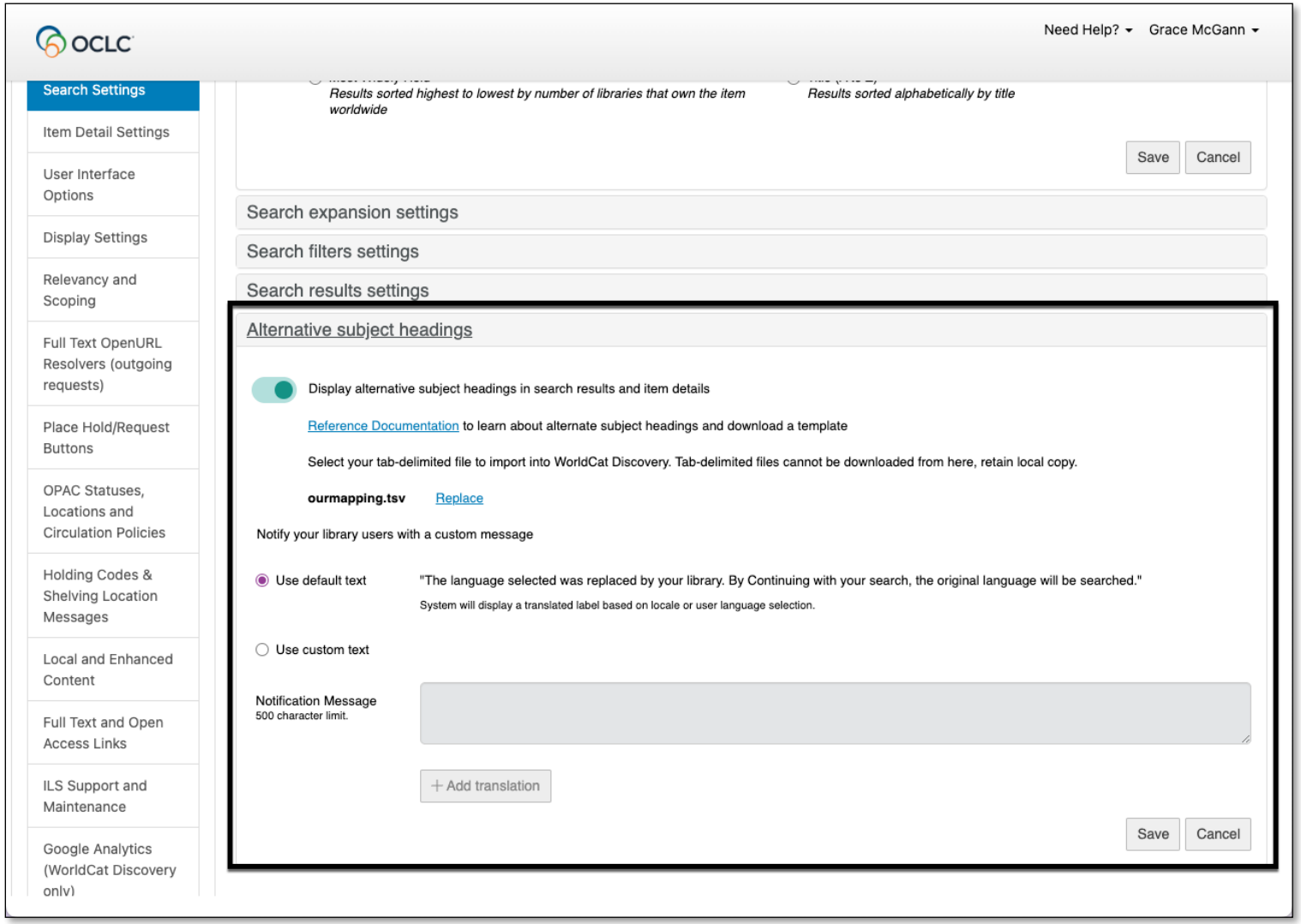
    Homeless people > people experiencing homelessness
  - Wildcard subject replacements

    **Homeless people* > people experiencing homelessness*

    **Homeless people > people experiencing homelessness*

    Homeless people > people experiencing homelessness*

OCLC Service Configuration

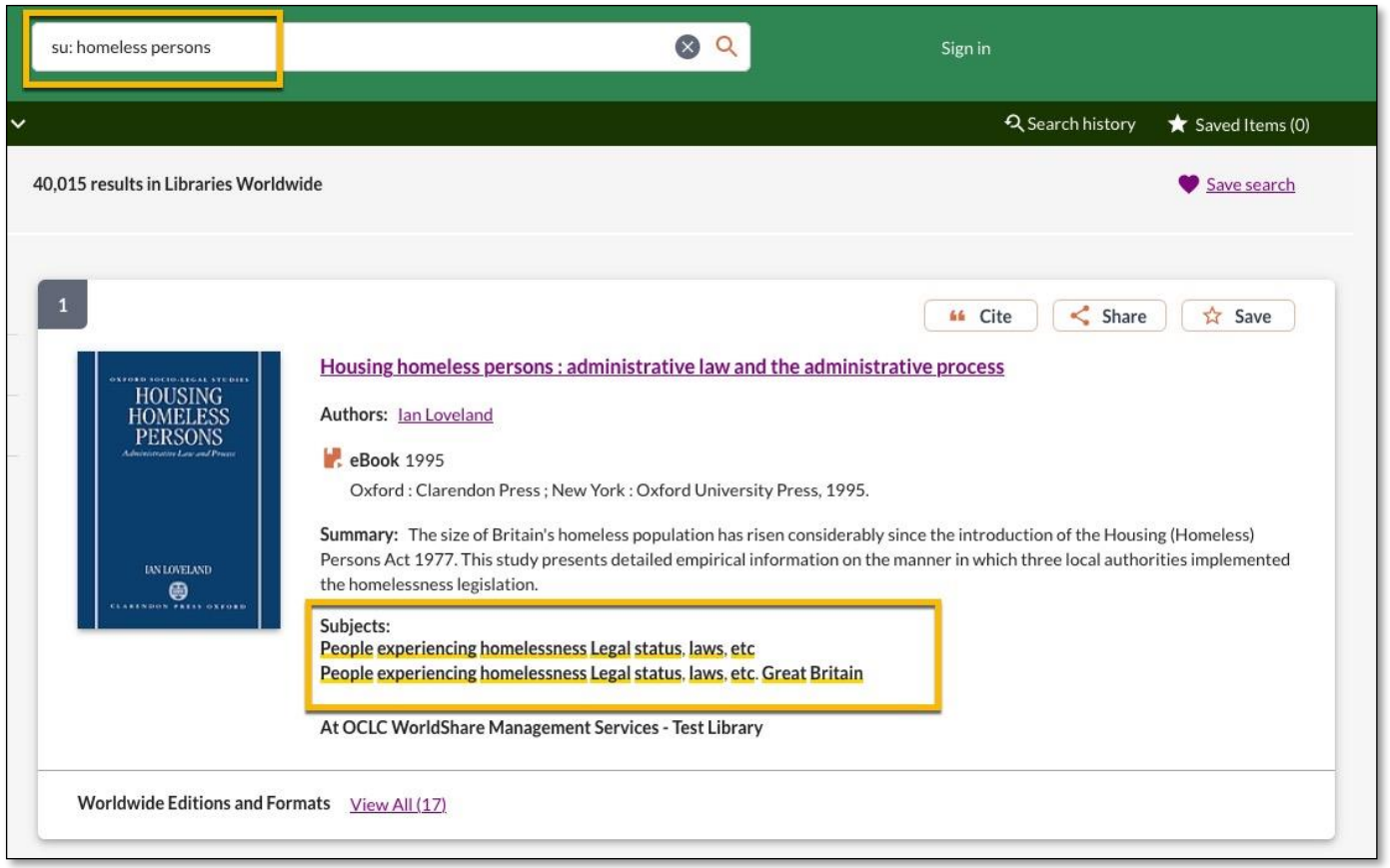


- Libraries upload their local configuration file to implement subject re-mappings in their WorldCat Discovery interface.

OCLC Service Configuration > WorldCat Discovery and WorldCat Local > Search Settings > Alternative subject headings

WorldCat Discovery user interface

Users see the terms you define



Subject search for “su: homeless persons”

My library has chosen to replace any subjects including “homeless persons” with “people experiencing homelessness”

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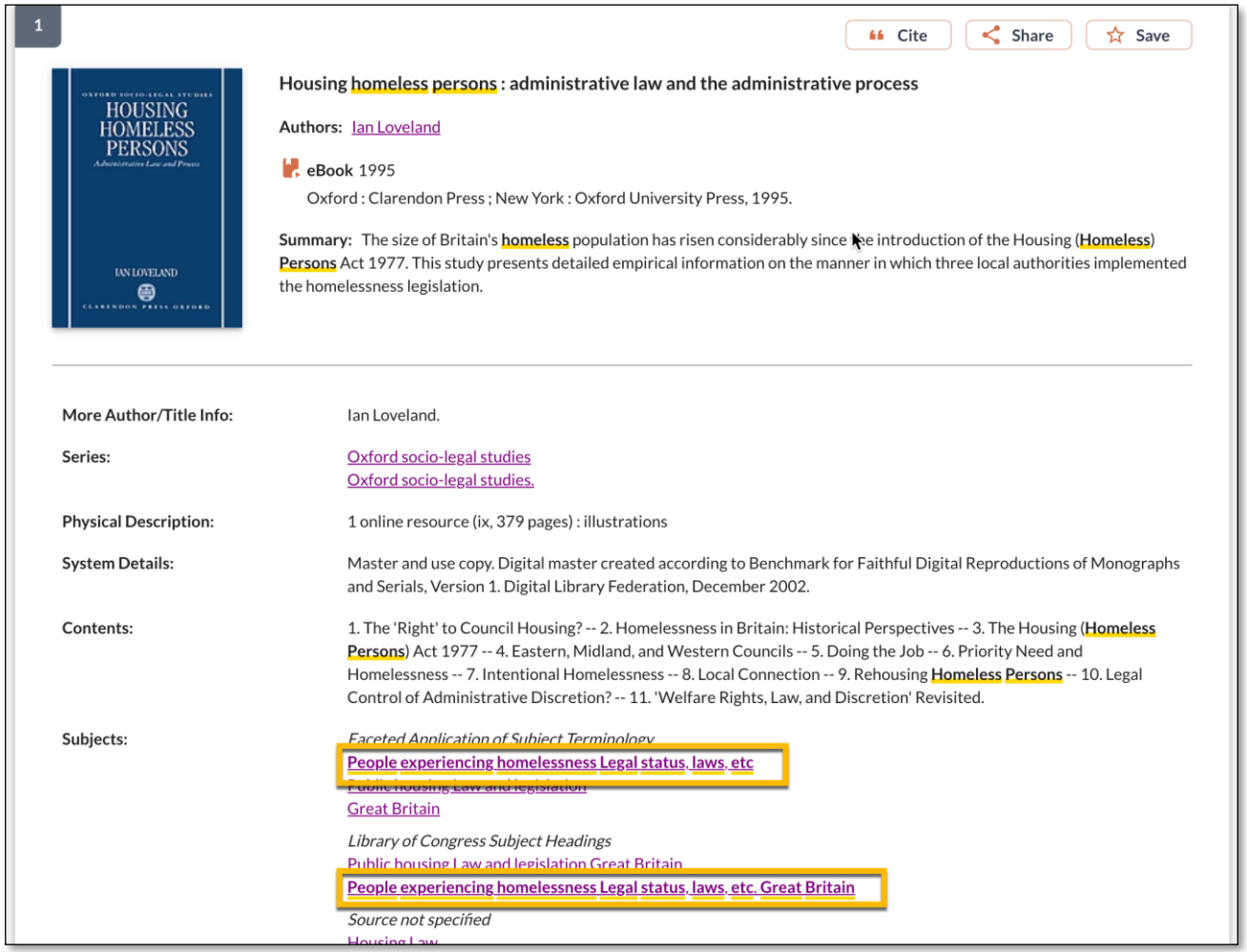
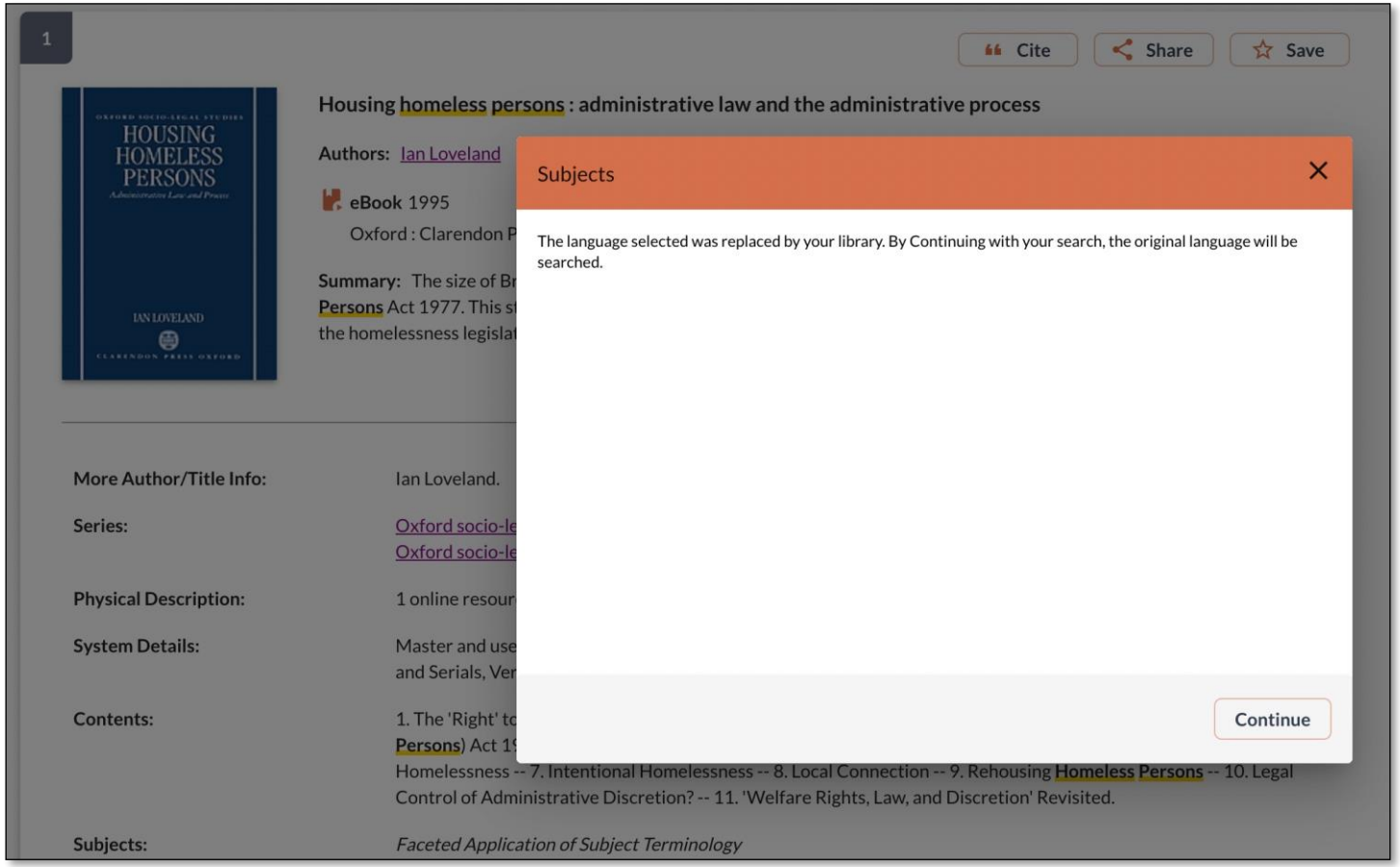
Item details display replaced subject



Users will see the replaced subject on the item details page. The subject is hotlinked, so they can click to perform a search on that term.

Harmful language warning



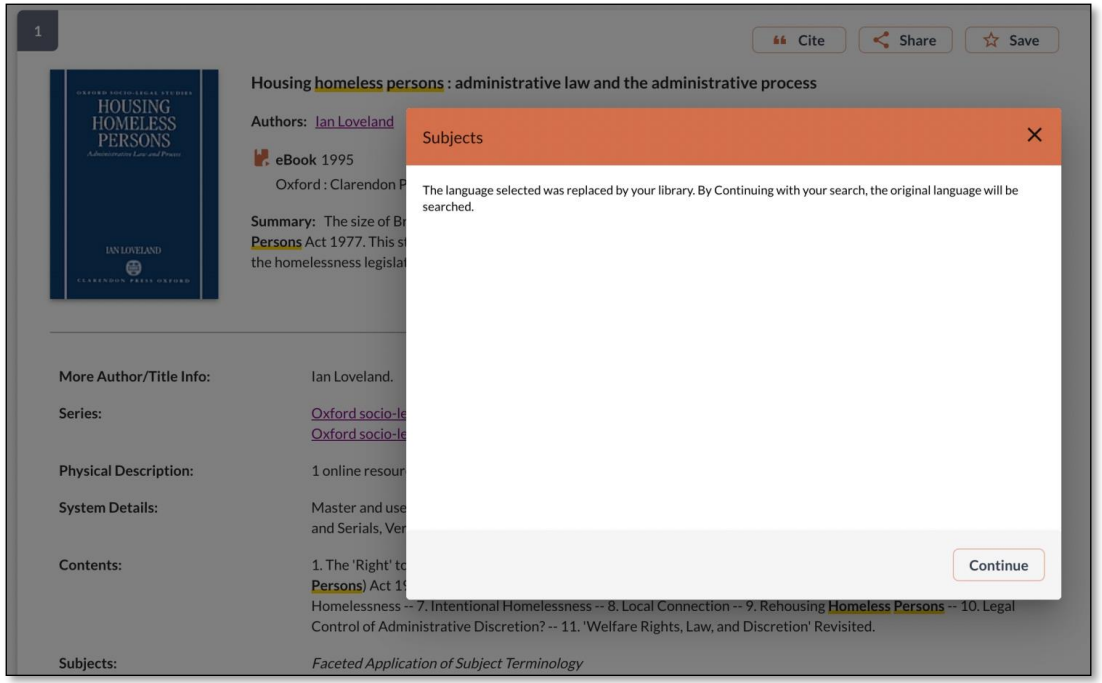
Libraries can customize language to warn users before they see harmful language when a search is performed on an original subject.

Future Work

More granular subject replacement

- Libraries will be able to define the authority source for subject replacements by providing the following information:
  - 6XX field 2nd indicator value
  - 6XX field $2 value (if 2nd indicator was 7)

Library-defined search expansions



- With local search expansions, libraries can:
  - Eliminate the need for this harmful language warning.
  - Ensure users can search library-supported language and bring back all the relevant search results.

User search/hotlinked subject

People experiencing homelessness

Local search expansion

Homeless people

Because what is known must be shared.®

Thank you.

Grace McGann
Associate Product Manager, OCLC

mcganng@oclc.org

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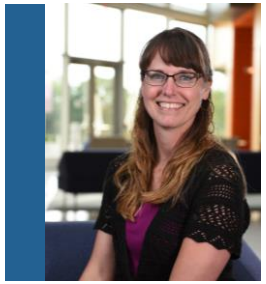
On the call today



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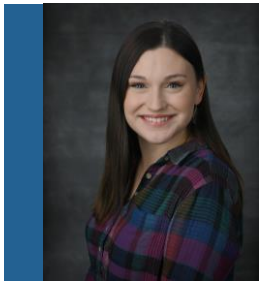
Senior Data Analyst



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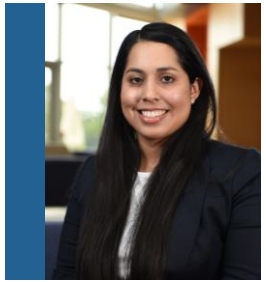

Hayley Moreno
Senior Data Analyst

Thank you!

September Virtual AskQC Office Hours
Get Informed about Genre/Form Terms

Tuesday, 12 Sept. at 9:00 AM Eastern
Thursday, 21 Sept. at 4:00 PM Eastern

Registration and session links available at oc.lc/askqc

Send cataloging policy questions at any time to askqc@oclc.org

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