





Liberating Knowledge at the Margins: Towards a Discursive-Transactional Research Paradigm in LIS

Concordia Library Research Forum

April 26th 2019

Michael Dudley, University of Winnipeg



International Indigenous Policy Journal



IIPJ

Special Issue: Reconciling Research: Perspectives on Research
Involving Indigenous Peoples (Part I)

April 2017

Volume 8 Issue 2

Jerry P. White
Editor-in-Chief

Susan Wingert
Managing Editor

Dudley, Michael. (2017). "A Library Matter of Genocide: The Library of Congress and the Historiography of the Native American Holocaust." *The International Indigenous Policy Journal* 8 (2) (2017).



Purpose

To name, describe and demonstrate the potentialities of a mode of LIS research by illustrating with suggestive examples





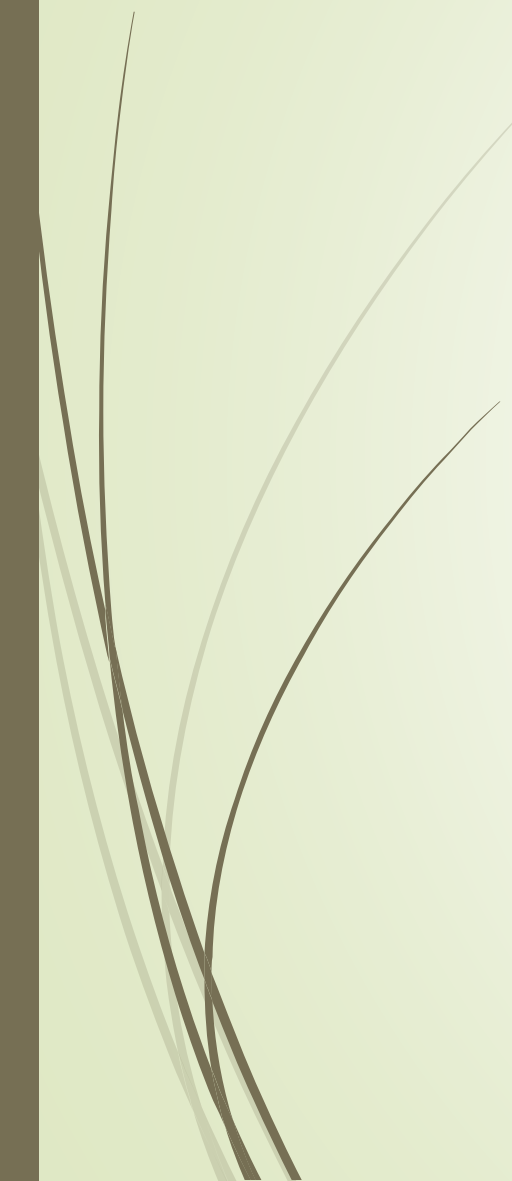
Outline

- **Definitions**
- **Context:** Critical LIS perspectives on normative pragmatism in LIS research, and its critics
- **Theory:** Foucault's *Archaeology of Knowledge*
- **Proposed *Discursive Transactional Research Paradigm***
- **Methods:** LCSH as Foucauldian “statements”
- **Suggestive examples** in the LIS literature
- **Conclusions**



Definitions

Discourses:

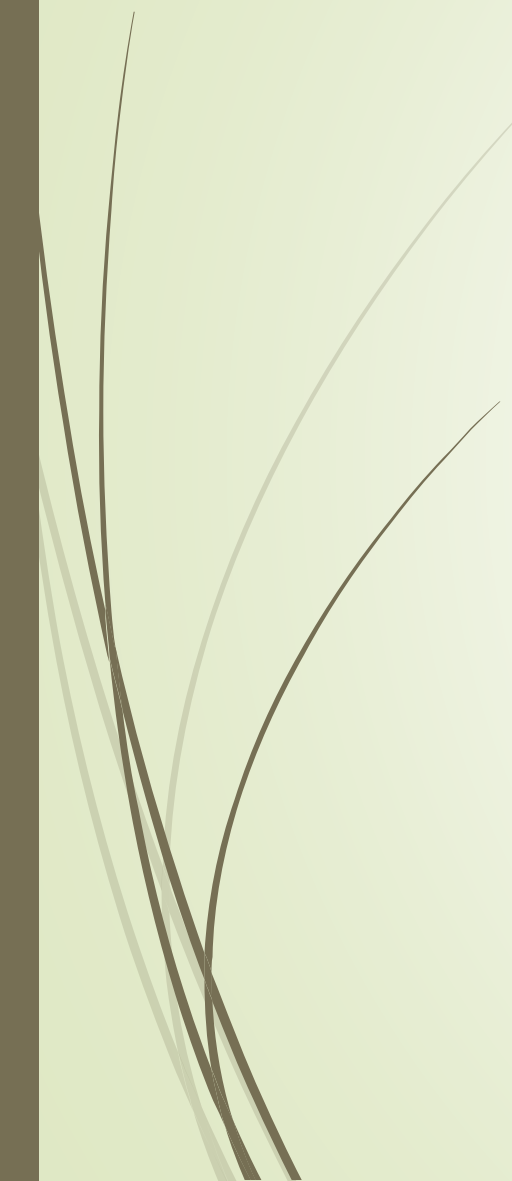
- ▶ “systems of thought,” or the “demarkation of a field of objects” which are maintained as “discursive practices” not necessarily tied to any particular discipline, but which require normative acts of exclusions and selection (Foucault 1997).
- 



Definitions

Transactionality:

Dialectical processes of knowledge production and reproduction in which libraries participate across all disciplines, and leads to the creation of further literary warrant justifying the knowledge organization systems they employ.






Definitions

“Subjugated knowledge”

“historical contents that have been buried and disguised ...knowledges that have been disqualified as inadequate to the task or insufficiently elaborated...” (Foucault 1980, 81-2).

e.g., counternarratives re: race, gender, sexuality, power, colonialism, social justice.



Context: Research Paradigms in LIS (Hjørland 2000)

- physical paradigm (artifacts – documents, abstracts, indexes, and databases)
- cognitive paradigm (user-oriented views);
- Systems view
- The domain-analytic view (holistic view re: scope of a knowledge domain, its thought/discourse communities, communication channels)
- Document-oriented approaches (bibliometrics)
- Hermeneutics (interpretation, semiotics, phenomenology)



Context: Normative pragmatism in LIS research, and its critics

- LIS dominated by a “professional paradigm” (Gauchi Risso 2016)
- LIS’ “practicality imperative” (Hudson 2017)
- neoliberal ideology emphasizes practicality and efficiency over critique (Nicholson and Seale 2018).
- the book and its indexing are *fetishized* or viewed in isolation from their sociocultural and historical bases (Popowich 2018)
- Librarianship as “hegemony’s handmaid” (Pawley 1998)



Theory

Social Epistemology (Egan and Shera 1952)

- ▶ The role of libraries in the “production, distribution and utilization of intellectual products” in society (133-4)
- ▶ To what extent is the Library active or passive in this role; does the library “speak” or generates truth claims? (Budd 2004, 365).



Theory

Foucauldian Statements

(from *The Archaeology of Knowledge* [Foucault 1972/2002.])

- Statement as the “elementary unit of discourse”
- does not need to be grammatically correct sentences (can be tables, graphs, charts, maps, genealogical trees etc.)
- represents concepts, ideas
- To be read exclusive of authors or intent
- intentional rhetorical “texts” tied to surrounding contexts
- contribute to the creation of further statements
- result in discursive and non-discursive effects




Theory

Foucauldian Statements

(from *The Archaeology of Knowledge*
[Foucault 1972/2002.]

- To be read in terms of their
 - Material existence
 - Rarity
 - Exteriority (additivity and recurrence)
 - Accumulation (persistence or oblivion over time)

The Discursive Transactional Research Paradigm

- 
- Definition
 - Structure
 - Methods
 - Suggestive examples in the LIS Literature



Research Paradigm Defined

The discursive-transactional research paradigm explores the epistemological transactions between knowledge organization systems (KOS) and external discourses, by considering the former as rhetorical discursive acts unto themselves and which, even as they are influenced by such discourses, produce their own potentially marginalizing discursive effects as well as non-discursive effects on users.



Rationale


Identifying the role of library knowledge organization systems as a factor in knowledge production, stabilization and subjugation.





Structure

- ▶ ***Theoria (thinking): Describing and Situating Knowledge***
- ▶ ***Poiesis (making): Representing Knowledge***
 - ▶ **Method:** Foucauldian analysis of KOS
- ▶ ***Praxis (doing): Acting on Knowledge***

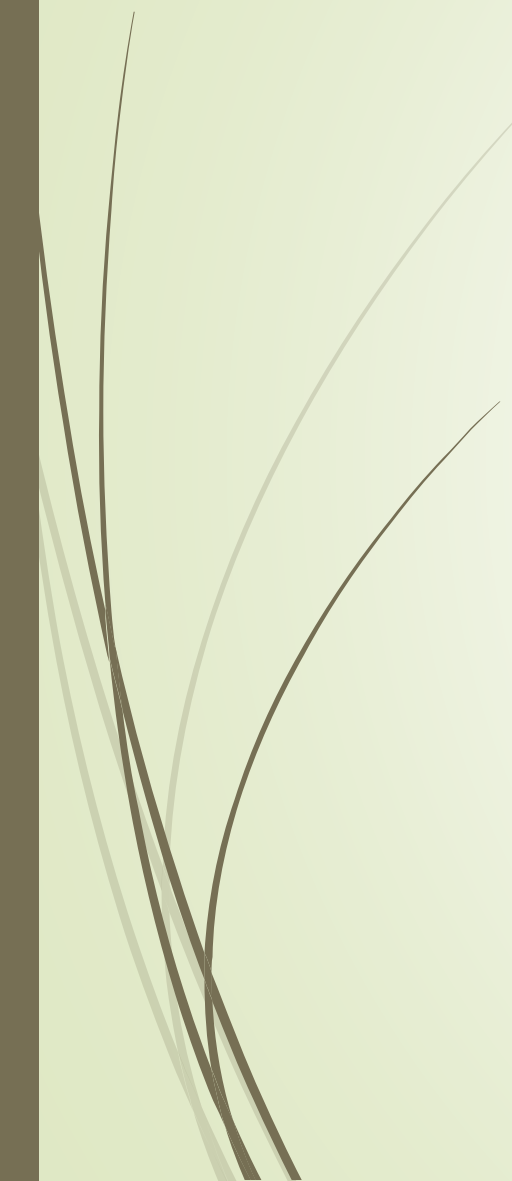


Theoria: Describing and Situating Knowledge

- A discourse and its ***ontological, epistemological and or methodological foundations***;
- The ***socio-cultural, historical and/or political contexts*** in which a dominant scholarly discourse exists;
- The ***institutionalization of this discourse*** and how this works to exclude and subjugate other forms of knowledge;
- The ***counter-knowledges*** subjugated by these forms of institutionalization, and the extent to which they constitute an insurrection against dominant narratives.




Poiesis: Representing Knowledge

- The representation of **both dominant and subjugated discourses** in library knowledge organization systems;
 - An analysis of these representations **as Foucauldian statements**, in terms of the extent to which their rarity, exteriority and accumulation reflect and reinforce dominant discourses;
 - The material, **discursive and non-discursive effects** of these representations.
- 



Praxis: Acting on Knowledge

- Approaches to knowledge organization systems which would ***reflect and include subjugated knowledges*** in institutional and socio-cultural contexts.
 - Pathways to implementing these approaches.
- 

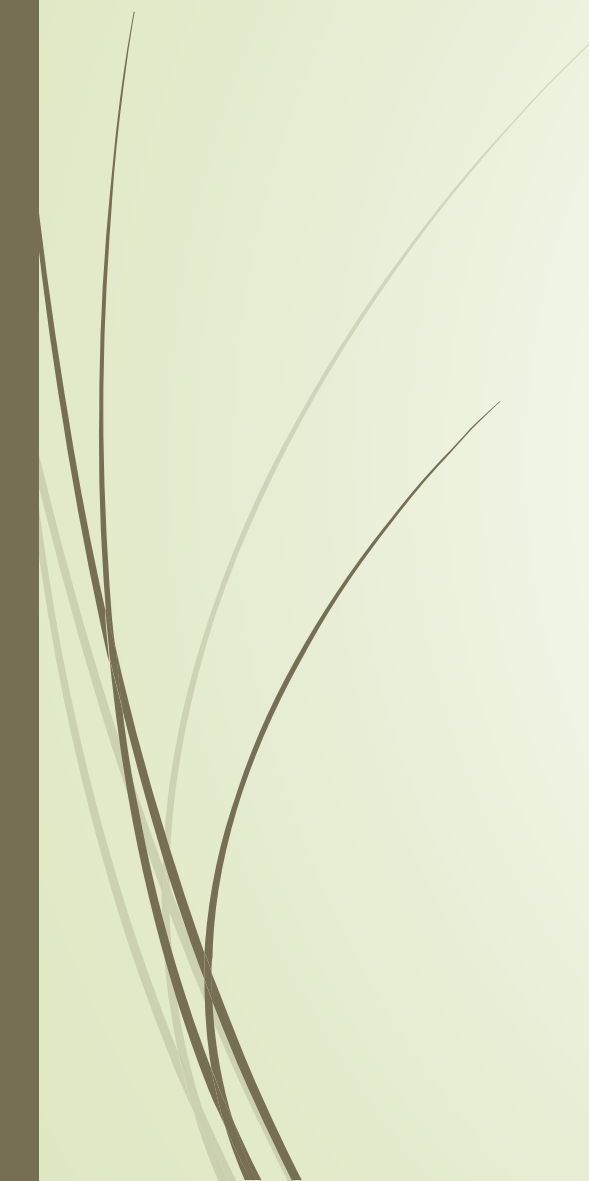



Examples in the LIS Literature



Doyle, Ann Mary. (2013). *Naming, Claiming, and (Re)creating: Indigenous Knowledge Organization at the Cultural Interface*. PhD diss., University of British Columbia.

- ▶ Seeks to establish a theoretical framework for an Indigenous knowledge organization system.
 - ▶ **Theoria:** Indigenous knowledge discourses at the “Cultural Interface” with Western knowledge (Nakata 2002);
 - ▶ **Poiesis:** Eurocentric and colonial KOS are incommensurate with Indigenous knowledge;
 - ***Describes negative non-discursive effects of Eurocentric KOS re: barriers to discovering desired Indigenous content.***




If the knowledge organization systems used by a university library are offensive or derogatory from Indigenous perspectives, they may also contribute to an alien climate for learners, with associated impacts on identity, sense of belonging, the ways in which learners perceive themselves, and their histories (Doyle 2013, 141).



Doyle, Ann Mary. (2013). *Naming, Claiming, and (Re)creating: Indigenous Knowledge Organization at the Cultural Interface*. PhD diss., University of British Columbia.

- Seeks to establish a theoretical framework for an Indigenous knowledge organization system.
 - **Theoria:** Treats KOS “text and as discursive practice;” situates Indigenous knowledge discourses at the “Cultural Interface” with Western knowledge (Nakata 2002);
 - **Poiesis:** Eurocentric and colonial KOS are incommensurate with Indigenous knowledge;
 - **Describes negative non-discursive effects of Eurocentric KOS re: barriers to discovering Indigenous content.**
 - **Praxis:** Proposes developing an Indigenous Knowledge Organization (IKO) system



Fox, Melodie J. (2015). *Gender as an 'Interplay of Rules': Detecting Epistemic Interplay of Medical and Legal Discourse with Sex and Gender Classification in Four Editions of the Dewey Decimal Classification*. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

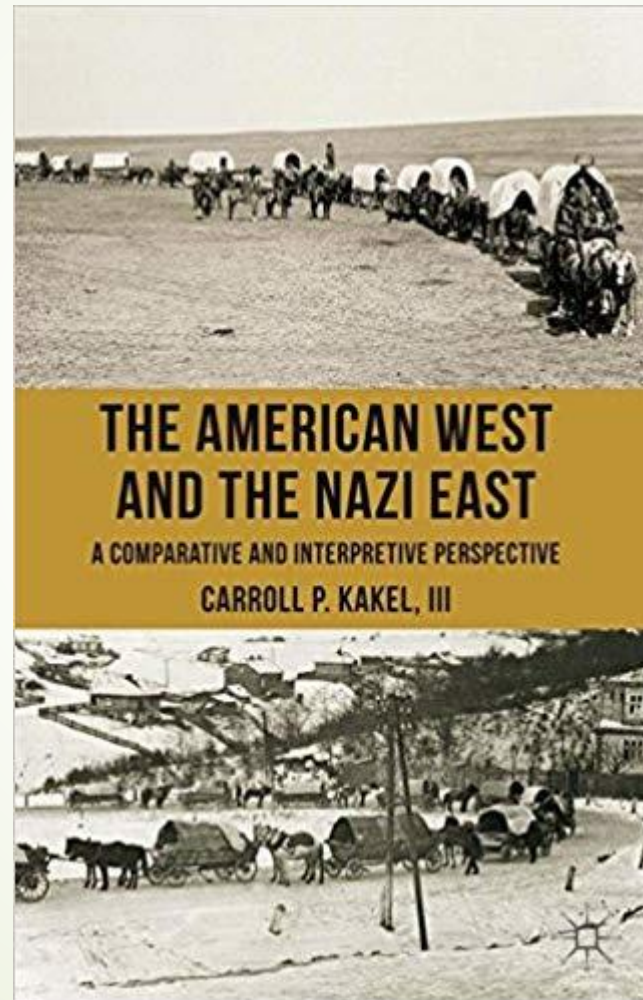
- ▶ Identifies correspondences between conceptions of gender in the “internal” discourse of the DDC system as well as in external medical and legal discourses.
 - ▶ **Theoria:** Critical theoretical analysis of medical, legal and library classification systems reveals how they inform each other, privileging male heterosexist viewpoints;
 - ▶ **Poiesis:** harmful misrepresentations result when women, transgender and intersex individuals are pathologized;
 - ▶ **Praxis:** a subjective epistemology emphasizing pluralistic perspectives from knowing subjects.



Dudley, Michael. (2017). "A Library Matter of Genocide: The Library of Congress and the Historiography of the Native American Holocaust." *The International Indigenous Policy Journal* 8 (2) (2017).

- ▶ Examines historiography of genocide, and of genocide in the Americas; and the concomitant treatment of this literature by the Library of Congress.
 - ▶ **Theoria:** ambivalent view of Indigenous genocide in the academy is stabilized in libraries through KOS.
 - ▶ **Poiesis:** KOS reproduce and reinforce comforting colonial narratives through benign-sounding subject headings and absence of coherent LC classification.

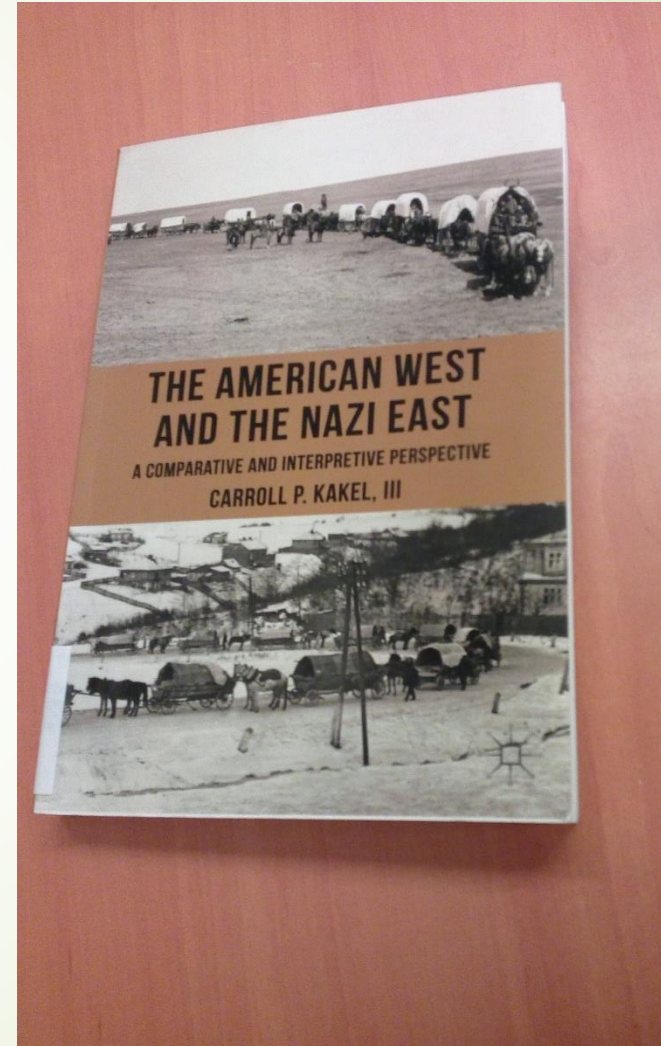
Poiesis: LCSH as Foucauldian Statements



LCSH as Foucauldian Statements

Materiality

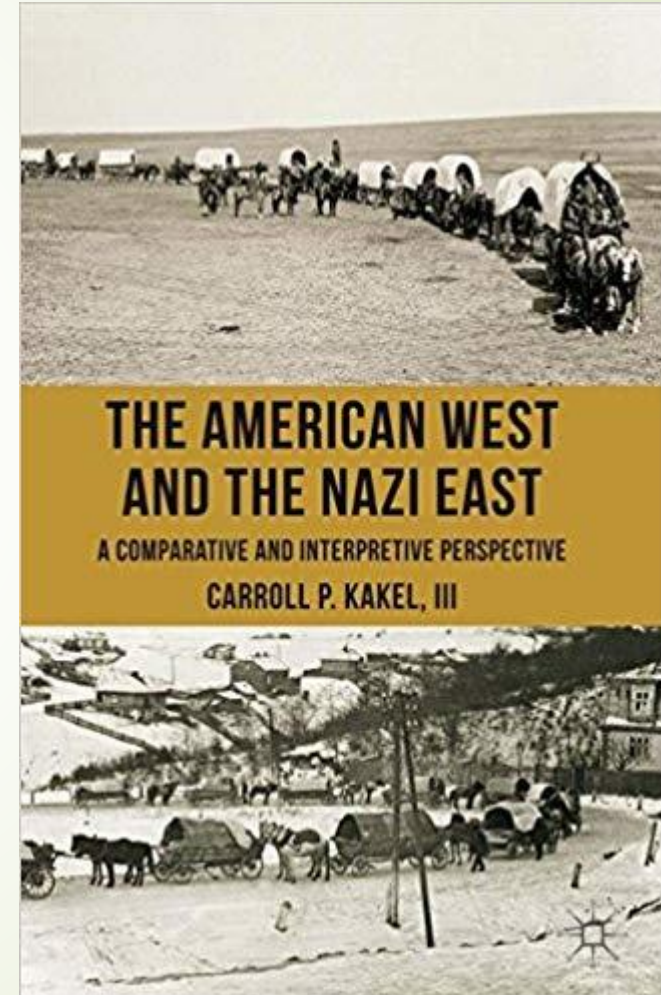
- Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)
- World War (1939-1945)
- Indians of North America Wars.
- Indians, Treatment of United States.
- Massacres West (U.S.) History 19th century.
- World War, 1939-1945 Atrocities Europe, Eastern.
- Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) Europe, Eastern.
- Genocide Europe, Eastern History 20th century.
- Atrocities.
- Genocide.
- Indians, Treatment of.
- Massacres.
- Territorial expansion.
- United States Territorial expansion.
- Germany Territorial expansion.



LCSH as Foucauldian Statements

Rarity: What is said in light of what could have been said but was not

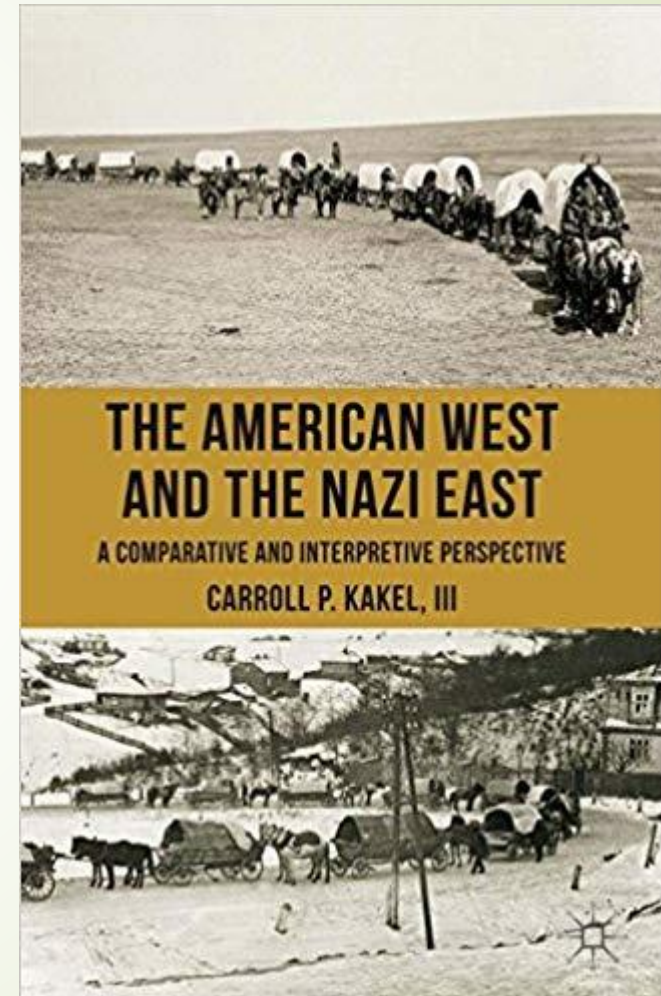
- Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)
- World War (1939-1945)
- Indians of North America Wars.
- Indians, Treatment of United States.
- Massacres West (U.S.) History 19th century.
- World War, 1939-1945 Atrocities Europe, Eastern.
- Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) Europe, Eastern.
- Genocide Europe, Eastern History 20th century.
- Atrocities.
- Genocide.
- Indians, Treatment of.
- Massacres.
- Territorial expansion.
- United States Territorial expansion.
- Germany Territorial expansion.



LCSH as Foucauldian Statements

Rarity: What is said in light of what could have been said but was not

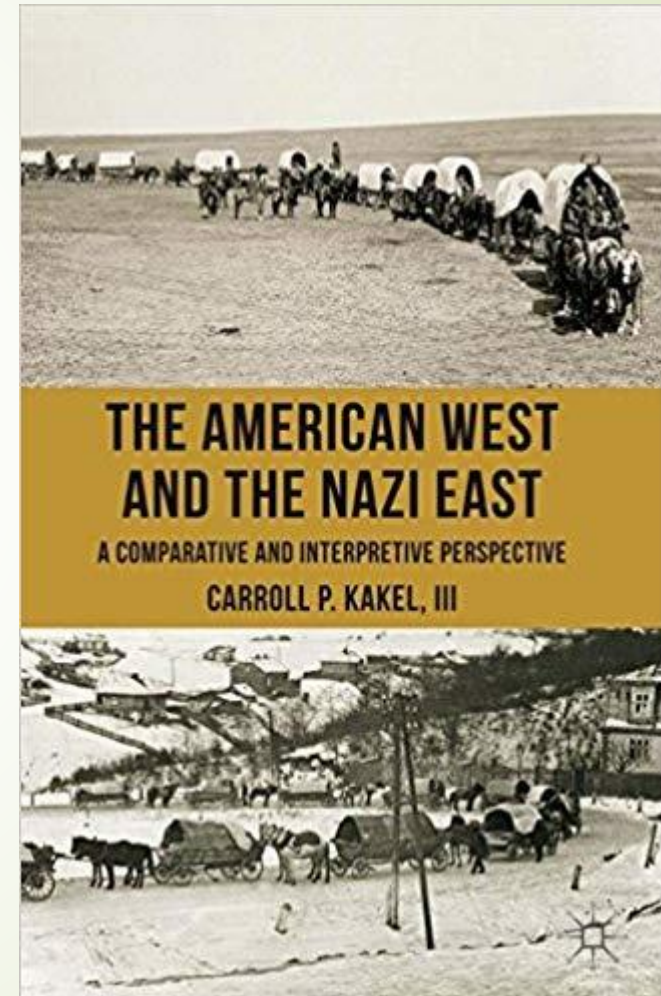
- ▶ Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)
- ▶ World War (1939-1945)
- ▶ Indians of North America Wars.
- ▶ Indians, Treatment of United States.
- ▶ Massacres West (U.S.) History 19th century.
- ▶ World War, 1939-1945 Atrocities Europe, Eastern.
- ▶ **Indians of North America – Wars – Atrocities**
- ▶ Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) Europe, Eastern.
- ▶ Genocide Europe, Eastern History 20th century.
- ▶ **Genocide – United States**
- ▶ Atrocities.
- ▶ Genocide.
- ▶ Indians, Treatment of.
- ▶ **Poles – Treatment of**
- ▶ Massacres.
- ▶ Territorial expansion.
- ▶ United States Territorial expansion.
- ▶ Germany Territorial expansion.



LCSH as Foucauldian Statements

Exteriority/additivity (juxtaposition/ groupings).

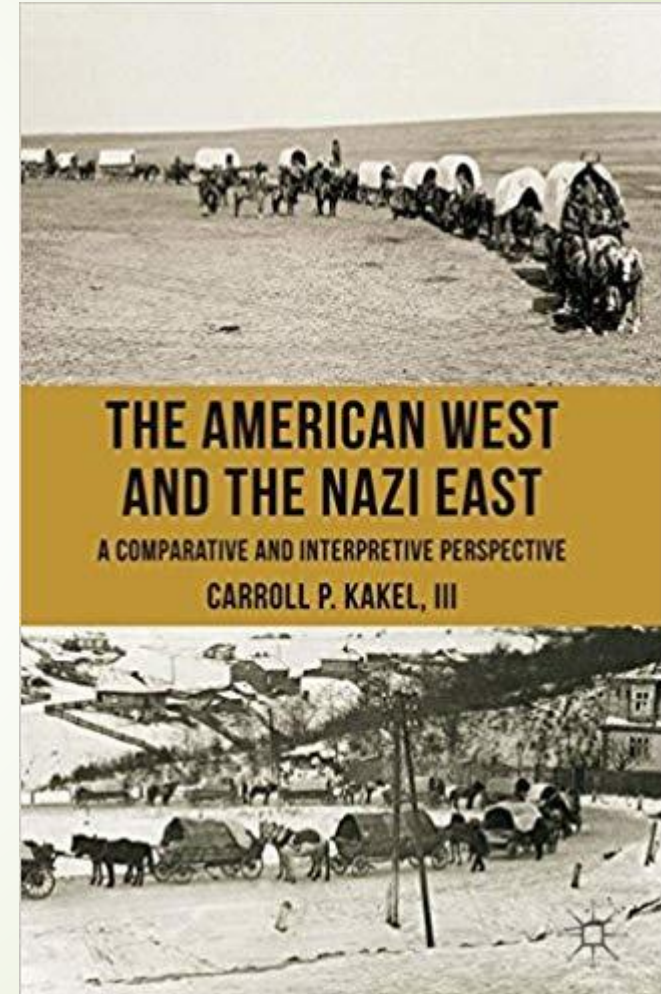
- ***Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)***
- ***World War (1939-1945)***
- Indians of North America Wars.
- Indians, Treatment of United States.
- Massacres West (U.S.) History 19th century.
- World War, 1939-1945 Atrocities Europe, Eastern.
- Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) Europe, Eastern.
- Genocide Europe, Eastern History 20th century.
- Atrocities.
- Genocide.
- Indians, Treatment of.
- Massacres.
- Territorial expansion.
- United States Territorial expansion.
- Germany Territorial expansion.



LCSH as Foucauldian Statements

Exteriority/additivity (juxtaposition/ groupings).

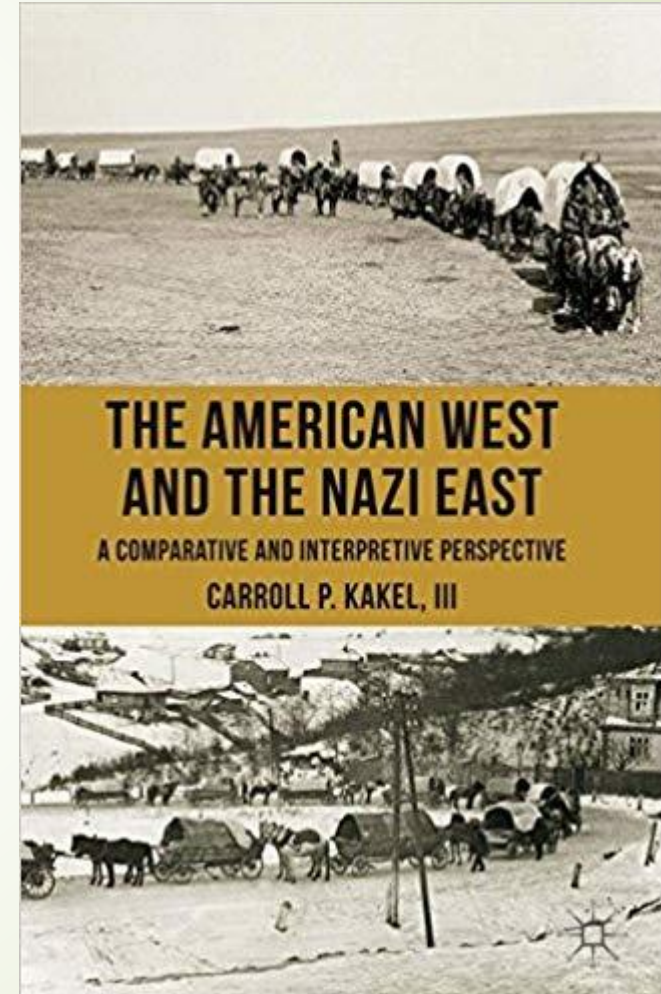
- Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)
- World War (1939-1945)
- ***Indians of North America Wars.***
- ***Indians, Treatment of United States.***
- Massacres West (U.S.) History 19th century.
- World War, 1939-1945 Atrocities Europe, Eastern.
- Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) Europe, Eastern.
- Genocide Europe, Eastern History 20th century.
- Atrocities.
- Genocide.
- Indians, Treatment of.
- Massacres.
- Territorial expansion.
- United States Territorial expansion.
- Germany Territorial expansion.



LCSH as Foucauldian Statements

Exteriority/additivity (juxtaposition/ groupings).

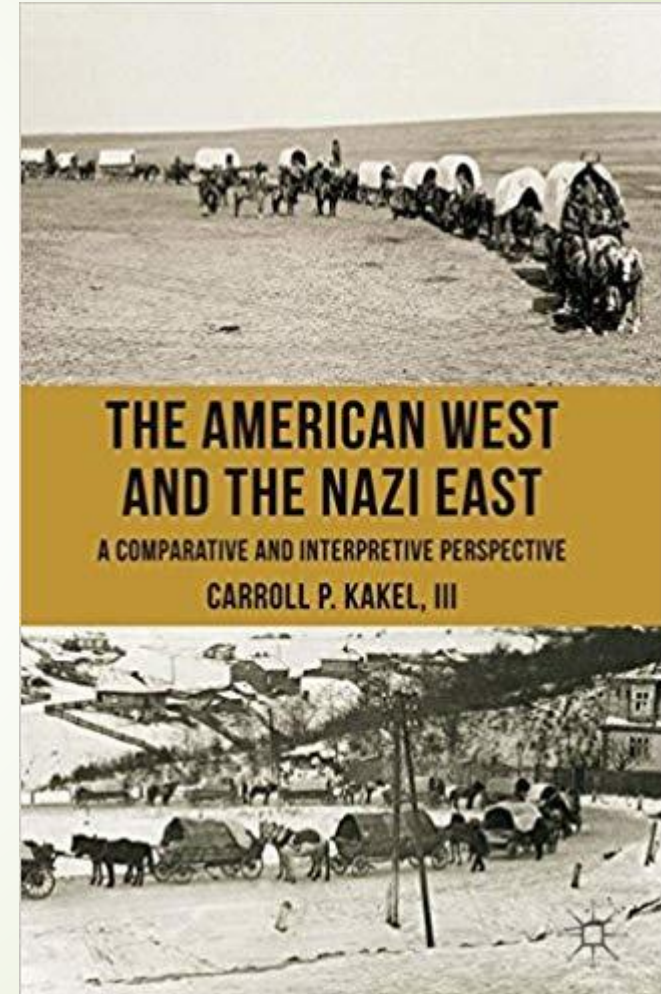
- Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)
- World War (1939-1945)
- Indians of North America Wars.
- Indians, Treatment of United States.
- **Massacres West (U.S.) History 19th century.**
- **World War, 1939-1945 Atrocities Europe, Eastern.**
- Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) Europe, Eastern.
- Genocide Europe, Eastern History 20th century.
- Atrocities.
- Genocide.
- Indians, Treatment of.
- Massacres.
- Territorial expansion.
- United States Territorial expansion.
- Germany Territorial expansion.



LCSH as Foucauldian Statements

Exteriority/additivity (juxtaposition/ groupings).

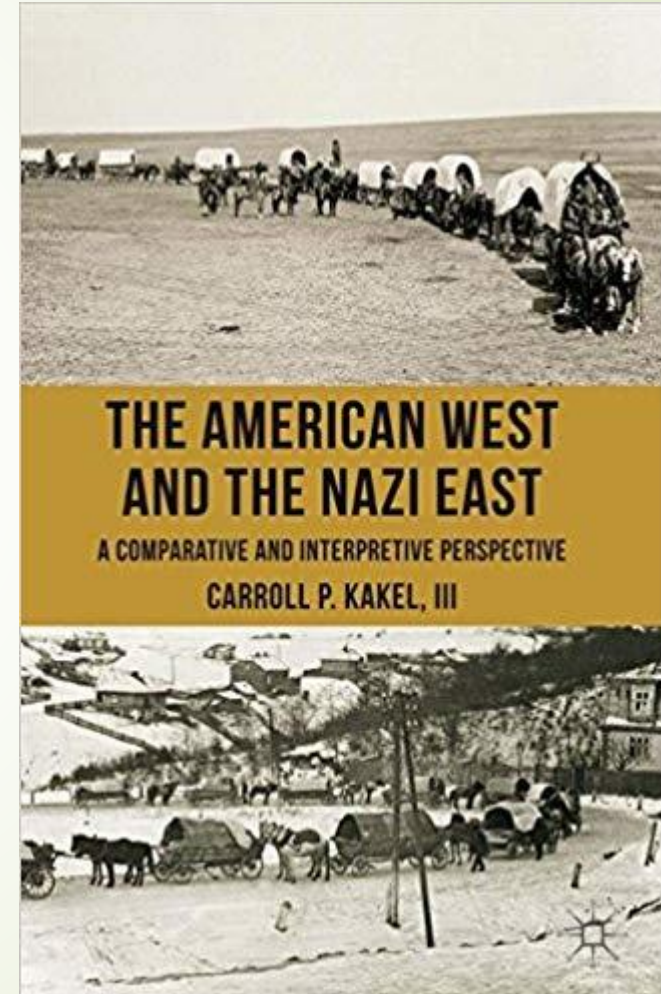
- Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)
- World War (1939-1945)
- Indians of North America Wars.
- Indians, Treatment of United States.
- Massacres West (U.S.) History 19th century.
- **World War, 1939-1945 Atrocities Europe, Eastern.**
- **Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) Europe, Eastern.**
- **Genocide Europe, Eastern History 20th century.**
- **Atrocities.**
- **Genocide.**
- Indians, Treatment of.
- Massacres.
- Territorial expansion.
- United States Territorial expansion.
- Germany Territorial expansion.



LCSH as Foucauldian Statements

Exteriority/additivity (juxtaposition/ groupings).

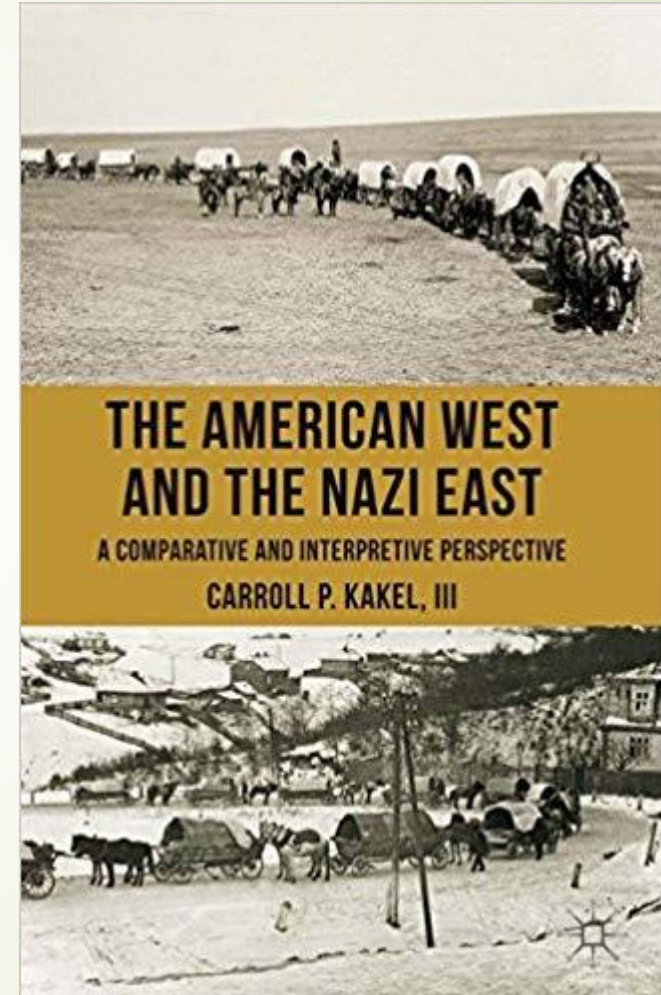
- Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)
- World War (1939-1945)
- Indians of North America Wars.
- Indians, Treatment of United States.
- Massacres West (U.S.) History 19th century.
- World War, 1939-1945 Atrocities Europe, Eastern.
- Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) Europe, Eastern.
- Genocide Europe, Eastern History 20th century.
- Atrocities.
- Genocide.
- ***Indians, Treatment of.***
- ***Massacres.***
- Territorial expansion.
- United States Territorial expansion.
- Germany Territorial expansion.



LCSH as Foucauldian Statements

Exteriority/additivity (juxtaposition/ groupings).

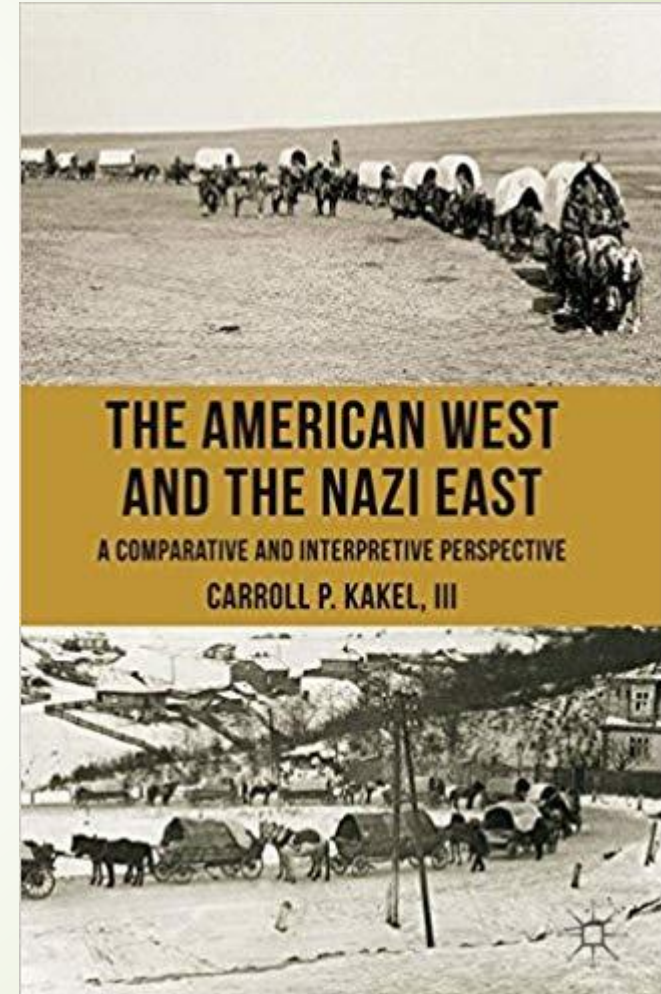
- Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)
- World War (1939-1945)
- Indians of North America Wars.
- Indians, Treatment of United States.
- Massacres West (U.S.) History 19th century.
- World War, 1939-1945 Atrocities Europe, Eastern.
- Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) Europe, Eastern.
- Genocide Europe, Eastern History 20th century.
- Atrocities.
- Genocide.
- Indians, Treatment of.
- Massacres.
- ***Territorial expansion.***
- ***United States Territorial expansion.***
- ***Germany Territorial expansion.***




LCSH as Foucauldian Statements

Recurrence

- Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)
- World War (1939-1945)
- Indians of North America Wars.
- **Indians, Treatment of** United States.
- **Massacres** West (U.S.) History 19th century.
- World War, 1939-1945 **Atrocities** Europe, Eastern.
- Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) Europe, Eastern.
- **Genocide** Europe, Eastern History 20th century.
- **Atrocities.**
- **Genocide.**
- **Indians, Treatment of.**
- **Massacres.**
- **Territorial expansion.**
- United States **Territorial expansion.**
- Germany **Territorial expansion.**





A Foucauldian reading of these subject headings as statements reveals a discourse which *does not hold as equivalent* the genocides of Native Americans with genocide as committed by the Nazis – despite the deliberately balanced argument proposed by the author.

The statements concerning his book's aboutness *obfuscate the author's stated intentions*.



Dudley, Michael. (2017). "A Library Matter of Genocide: The Library of Congress and the Historiography of the Native American Holocaust." *The International Indigenous Policy Journal* 8 (2) (2017).

- ▶ Examines historiography of genocide, and of genocide in the Americas; and the concomitant treatment of this literature by the Library of Congress.
 - ▶ **Theoria:** ambivalent view of Indigenous genocide in the academy is stabilized in libraries through KOS.
 - ▶ **Poiesis:** KOS reproduce and reinforce comforting colonial narratives through benign-sounding subject headings and absence of coherent LC classification.
 - ▶ **Praxis:** pragmatic stance in which the literature is described according to its knowledge claims – rather than according to an external positivist criteria.



Discussion

“Who does the research process represent and who is excluded?...In what ways does the tradition of academic research reinforce the status quo, protecting the center and working against the innovations that might come from the margins?”

-- from *Bridging the Gap Between Theory and Practice in Educational Research*



Synthesis

- **Interdisciplinary:** connects LIS to other fields of study;
- **Holistic:** situates libraries within processes of knowledge production;
- **Critical:** adopts critical theoretically-informed perspectives on library processes and practices;
- **Substantive:** considers library practices and processes in terms of means and outcomes;
- **Ethical:** connects work of indexers to evolution of other disciplines; and
- **Pragmatic:** knowledge claims are viewed as fallible and subject to change -- not as universal and fixed (Hjørland 2008a; 2008b).



Conclusions

- The proposed research paradigm identifies, names and describes an emerging form of LIS research;
- provides more formal methodological basis for such research;
- addresses many of the criticisms identified in the literature re: instrumental orientation;
- de-fetishizes materials and their indexing;
- Provides basis for phenomenological study of effects KOS;
- contributes to the disruption of dominant narratives.



Miigwetch, thank you!

m.dudley@uwinnipeg.ca

Article forthcoming in the *Canadian Journal of Academic Librarianship*



Sources



- ▶ Andersen, J. and Skouvig, L. 2006. "Knowledge Organization: A Sociohistorical Analysis and Critique." *The Library Quarterly* 76 (3): 300-322.
- ▶ Bales, Stephen. 2015. *The Dialectic of Academic Librarianship: A Critical Approach*. Sacramento, CA: Library Juice Press.
- ▶ Budd, John. 2004. "Academic Libraries and Knowledge: A Social Epistemology Framework." *The Journal of Academic Librarianship* 30 (5): 361-367.
- ▶ Dali, Keren. 2015. "How We Missed the Boat: Reading Scholarship and the Field of LIS." *New Library World* 116 (9-10): 477–502. doi:10.1108/NLW-01-2015-0007.
- ▶ Doyle, Ann Mary. 2013. *Naming, Claiming, and (Re)creating: Indigenous Knowledge Organization at the Cultural Interface*. PhD diss., University of British Columbia.
- ▶ Egan, Margaret E., and Jesse H Shera. 1952. "Foundations of a Theory of Bibliography." *The Library Quarterly: Information, Community, Policy* 22 (2): 125–37.

Sources

- ▶ Dudley, Michael. (2017). "A Library Matter of Genocide: The Library of Congress and the Historiography of the Native American Holocaust." *The International Indigenous Policy Journal* 8 (2) (2017).
- ▶ Foucault, Michel. 1972/2002. *The Archaeology of Knowledge: And, the Discourse on Language*. Translated by A.M. Sheridan Smith. London/New York: Routledge.
- ▶ Foucault, Michel. 1980. *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings, 1972–1977*, edited by Colin Gordon. New York: Pantheon.
- ▶ Foucault, Michel. 1997. *Ethics: Subjectivity and Truth. The Essential Works of Michel Foucault 1954–1984*, vol. 1, edited by Paul Rabinow. New York: New Press.
- ▶ Foucault, M., & Faubion, J. (1998). *Aesthetics, method, and epistemology (Essential works of foucault, 1954-1984, v. 2)*. New York: New Press.
- ▶ Fox, Melodie J. 2015. *Gender as an 'Interplay of Rules': Detecting Epistemic Interplay of Medical and Legal Discourse with Sex and Gender Classification in Four Editions of the Dewey Decimal Classification*. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. UWM Digital Commons Theses and Dissertations. Paper 872.

Sources

- Frohmann, Bernd. 2001. "Discourse and Documentation: Some Implications for Pedagogy and Research." *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science* 42 (1): 12–12. doi:10.2307/40324034.
- Gauchi Risso, Veronica. 2016. Research methods used in library and information science during the 1970-2010. *New Library World* 117, (1): 74-93.
- Hjørland, Birger. 2000. "Library and Information Science: Practice, Theory, and Philosophical Basis." *Information Processing & Management* 36 (3): 501-531.
- Hjørland, Birger. 2008a. "What is knowledge organization (KO)?" *Knowledge Organization* 35(2/3): 86–101.
- Hjørland, Birger. 2008b. "Deliberate Bias in Knowledge Organization?" *Advances in Knowledge Organization* 11: 256-261.
- Hudson, David James. 2017. "Whiteness of Practicality" in *Topographies of Whiteness: Mapping Whiteness in Library and Information Science* edited by Todd Honma. Sacramento, CA: Library Juice Press.
- Kakel, Carroll P. 2013. *The American West and the Nazi East : A Comparative and Interpretive Perspective*. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Olson, Hope A. 1998. "Mapping Beyond Dewey's Boundaries: Constructing Classificatory Space for Marginalized Knowledge Domains." *Library Trends* **47** (2): 253-254.