

Semantic Censorship

An open conversation on word control

Marjorie M.K. Hlava

Access Innovations, Inc, USA

Angela Cochran

American Society for Clinical Oncology

Shelly Ray

Office of Board Administration - LA Metro

How do we as Stewards of Information
and the concepts they represent,
(Publishers, Librarians, Taxonomists)
ensure access to the full range of
topical ideas while being sensitive to
the political climate of the time

Outline of the Panel

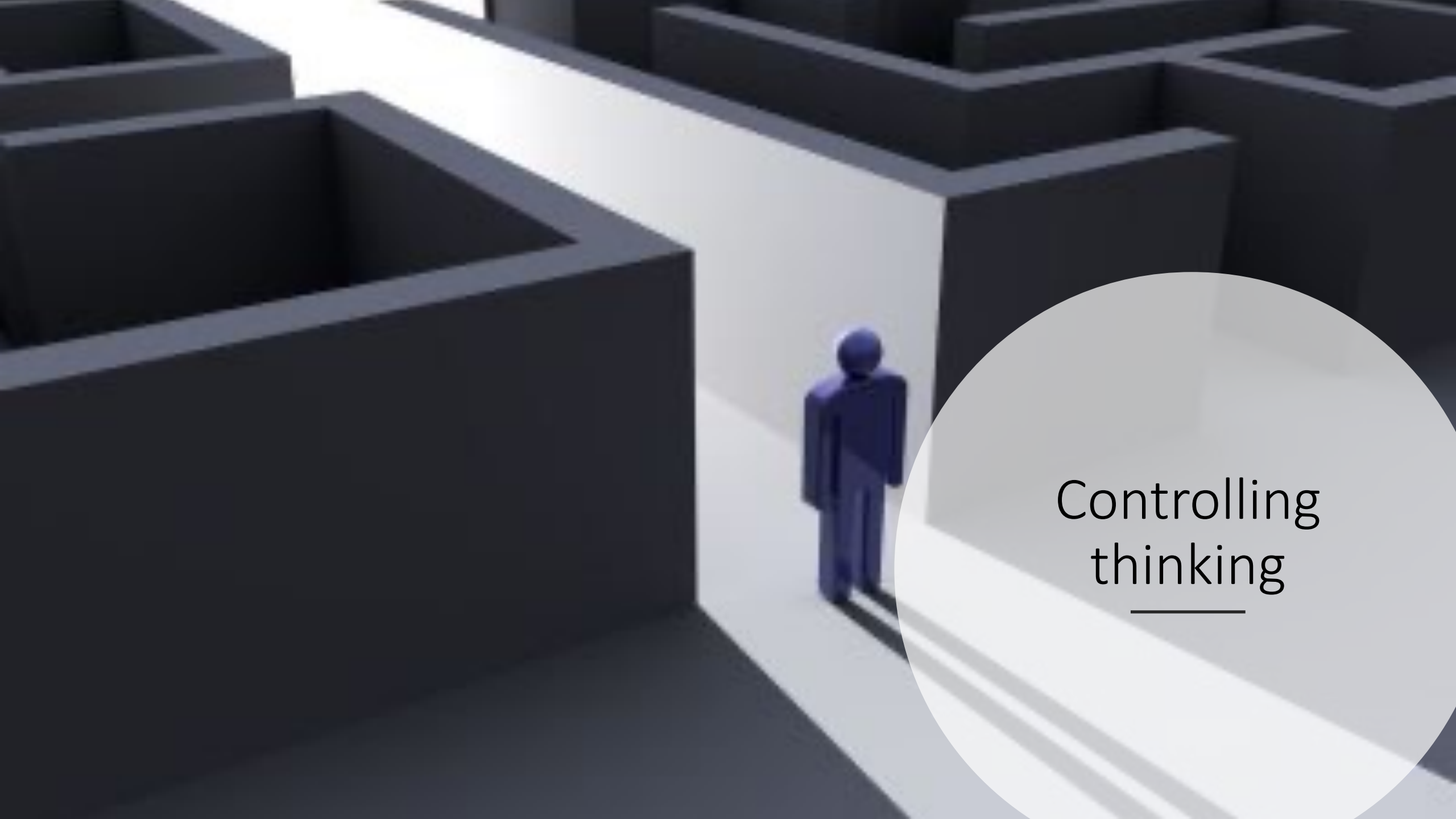
Segments

- Intro
- Controlling thinking
- Censoring examples
- Information lost
- Detecting bias
- Presentation of the segment
- Responses from Angela and Shelly

Delicate topic

- Outlines of knowledge guide peoples thinking
 - St. Augustine
 - John Locke
 - Descartes
 - Dewey Decimal System
 - Encyclopedia Britannica
 - Karl Marx
- All had a point of view and organized their life view according to that outline
- Slippery slopes
- Hard to remove from politics





Controlling
thinking

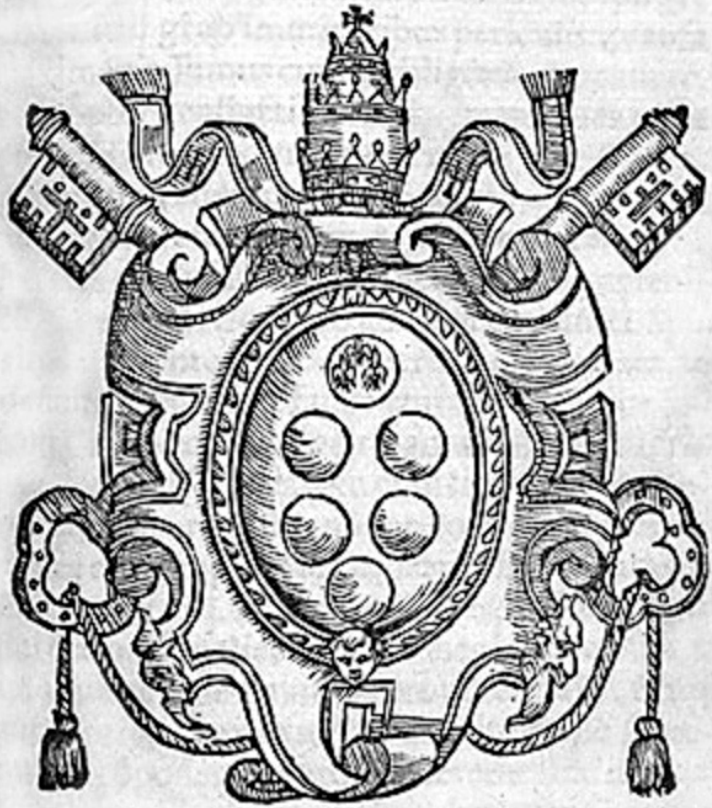


Many have “reviewed” what others should read or watch

- Motion Pictures
- Library collections / selection policies
- Acceptable content
-

INDEX LIBRORVM
PROHIBITORVM,

CVM REGVLIS CONFECTIS
per Patres a Tridentina Synodo delectos,
auctoritate Sanctiss. D.N. Pij IIII,
Pont. Max. comprobatus.



VENETIIS, M. D. LXIIII.

Venice 1564

- The ***Index Librorum Prohibitorum*** ("List of Prohibited Books")
- a list of publications deemed heretical or contrary to morality
- by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (a former Dicastery of the Roman Curia),
- and Catholics were forbidden to read them.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outline_of_academic_disciplines

Pre-Code: "Don'ts" and "Be Carefuls", as proposed in 1927 Motion Pictures

- Pointed profanity—by either title or lip—this includes the words God, Lord, Jesus, Christ (unless they be used reverently in connection with proper religious ceremonies), Hell, S.O.B., damn, Gawd, and every other profane and vulgar expression however it may be spelled;
- Any licentious or suggestive nudity—in fact or in silhouette; and any lecherous or licentious notice thereof by other characters in the picture;
- The illegal traffic in drugs;
- Any inference of sex perversion;
- White slavery;
- Miscegenation;
- Sex hygiene and venereal diseases;
- Scenes of actual childbirth—in fact or in silhouette;
- Children's sex organs;
- Ridicule of the clergy;
- Willful offense to any nation, race or creed; and



Original Motion Picture Guidelines, 1927

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that special care be exercised in the manner in which the following subjects are treated, to the end that vulgarity and suggestiveness may be eliminated and that good taste may be emphasized:

- The use of the Flag;
- International Relations (avoid picturizing in an unfavorable light another country's religion, history, institutions, prominent people and citizenry);
- Arson;
- The use of firearms;
- Theft, robbery, safe-cracking, and dynamiting of trains, mines, buildings, et cetera (having in mind the effect which a too-detailed description of these may have upon the moron);
- Brutality and possible gruesomeness;
- Technique of committing murder by whatever method;
- Methods of smuggling;
- Third-Degree methods;
- Actual hangings or electrocutions as legal punishment for crime;
- Sympathy for criminals;

.....vulgarity
and
suggestiveness
may be
eliminated

- Attitude toward public characters and institutions;
- Sedition;
- Apparent cruelty to children and animals;
- Branding of people or animals;
- The sale of women, or of a woman selling her virtue;
- Rape or attempted rape;
- First-night scenes;
- Man and woman in bed together;
- Deliberate seduction of girls;
- The institution of marriage;
- Surgical operations;
- The use of drugs;
- Titles or scenes having to do with law enforcement or law-enforcing officers;
- Excessive or lustful kissing, particularly when one character or the other is a "heavy".



Then Clark Gable said “ Frankly, Scarlett, I don’t give a d---!”

And the evaluation criteria got rewritten!

The MPA film ratings are as follows

Rating block/symbol	Meaning
	G – General Audiences <i>All ages admitted. Nothing that would offend parents for viewing by children.</i>
	PG – Parental Guidance Suggested <i>Some material may not be suitable for children. Parents urged to give "parental guidance". May contain some material parents might not like for their young children.</i>
	PG-13 – Parents Strongly Cautioned <i>Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. Parents are urged to be cautious. Some material may be inappropriate for pre-teenagers.</i>
	R – Restricted <i>Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian. Contains some adult material. Parents are urged to learn more about the film before taking their young children with them.</i>
	NC-17 – Adults Only <i>No One 17 and Under Admitted. Clearly adult. Children are not admitted.</i>

Happy Banned Books Week.
These are the most banned
books from public libraries and
schools in the U.S.

According to the American Library Association 2020

Banned books

Screening for the unacceptable*



Filters for
inappropriate
content

*
Unsatisfactory
Unsuitable
Inadmissible
Intolerable
Inappropriate



Filters for Bad
Science



File Edit View Help

plos_controversial_topics

- Alternative and complementary medicine
- Bioweapons and potential bioweapons
- Conspiracy theories
- Controversial topics
- Fraudulent topics
- Paranormal topics
- Pseudoscience
- Religious topics

Term:

☐ Turn off auto-complete

rules for this term

Broader Term

+ - V

Narrower Term

+ - V

Status ☐ Candidate ☒ Accepted

Related Term

+ - V

Non-Preferred Term

+ - V

External Related Term

+ - V

Controversial Topics, Suspect Science Filter

Cryptozoology

ID 57

BT Earth pseudoscience

BT Paranormal topics

NT Bigfoot

NT Chupacabras

NT Mermaids

NT Yeti

UF Cryptids

SN "Cryptozoology is a pseudoscience that aims to prove the existence of entities from the folklore record, such as Bigfoot or chupacabras, as well as animals otherwise considered extinct, such as dinosaurs. Cryptozoologists refer to these entities as cryptids. Because it does not follow the scientific method, cryptozoology is considered a pseudoscience by the academic world: it is neither a branch of zoology nor folkloristics."

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cryptozoology>

Crystal healing

ID 133

BT Energy healing

UF Crystal therapy

SN Crystal healing is a pseudoscientific alternative medicine technique that employs stones and crystals. Adherents of the technique claim that these have healing powers, although there is no scientific basis for this claim.

Controversial Topics, Suspect Science Filter

Controversial Topics, Suspect Science Filter

Bioweapons and potential bioweapons
.....Bacterial pathogens
.....Bacillus anthracis
.....Bacillus anthracis Pasteur strain
.....Bacillus cereus Biovar anthracis
.....Brucella abortus
.....Brucella melitensis
.....Brucella suis
.....Burkholderia mallei
.....Burkholderia pseudomallei
.....Clostridium botulinum
.....Coxiella burnetii
.....Francisella tularensis
.....Mycoplasma capricolum
.....Mycoplasma mycoides
.....Ralstonia solanacearum
.....Rathayibacter toxicus
.....Rickettsia prowazekii
.....Xanthomonas oryzae
.....Yersinia pestis
.....Plant pathogens quarantined by the USDA
.....Peronosclerospora philippinensis
.....Phoma glycinicola
.....Ralstonia solanacearum
.....Rathayibacter toxicus
.....Sclerophthora rayssiae
.....Synchytrium endobioticum
.....Xanthomonas oryzae
.....Toxins
.....Abrin
.....Botulinum toxin
.....Conotoxins
.....Diacetoxyscirpenol
.....Ricin
.....Saxitoxin
.....Staphylococcal enterotoxins
.....T-2 toxin
.....Tetrodotoxin
.....Viruses
.....1918 Influenza virus
.....African horse sickness virus
.....African swine fever virus
.....Avian influenza virus
.....Classical swine fever virus
.....Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus
.....Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus
.....Ebola virus
.....Foot-and-mouth disease virus
.....Goat pox virus
.....Hendra virus
.....Kyasanur Forest disease virus
.....Lassa fever virus
.....Lujo virus
.....Lumpy skin disease virus
.....Marburg virus
.....Monkeypox virus
.....Newcastle disease virus
.....Nipah virus
.....Omsk hemorrhagic fever virus
.....Peste des petits ruminants virus
.....Rift Valley fever virus
.....Rinderpest virus
.....SARS-associated coronavirus
.....Sheep pox virus
.....South American Haemorrhagic Fever virus
.....Chapare
.....Guanarito
.....Junin

.....Swine vesicular disease virus
.....Tick-borne encephalitis complex
.....Variola major virus
.....Variola minor virus
.....Venezuelan equine encephalitis
Conspiracy theories
.....Antisemitic canards
.....Holocaust denial
.....Protocols of the Elders of Zion
.....Artificial diseases
.....Chemtrails
.....Free energy suppression
.....Hongcheng magic liquid
.....Hydrinos
.....Orgonons
.....Moon landing conspiracy
.....New World Order
.....Secret societies
.....Time Cube
.....Tunguska event
.....Ufology
.....Serpo
.....Zeta Reticuli
.....Water fluoridation controversy
Controversial topics
.....Controversial animal topics
.....Amphibian extinction
.....Animal culling
.....Colony Collapse Disorder
.....Deadly wind turbines
.....Ethical treatment of animals
.....Extreme predation
.....Orangutan conservation
.....Selective dog breeding
.....Sonar effects on animals
.....Controversial biomedical topics
.....Abortion
.....Adverse drug events
.....Artificial diseases
.....Controversial diagnoses
.....Behavioral addictions
.....Compulsive hoarding
.....Food addiction
.....Gambling addiction
.....Internet addiction
.....Social media addict
.....Plastic surgery addict
.....Pornography addiction
.....Sex addiction
.....Shopping addiction
.....Trichotillomania
.....Video game addiction
.....Brain trauma in contact spc
.....Causes of autism
.....Chronic cerebrospinal venou
.....Chronic fatigue syndrome
.....Chronic Lyme disease
.....Morgellons
.....Xenotropic murine leukemia
.....Electronic cigarettes
.....Eugenics
.....Genetic modification of hum
.....Genetically modified organi
.....Herbicides and pesticides as di
.....Human inbreeding
.....Nonenal
.....Nucleus accumbens ablation
.....Organ transplants in China

Pain research
.....Penta Water
.....Primovascular system
.....Stem cells
.....Tobacco use
.....Vitalism
.....Controversial social topics
.....Behavioral genetics
.....Bullying
.....Child abuse
.....Climate change denialism
.....Creationism
.....Baraminology
.....Creation biology
.....CreatIonist cosmologies
.....Flood geology
.....Intelligent design
.....Guided evolution
.....Irreducible complexity
.....Specified complexity
.....Young Earth creationism
.....Dual use research of concern
.....Election fraud
.....Eugenics
.....Genetic modification of human embryos
.....Genetically modified organisms
.....Extractive industries
.....Gender bias
.....Gun violence
.....Holocaust denial
.....Human inbreeding
.....Intelligence priming
.....Physical attractiveness
.....Racism
.....Pornography
.....Sex education
.....Subliminal advertising
.....Suicide
.....Euthenasia
.....Terrorism
.....Unilineal evolution
.....Vulnerable populations
.....Indigenous populations
.....Internally displaced persons
.....MSM populations
.....Parolees
.....Prisoners
.....Refugees
.....Sex workers
Fraudulent topics
.....Dihydrogen monoxide
.....Fortune telling
.....Cartomancy
.....Tarotology
.....Palmistry
.....Psychic readings
.....Rumpology
.....Polywater
Paranormal topics
.....Cryptozoology
.....Bigfoot
.....Chupacabras
.....Mermaids
.....Yeti
.....Numerology
.....Paranormal activity
.....Animal mutilations
.....Anomalistic psychology

Paranormal topics
.....Cryptozoology
.....Bigfoot
.....Chupacabras
.....Mermaids
.....Yeti
.....Numerology
.....Paranormal activity
.....Animal mutilations
.....Anomalistic psychology
.....Channeling
.....Electronic voice phenomena
.....Extrasensory perception
.....Psychometry
.....Future telling
.....Geomancy
.....Tarotology
.....Palmistry
.....Psychic readings
.....Rumpology
.....Human levitation
.....Paranormal investigations
.....Psychokinesis
.....Telekinesis
.....Telepathy
.....Parapsychology
.....Psychonavigation
.....Ufology
.....Serpo
.....Zeta Reticuli
Pseudoscience
.....Astronomical pseudoscience
.....Ancient astronauts
.....Astrology
.....Crop circles
.....Face on Mars
.....Lunar effect
.....Nibiru
.....Serpo
.....Zeta Reticuli
.....Body memory
.....Christian science
.....Earth pseudoscience
.....Bermuda triangle
.....Biodynamic agriculture
.....Creationism
.....Baraminology
.....Creation biology
.....CreatIonist cosmologies
.....Flood geology
.....Intelligent design
.....Guided evolution
.....Irreducible complexity
.....Specified complexity
.....Young Earth creationism
.....Cryptozoology
.....Bigfoot
.....Chupacabras
.....Mermaids
.....Yeti
.....Dowsing
.....Flat earth theory
.....Geocentrism
.....Hollow Earth theory
.....Megalithic geometry
.....Pseudoarchaeology
.....Archaeocryptography
.....Lev lines

.....Physiognomy
.....Polygraphy
.....Pseudohistory
.....Ancient astronauts
.....Antisemitic canards
.....Gerson therapy
.....Holocaust denial
.....Protocol of the Elders of Zion
.....Catastrophism
.....Flood geology
.....Folk psychology
.....Historical revisionism
.....Cryptohistory
.....Ethnocentric revisionism
.....Young Earth creationism
.....Psychical research
.....Parapsychology
.....Conversion therapy
.....Dianetics
.....Drapetomania
.....Electronic voice phenomena
.....Emergentism
.....Feng Shui
.....Graphology
.....Hypnosis
.....Mesmerism
.....Parapsychology
.....Pseudotherapies
.....Acupuncture
.....Electroacupuncture
.....Moxibustion
.....Anthroposophic medicine
.....Applied kinesiology
.....Aromatherapy
.....Attachment therapy
.....Bates method
.....Bioresonance therapy
.....Chiropractic medicine
.....Colon cleansing
.....Conversion therapy
.....Craniosacral therapy
.....Cupping therapy
.....Detoxification diets
.....Ear candling
.....Electromagnetic therapy
.....Energy healing
.....Chakras
.....Crystal healing
.....Karmic healing
.....Qigong
.....Reiki
.....Therapeutic touch
.....Faith healing
.....Hypnosis
.....Mesmerism
.....Therapeutic touch
.....Faith healing
.....Hypnosis
.....Mesmerism
.....Magnet therapy
.....Lightning processes
.....Nambudripad's Allergy Elimination Technique
.....Naturopathy
.....Magnet therapy
.....Nambudripad's Allergy Elimination Technique
.....Naturopathy
.....Neurolinguistic programming
.....Oil pulling
.....Osteopathic manipulation
.....Primal therapy
.....Psychic surgery
.....Reflexology
.....Rolfing
.....Reflexology
.....Rolfing
.....Urotherapy
.....Moxibustion
.....Qigong

Alternative and complementary medicine
.....Fake cancer cures
.....Antineoplaston therapy
.....Electrohomeopathy
.....Hoxsey therapy
.....Essels treatment
.....Washington-Wheeler therapy
.....Naturopathy
.....Zetron therapy
.....Homeopathy
.....Biological terrain assessment
.....Naturopathy
.....Electrohomeopathy
.....Laws of homeopathy
.....Acupuncture
.....Applied kinesiology
.....Biorythms
.....Electromagnetic hypersensitivity
.....Iridology
.....Leaky gut syndrome
.....Osteopathic manipulation
.....Radionics
.....Pseudotherapies
.....Acupuncture
.....Electroacupuncture
.....Moxibustion
.....Anthroposophic medicine
.....Applied kinesiology
.....Attachment therapy
.....Bates method
.....Bioresonance therapy
.....Chiropractic medicine
.....Colon cleansing
.....Conversion therapy
.....Craniosacral therapy
.....Cupping therapy
.....Detoxification diets
.....Ear candling
.....Electromagnetic therapy
.....Energy healing
.....Chakras
.....Crystal healing
.....Karmic healing
.....Qigong
.....Reiki
.....Therapeutic touch
.....Faith healing
.....Hypnosis
.....Mesmerism
.....Lightning processes
.....Magnet therapy
.....Nambudripad's Allergy Elimination Technique
.....Naturopathy
.....Neurolinguistic programming
.....Oil pulling
.....Osteopathic manipulation
.....Primal therapy
.....Psychic surgery
.....Reflexology
.....Rolfing
.....Urotherapy
.....Traditional Chinese medicine
.....Cupping therapy
.....Moxibustion
.....Qigong

Editorial Policy - BioMedCentral

- Ethics and consent
- Research involving human embryos, gametes, and stem cells
- Sex and gender in research (SAGER)
- Research involving animals
- Research involving plants
- Research involving palaeontological and geological material
- Biosafety and biosecurity
- Standards for research in complementary and alternative medicine
- Standards for research in complementary and alternative medicine
- Describing new taxa
- Competing interests
- Text recycling

What Do You Think?

Controlling thinking



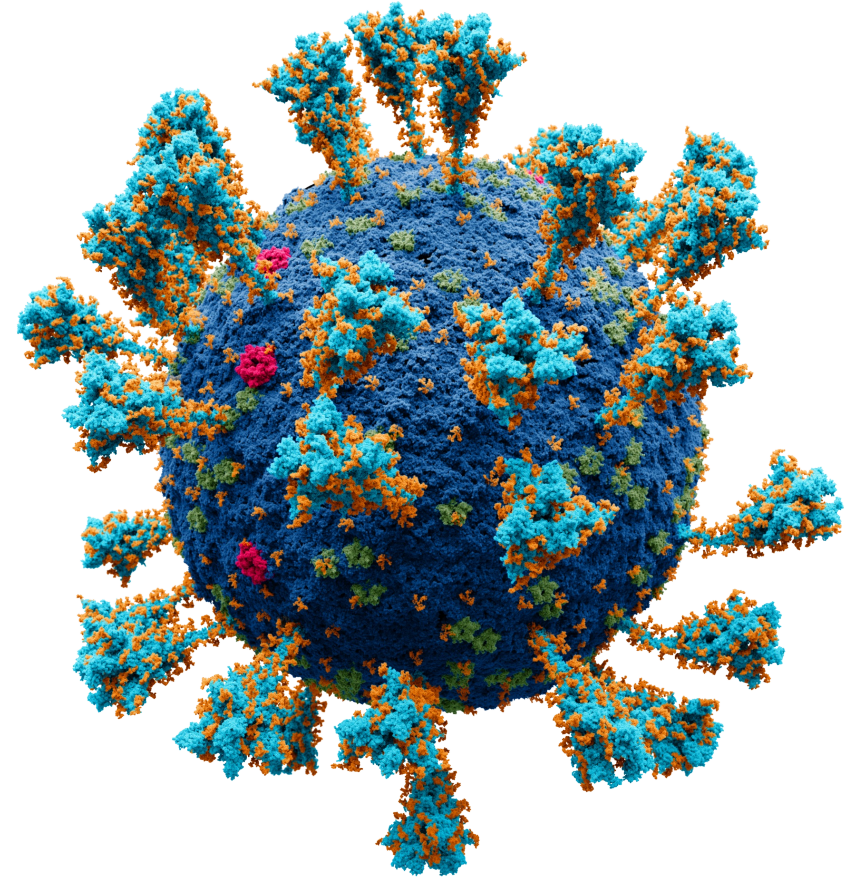
Censoring examples

We decided to make a taxonomy on Covid

And share it with all our customers.

A service in the time of the pandemic.

So I started collecting words used to name covid



Thesaurus MasterMAI Rule BuilderTest MAI

File

Edit

View

Help

covidThes

Biochemistry

3CLpro

5,7,3',4'-tetrahydroxy-2'-(3,3-dimethylallyl) isoflavone

ACE2 expression plasmids

Angiotensin converting enzyme 2

Nucleocapsid protein

Spike protein

Drugs

Acetaminophen

Antibiotics

Antiinflammatories

Antimalarials

Antivirals

Ciclesonide

Enzyme inhibitors

Monoclonal antibodies

Vaccines

Epidemiology

Disease control

Herd immunity

Hygiene

Virus testing

Viral diseases

COVID 19

Middle Eastern respiratory syndrome

Severe acute respiratory syndrome

Viruses

HKU9 1

Human coronavirus 229E

Human coronavirus NL63

Human coronavirus OC43

MERS CoV

SARS CoV

SARS CoV 2

Single stranded positive sense RNA viruses

Dashboard

Thesaurus Master

Machine Aided Indexing

XML Intranet System

DiscoverEnt

SentiScore

TopiCluster

Term Spy

Project Information

Administration

Logout

Support

Data Harmony

Current Project: covidThes

File

Edit

View

Help

Visualize

biochemistry

Drugs

Epidemiology

Viral diseases

COVID 19

Middle Eastern respiratory syndrome

Severe acute respiratory syndrome

Viruses

HKU9 1

Human coronavirus 229E

Human coronavirus NL63

Human coronavirus OC43

MERS CoV

SARS CoV

SARS CoV 2

Single stranded positive sense RNA viruses

Current Term

COVID 19

SARS CoV 2

Non-Preferred Term

2019 novel coronavirus di...

2019 novel coronavirus inf...

2019-nCoV disease

External Related Term

Editorial Note

Scope Note

History (+)

Search Rules

Chat

Accepted

Candidate

Deprecated

Virus names

- PT COVID 19
- ID 4
- BT Viral diseases
- RT SARS CoV 2
- UF 2019 novel coronavirus disease
- UF 2019 novel coronavirus infection
- UF 2019-nCoV disease
- UF 2019-nCoV infection
- UF COVID-19

- UF COVID-19 pandemic
- UF COVID19
- UF Coronavirus disease 19
- UF Coronavirus disease 2019
- UF Coronavirus disease-19
- UF SARS-CoV-2 infection
- UF Wuhan disease
- UF Wuhan flu
- UF CCP Virus
- UF Chinese Communist Party Virus

UF means Used For or a synonym

Those “other” people used that term

- Cannot include it...
- It is not accepted in the mainstream
- But what will be missed if we do not include it
- Early publications and information called it Wuhan virus
- Should we now suppress it because it is not politically correct?
- How much information is lost if we don't use this word?
- What about Hong Kong Flu, Spanish Flu, MERS*
 - *Middle East Respiratory Syndrome

What Do You Think?

Censoring examples



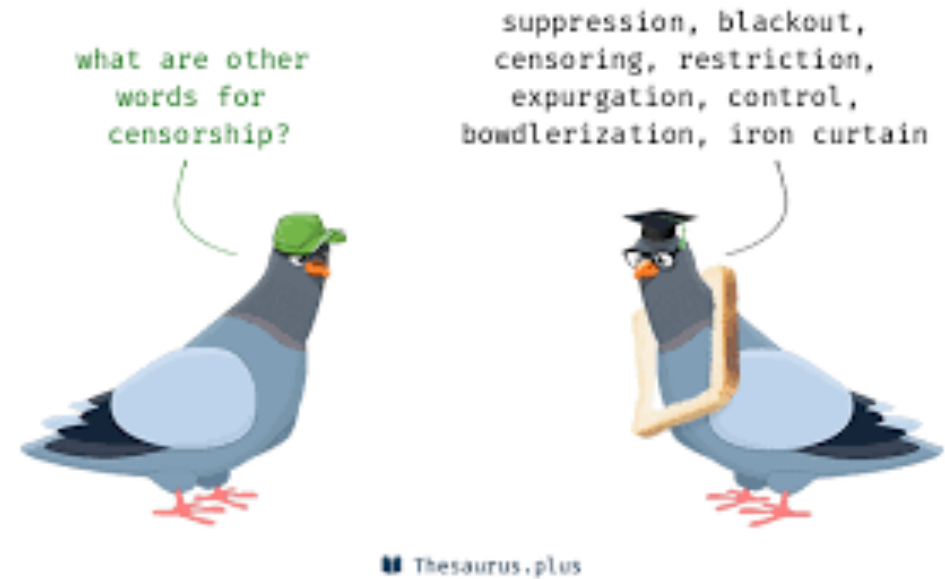
NISO Plus



Information
lost

Lost information

- What happens when the words are NOT part of the taxonomy?
- Is that information discoverable?
- Is it censorship or selection?



Deliberate deletion of records

- “damnatio memoriae” decree in Rome meant that the name of the damned was removed
 - scratched from inscriptions,
 - chiseled from statues and the statues themselves
 - frescoes of their likeness painted over,
 - wax masks melted
 - A fate worse than death!
- In Egypt the pharos were chiseled out of history
- In families – “you are dead to me”
- Excommunicated
- Libraries burned by conquering hordes

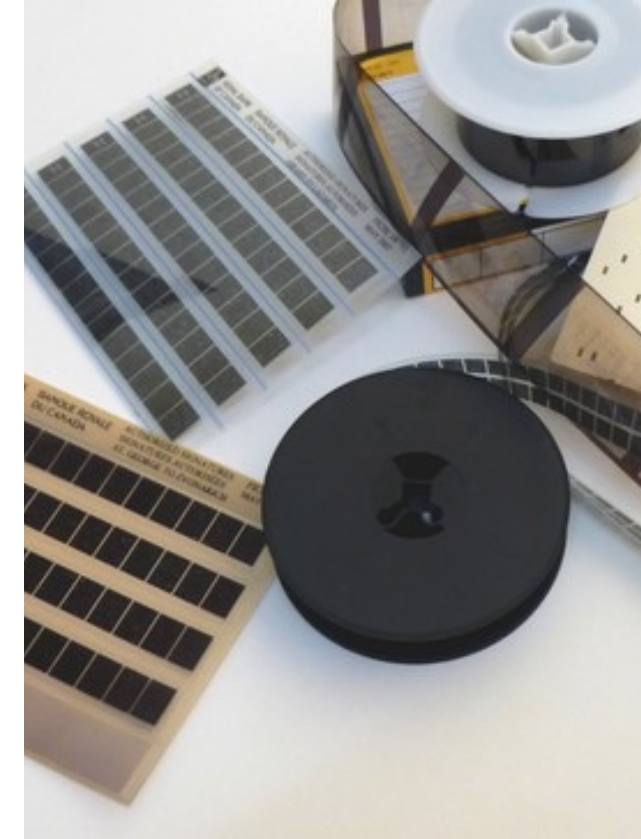
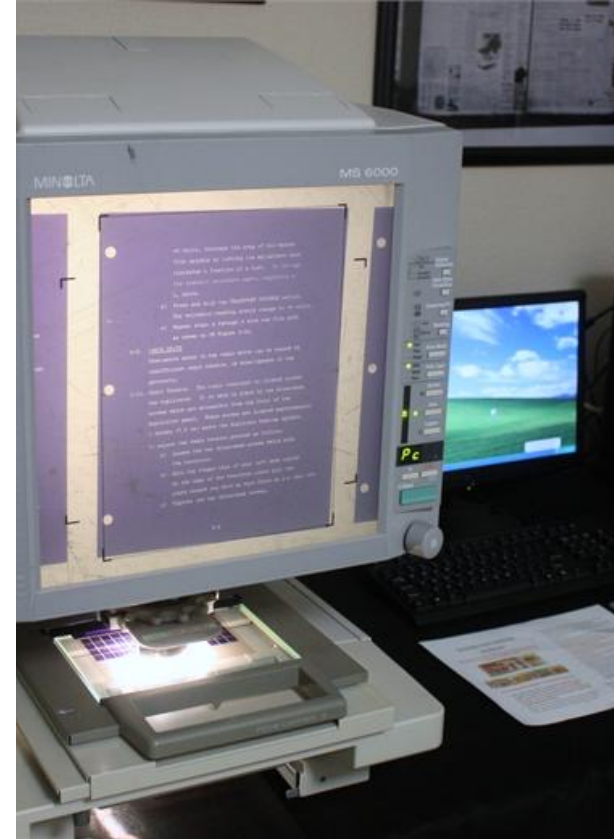
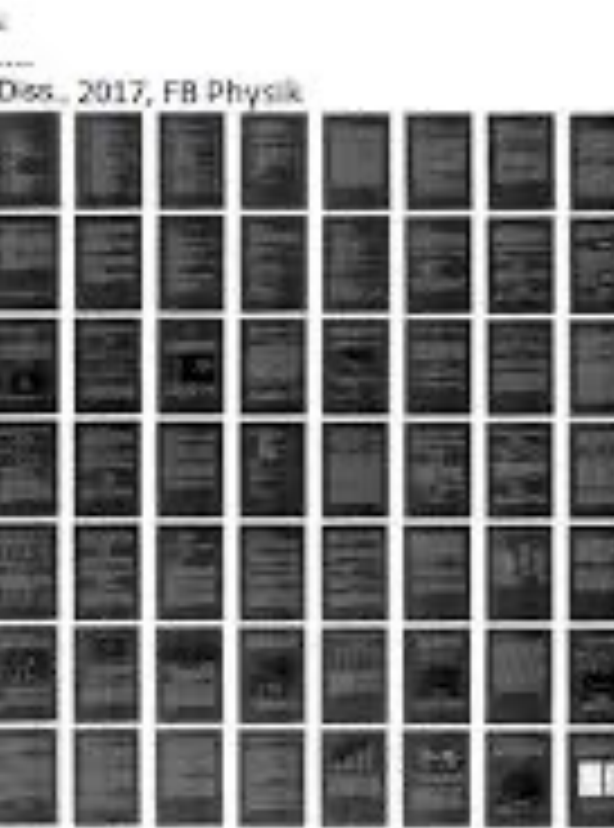




Lost works

- Fire
- War
- Natural disaster
- Author destruction
- Lost when digitized
 - No access to the works in the computer.





Only Access is the
microfilm header

- One header
- 96 images
- No other index

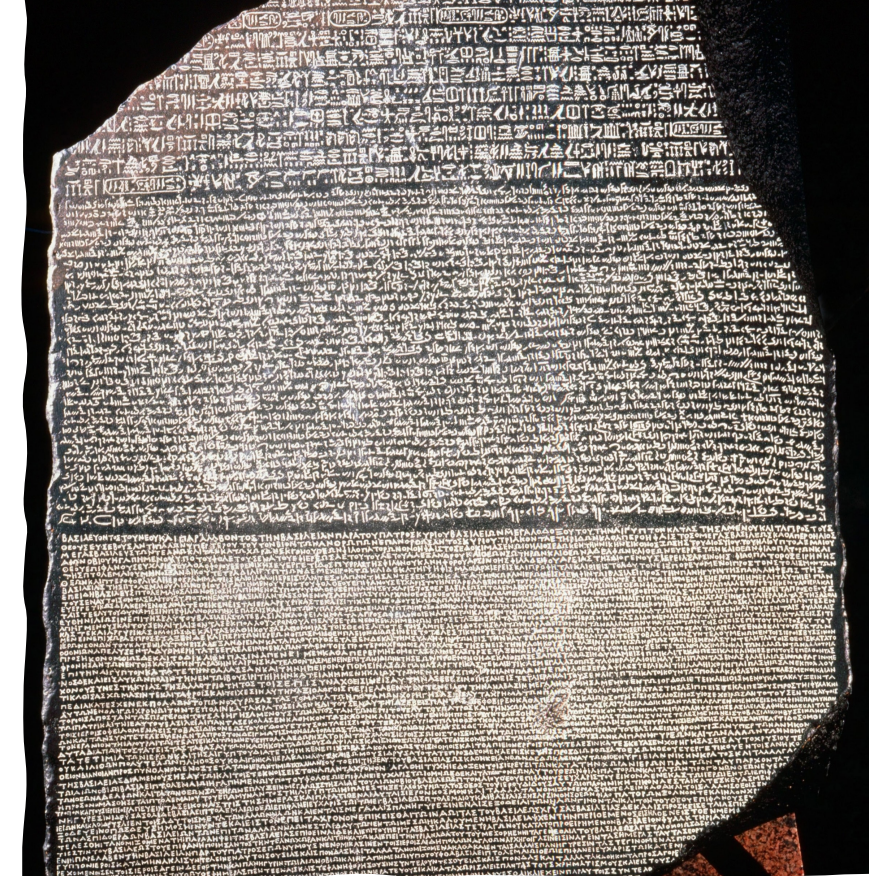


So move it to the
computer

- Independent images
- Still only the header
- Is that easier?
- Information lost

Why is the information lost?

- Lack of subject metadata (taxonomy)
- Indexer bias
 - Topic not important
 - Topic not acceptable
 - Topic not understood
 - Topic deemed not relevant
 - Term usage changes over time
 - Understanding of the code is lost, not documented



How will changing the names affect us?

- Google's 'Inclusive Language' Police by @LKrauss1

Google's 'Inclusive Language' Police

The company labels terms like 'senior citizen,' 'dummy variable,' and 'black box' verboten.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/google-inclusive-language-cancel-culture-censor-free-speech-offended-woke-micro-aggression-microsoft-11642800484>

- <https://record.umich.edu/articles/library-taking-steps-to-remediate-harmful-metadata-language/>

January 24, 2022

Share on:  

Library taking steps to remediate harmful metadata language

By Alan Piñon
U-M Library

Topics: [Campus News](#)

Although the work of describing the details or “metadata” about items in a library collection is often invisible, the information it produces is fundamental to how people discover and use library resources.

Ensuring that such descriptions are accurate and as free from biased and harmful language as possible is essential and also a challenge, given that so much legacy library metadata was created by people with inherent and unacknowledged biases.

Now, the U-M Library, the William L. Clements Library, and the Bentley Historical Library are working to remediate the harmful language in the metadata, which includes the

+ MORE INFORMATION

- [U-M Library remediation policy](#)
- [Watch a documentary about harmful-language remediation](#)

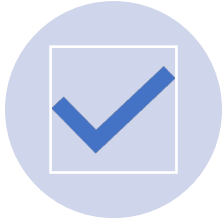
What Do You Think?

Information lost



Detecting bias

Introducing Bias



Data and data sets are not objective



Training sets are not objective



They are creations of human design.



We give numbers their voice, draw inferences from them



Define their meaning through our interpretations.



Hidden biases in both the collection and analysis stages present considerable risks



Are as important to the big-data equation as the numbers themselves.

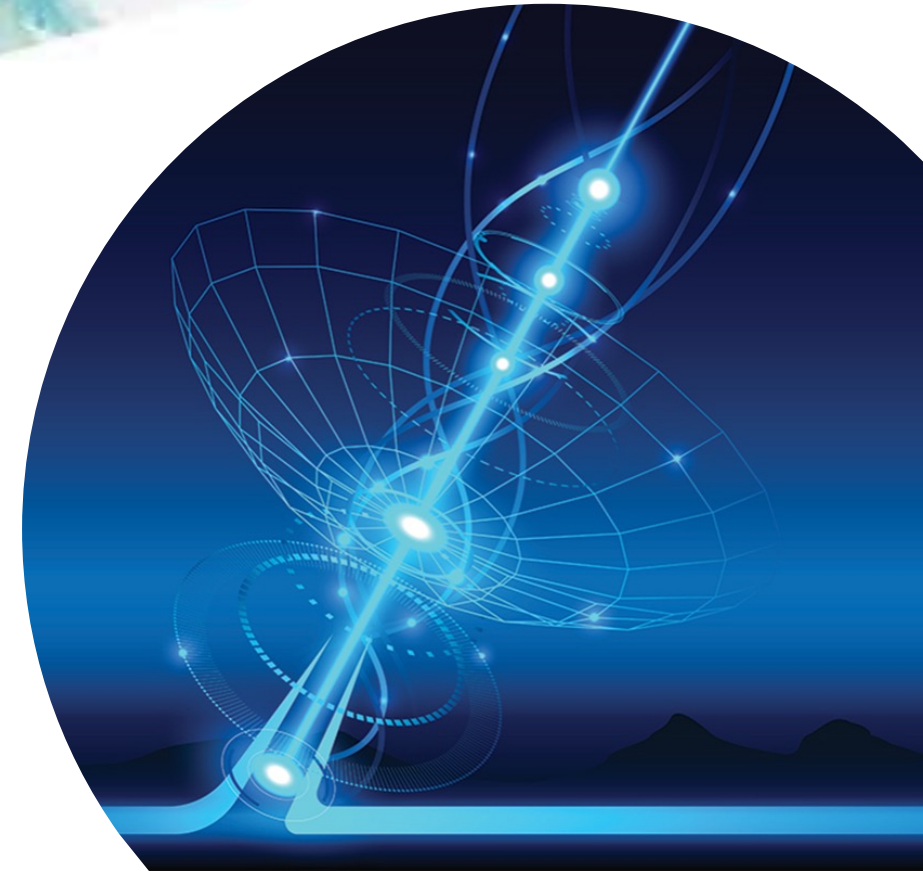
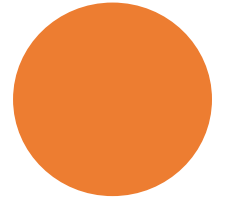
Unconscious Bias

An automatic mental shortcut used to process information and make decisions quickly



Term usage changes over time

- Full to acronym
 - LASER
 - Light **A**mplification by **S**timulated **E**mission of **R**adiation
- Popular use
 - Washing up machines
 - Kleenex
- Homonyms
 - Lead
 - Mercury
- Clarity and popularity



It is a slippery slope to “censor”
information

Could be simple bias or loss

Could be intentional or match
criteria

As publishers,
taxonomists and
information stewards
we need to walk the
balance

What Do You Think?

Detecting bias

Thank you
very much
for listening

Marjorie Hlava
President, Chief Scientist
Access Innovations, Inc



Angela Cochran
Vice President, Publishing
American Society for Clinical Oncology



Shelly Ray
Principal Transportation Planner, Research & Records
Information Management
Office of Board Administration
LA Metro

