BOOK REVIEW

Inclusive Cataloguing: Histories, Context, and Reparative Approaches by Amber Bailey, Elizabeth Nelson and Rebecca Uhl (editors)

Review by Alison Day, Victoria University of Wellington

The aims of *Inclusive Cataloguing: Histories, Context, and Reparative Approaches* are clearly set out by editor Amber Bailey (p. xi) in the introduction, to "document both what has been accomplished and what still needs to be done" with the expressed hope "of inspiring others to take up this work." This book makes a significant contribution to a growing speciality in library, archival, and information science, to address harmful descriptive past practices in collections, policies and classification systems. One aspect worth noting is the plethora of terms in use across the sector to describe 'inclusive cataloguing'. Fox and Gross contributed seven terms, including 'reparative description', which is used by the National Library.

Inclusive Cataloguing is divided into two sections: 'History and Theory' and 'Case Studies'. The first part offers nine background chapters featuring historical overviews and special topics, including Baron et al's. (2024) timely discussion about the controversy surrounding the changing of the Library of Congress Subject Heading 'illegal aliens', and Watson's



chapter on the Queer Metadata Collective and the Name Change Policy Working Group, drawing attention to misgendering and misrepresentation.

The second part focuses on case studies, featuring 19 chapters on a range of practical approaches to inclusive cataloguing.



Inclusive Cataloguing: Histories, Context, and Reparative Approaches by Amber Bailey, Elizabeth Nelson and Rebecca Uhl (editors)

Chicago, IL | ALA Editions | 2024 | 304 p. | 64.99 USD | ISBN 979-889255-566-1| Softcover

These projects are varied and include the creation of a university plan to implement inclusive cataloguing across their various libraries and a specific project to rectify the erroneous description of the Haudenosaunee people in a library catalogue. Many of the case studies are project-based, focusing on a specific aspect of the library or special collection catalogue and the processes that were undertaken to rectify harmful descriptions. These are useful for institutions that wish to effect reparative change but are only able to implement small-scale projects.

There is a broad range of contributors, 67 in total, although many are affiliated with research libraries. While libraries are the primary focus, they encompass a range of types, including academic, public, special collections and archives. *Inclusive Cataloguing* was recommended to me by a University archivist who found it incredibly useful, demonstrating its broad appeal. This highly recommended book, therefore, holds value and relevance, not just for libraries but for all institutions seeking to make their collections more inclusive and diverse. One limitation is the American focus, as all the case studies are from the US. However, this could be seen as an inspiration for Aotearoa to contribute its own inclusive cataloguing case study examples in a developing speciality that would welcome such an endeavour.