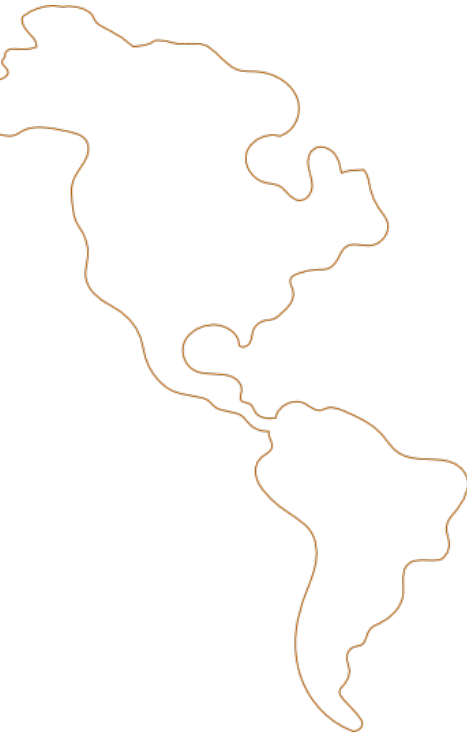


This is America

Creating Anti-racist Metadata for Digital Collections

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Members of the **Metadata Unit** in the **University of Houston Metadata & Digitization Services** department identified **Theodor de Bry's America** as a digital collection that would benefit from reparative metadata work to reduce racist, harmful, or inaccurate metadata and highlight underrepresented groups.

| Element | Legacy Metadata | Updated Metadata |
|--|--|---|
| Subjects Used local terms when appropriate Library of Congress Subject Headings were not available. Used broader and narrower terms to increase visibility of underrepresented populations. Added geographic terms.  | Subject.Topical (LCSH) <ul style="list-style-type: none">America--Early accounts to 1600--Pictorial worksLatin America--History--To 1600--Pictorial worksAmerica--Discovery and exploration--Pictorial worksIndians--First contact with EuropeansIndians--ColonizationAtrocities--Pictorial worksSpain--Colonies--America--Discovery and explorationPublic executionsIndians of North America | Subject (LCSH) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Colonization historyColonizationAtrocitiesPublic executionsHangings (Executions) Subject (Local) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Indigenous people of South AmericaEnslavementFirst contact of Indigenous people with WesternersSpanish colonization Place <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cumaná, VenezuelaLatin America |
| | Subject.Topical (LCSH) <ul style="list-style-type: none">WarshipsIndians of North America | Subject (Local) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Indigenous people of the CaribbeanTaínoExpeditionary vessels Place <ul style="list-style-type: none">HispaniolaCaribbeanLatin America |
| Titles Used the alternative title field for translations of original titles and indicated all changes in brackets. | Title Valboa throws some Indians, who had committed the terrible sin of sodomy, to the dogs to be torn apart | New Title (Original German) Valboa wirfft etliche Indianer / welche die schreckliche Sünd der Sodomey begangen / den Hunden für sie zuzerreissen Added Alternative Title Valboa throws some [Indigenous people], who [were perceived to have] committed sodomy, to the dogs to be torn apart |
| Description Added note to describe changes to title. | [No changes to original description.] | The title of this illustration was changed due to potentially harmful or inaccurate language. Original translation of the title for this illustration: "[Legacy Title]." |

Acknowledgments

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Lessons Learned

- Reparative metadata is research and time intensive work.
- Create and use terms that are preferred/used by the underrepresented group.
- This is an ongoing process as language changes and new terms are considered more appropriate.

Links

- UH Digital Collections (Search: Theodor de Bry's America)
<https://digitalcollections.lib.uh.edu>
- UHDC Dataverse (Legacy Metadata)
<https://doi.org/10.18738/T8/FNWOMD>

Next Steps

- Formalize the identification of reparative metadata work.
- Continue to develop guidelines and procedures.
- Invite feedback from diverse communities.

Land Acknowledgment

UH is located within the traditional and unceded territories of the Karankwa, Coahuiltecan, Atakapa-Ishak, and Sana peoples.