

PROBLEM

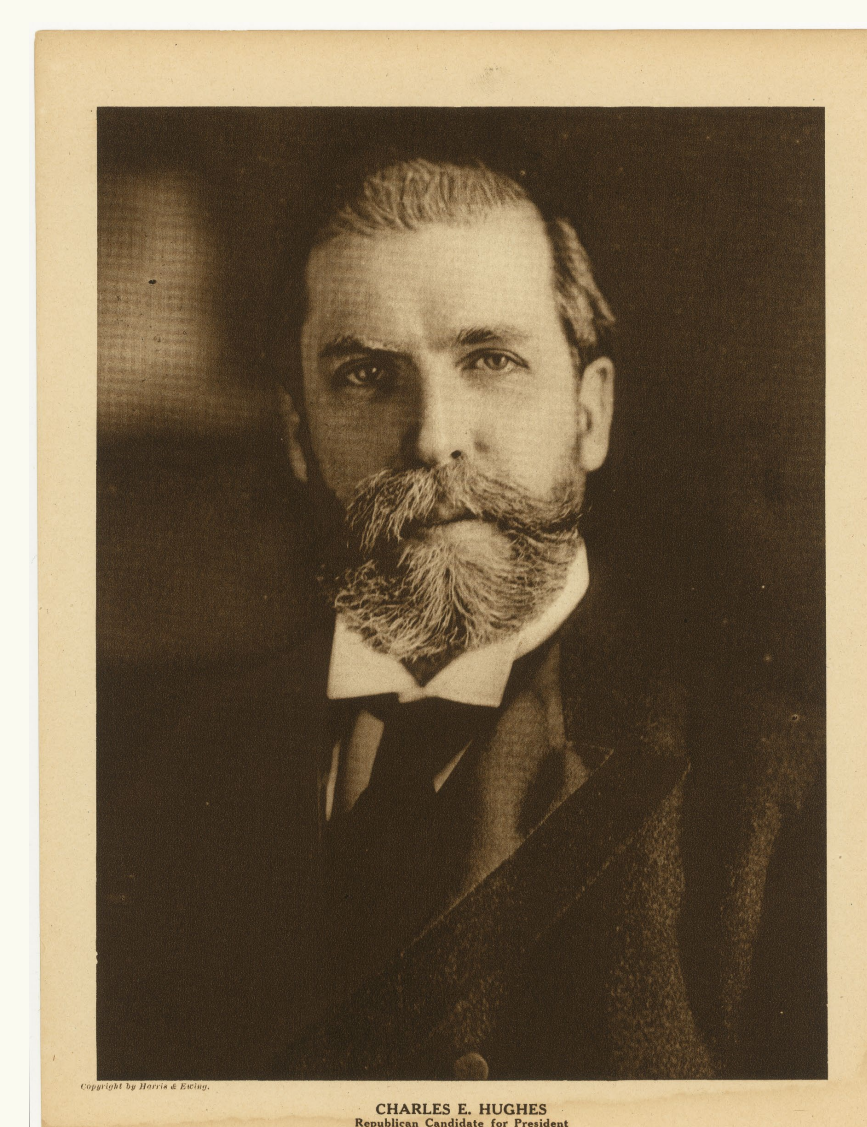
WHAT IS LOST when a finding aid's subject headings do not include key connections? In this project I employed reparative description methodologies by updating a finding aid's subject headings and biographical history thereby redressing the issue of missing information. Updating subject headings is important because language constructs ideas, ideas become theories, and theories become accepted authority which has the power to influence and impact discourse inside and outside the academe.

In the Fall of 2022, in a graduate archival course, I reprocessed a one folder collection of legal correspondence at Baylor University's Texas Collection. The collection's size is deceptive, in 12 pages of correspondence there are conversations between a Texas county attorney, a Mexican Consulate attorney, a Texas governor, a US Secretary of State, and a Mexican American civic association. This story is quite the game of telephone and at its heart is a dispute over 2,000 lbs. of yams between Francisco Banda, a Mexican sharecropper, and Clark Herring, a landowner in Medina County, Texas.

APPLICATION

How does one apply reparative description methodology in a previously processed collection?

- ❖ Create a processing plan.
- ❖ Notate significant people, places, organizations for further investigation.
- ❖ Compare similar collections' subject headings against your proposed headings.
- ❖ Compare related publications' subject headings against your proposed headings.
- ❖ Utilize sources like Bilindex when updating subject headings.
- ❖ Cross-reference to outside collections and publications.



US Secretary of State Charles E. Hughes



Texas Governor Pat Neff

CONCLUSION

Organizations must be willing to engage in self-reflection in areas which need improvement, create actionable improvement plans and implement these plans into daily practice. Also, archivists, collections managers, etc. must be supported when offering solutions that address gaps in inclusivity, accessibility, equity, diversity, and justice.

Creating Space

- ❖ **STRUCTURAL CHANGE** in processes, practice, procedures and at all levels
 - International
 - National
 - Institutional
 - Local
- ❖ **CREATE** meaningful, experiential learning opportunities for emerging professionals
- ❖ **PROVIDE MENTORSHIP** for emerging professionals who pursue DEAI archival work
- ❖ **AFFIRM** emerging professional's **AUTHORITY** as SMEs (subject matter experts)
- ❖ **ALLYSHIP** through dialogue, transparency, support, and encouragement
- ❖ **BUILD TRUST** with stakeholder communities, and individuals whose stories are present in your repository

Thank You

1. Baylor University, Department of Museum Studies
2. Dr. Julie Holcomb, Department of Museum Studies
3. Sylvia Hernandez, The Texas Collection, Baylor University Libraries
4. Graduate Student Association, Baylor University
5. Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program, TRIO

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