



SUNY Library Consortium is proud to announce that we are following in the footsteps of Dartmouth College's [Change the Subject Project](#). The SUNY Library Consortium has implemented local subject headings in our Library Management System (Alma and PrimoVE) to replace the Library of Congress' subject headings that contain the term "aliens" and "illegal aliens." Many libraries in the United States have already implemented their own local subject headings to address the alienation felt by faculty, staff, and students as they come across subject headings containing "aliens" and "illegal aliens" in their library catalogs. Many other libraries are currently working towards removing the Library of Congress subject headings containing "aliens" and "illegal aliens" from their library systems. SUNY Library Consortium is proud to be among the libraries who are embracing the "Change the Subject Project."

Historical background: In 2016, the United States House of Representatives stated, as part of a funding bill, that the subject heading "alien" must be retained as an authorized subject heading by the Library of Congress. As a result, the Library of Congress is unable to change subject headings containing "aliens" or "illegal aliens" in their bibliographic records. The grassroots effort started by Dartmouth students, with the support of the American Library Association, to "Change the Subject" has garnered support from libraries across the country.

As such, subject headings such as "illegal aliens" does not align with the principles of SUNY's [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy](#). Changing the Library of Congress subject headings containing "aliens" and "illegal aliens" provides SUNY Libraries with the opportunity to better represent our community and embrace the diversity that makes SUNY so great.

The SUNY Library Consortia has created local subject headings to replace all instances of "illegal aliens" in the library catalog and in the discovery layer that is used by our community of library users. The SUNY Library Consortia has taken a multi-pronged approach to best address how to change the Library of Congress subject headings that contain "illegal aliens" to "undocumented immigrants." SUNY library catalogs have replaced the term "illegal aliens" used in Library of Congress subject headings with "undocumented immigrants." Due to the complexity of identifying bibliographic records that contain the Library of Congress subject heading "aliens", SUNY Library Consortia has decided to omit this subject heading from displaying in our discovery system, PrimoVE.

Physical bibliographic records in Alma have had the term "illegal aliens" removed and replaced with "undocumented immigrants" upon import into the Library Management System.

- Physical bibliographic records currently in Alma that contain subject headings with "illegal aliens" have been changed to "undocumented immigrants"

- The SUNY local subject headings containing “undocumented immigrants” are located in MARC field 690 of the bibliographic record and they can be identified by “Change the Subject Project” following the SUNY local subject heading
- Physical bibliographic records in PrimoVE can be searched using a subject search for “undocumented immigrants,” instead of “illegal aliens”

PrimoVE has been configured to display the SUNY local subject heading of “undocumented immigrants” for any physical records that may still contain “illegal aliens” and for all electronic resources.

- This allows electronic resources bibliographic records in Alma that contain subject headings with “illegal aliens” to display as “undocumented immigrants” for users. Electronic Resources are maintained by the Library Management System’s vendor, Ex Libris, and not by SUNY, therefore we are unable to change the metadata in electronic bibliographic records
- To find Electronic records and some physical resources that contain the subject heading “illegal aliens” in their source bibliographic record users will need to use the subject search term “illegal aliens”

The Central Discovery Index (CDI) bibliographic records come from outside Alma and SUNY is unable to make any changes to their bibliographic metadata. The CDI allows electronic resources to be searched at the title, article, and chapter level.

- All CDI electronic bibliographic records will continue to display the LOC authorized subject headings using “illegal aliens” and “aliens”
- All CDI electronic bibliographic records will continue to be search using the LOC authorized subject headings using “illegal aliens” and “aliens”