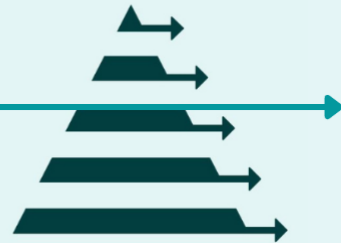


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# taxonomy times

Bulletin of the SLA  
Taxonomy Community



Issue 52 | October 2022

## Letter from the President

Although I do understand that time hasn't altered since the beginning of the pandemic in 2019 -- as C.S. Lewis said, "The future is something which everyone reaches at the rate of sixty minutes an hour, whatever he does, whoever he is" -- it does seem as if time has gained some momentum lately. With this being my final letter, I want to start off by thanking the Taxonomy Community for a great year, and SLA for a wonderful experience at the SLA 2022 Source Forward Conference this past summer. Besides making it to my childhood bucket list location of Blowing Rock, NC (picture of stunning overlook below), the conference was very impactful for me professionally -- I met and networked with others, learned a great deal, and brought the information and learning back home.

As we finish out the year, we have lots going on, and we hope several of you will take the opportunity to get more involved with the Taxonomy Community, by filling some of our open positions. It's a great way to network and learn more about SLA -- all virtually. We have openings for both the Social Networking

Chair and Web and Connect Chair positions as well as a content curator position for this newsletter (see below). Please contact me at [MHughes@apa.org](mailto:MHughes@apa.org) for more information.

If you are in Washington, DC in November for the KM World/Taxonomy Boot Camp Conference, see information below about our SLA Taxonomy Division No-Host Dinner on Sunday November 6, 6:30 – 9:00 PM. I will be there, and I'd love to see you and talk taxonomy!

I hope you all have a fabulous end of the year, and I look forward to continuing to make this a supportive, welcoming, and growing community!

Best,

Marisa Hughes



old daughter.

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# taxonomy

## BOOT CAMP >>>>

THE CONFERENCE ON TAXONOMY BUILDING & MANAGEMENT

November 7 – 8, 2022

JW Marriott | Washington, DC

### **SLA Taxonomy Division No-Host Dinner** **Sun, November 6, 2022, 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM EST**

Join us for a casual, fun evening of networking and talking taxonomy at the [SLA Taxonomy Division's No-Host Dinner](#) at the Elephant & Castle, 1201 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC, 20004.

Please use the link to register for a free "ticket". This will help us manage the reservation at the restaurant. Questions? Contact [Ashley Hamblin](#).

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## **2023 Conference Information**



[Conference Info](#)

[Paper Submissions-Due Oct. 31](#)

## **Needed: Taxonomy Submissions**

The 2023 SLA Conference will be a joint collaboration with MLA. There will be two different submission rounds for MLA/SLA 23, and the first round -- which includes contributed papers, education sessions, and immersion sessions -- has a deadline of **11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, October 31.**

We are looking for presenters for taxonomy-related sessions, particularly in-person sessions in Detroit, since there will only be a limited number of virtual sessions.

The clock is ticking on community sessions, so please contact [Marisa Hughes](#) ASAP if you would like to present. Thanks!

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# Taxonomy Community Volunteer Updates

## Newsletter (Taxonomy Times) Committee

We are looking to expand the contents of the newsletter to bring you more of the content you need for taxonomy related resources, news, and information. We are adding the positions of content curators to the committee so that we can bring new ideas to our readers.

Please let [Marisa Hughes](#) know if you are interested in either the open position for the Newsletter Committee or the following Taxonomy Community Chair positions.

### **Taxonomy Times Content Co-Curators:**

**Valerie Kittell, Content Co-Curator - We welcome Valerie as she joins us as a new volunteer in this role**

**Content Co-Curator: (New-One more position open)**

- Solicit content from committee chairs
- Work with Editors and Co-Curator to develop content ideas and features
- Work with community to solicit content
- Share resources applicable to the taxonomy community
- Solicit engagement from taxonomy community members
- Member profiles and member-specific content

## **Social Networking Chair**

**(open)**

Organize social gatherings virtually and in person during the year and at conferences.

**Ashley Hamblin is stepping down from her role as Social Networking Chair (Thank you Ashley!) and moving on to our newly created role of Social Media Chair .**

## **Web and Connect Chair**

**(open)**

Update the Taxonomy Community webpage and manage the community on Connect.

### **Thank you to Natalia Fitzgibbons**

Natalia served as co-editor of Taxonomy Times prior to this year. This past year, as we transitioned to a new format, she has continued to work with us by soliciting member profiles. She is now ready to step down from this role and we thank her for all her work on the Taxonomy Times Newsletter!



## **Newsletter Contributors**

**You can be a one-time or regular contributor without having to join the committee. We're interested in what the whole community has to share.**

Maybe you have taxonomy wisdom you'd like to share or you found a blog or website with

some great resources. Have you attended a conference or webinar? Please share your experience with a summary article telling us about it.

Contact the Editor, [Marisa Hughes](#) or Co-Editor, [Kathy Berry](#) We'd love to hear what you have to contribute.

## August 2022 Conference Reports

### DEI in Taxonomy Presentation

Report by Paula McCoy

In her session at the 2022 conference, Marisa Hughes, Taxonomist at the American Psychological Association, spoke about the role of DEI in taxonomy development, maintenance, search, and retrieval. The need to incorporate language sensitive to DEI—Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion—is something I am familiar with, so I was interested to hear what Marisa has been doing at the APA.

Incorporating DEI language into the APA Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms, said Marisa, has been “multifaceted,” including the use of authoritative research sources plus APA’s own Inclusive Language Guidelines and Style Bias-Free Language Guidelines. In reviewing all current terms to assess their inclusivity, she has added new terms relating to diversity, equity, and power,

such as “Color Blind Racial Attitudes”, “Intersectionality”, “Mental Health Disparities”, and “Racial Trauma”. She also expanded the vocabulary to reflect racial and ethnic groups and racial, ethnic, and cultural identities. The research to arrive at the terms included looking at the U.S. Census designations and U.N. regional groups, along with APA Guidelines. Among the new terms are “People of Color”, “Communities of Color”, “Cultural Bias”, and “Culturally Adapted Interventions”.

[Continue Reading](#)

*"Taxonomists must pay attention to changes in society that are reflected in language and ensure that their thesauri are reflective of the world we live in. We can always update our indexing, but we cannot earn back any trust we might lose by not paying attention to our readers and stakeholders."*

## **Panel on Current Taxonomy Challenges**

For a recap of taxonomy offerings from the conference including the DEI presentation and the Conference Panel on Current Taxonomy Challenges, visit Heather Hedden's Blog, The Accidental Taxonomist:

[Taxonomy Challenges Discussed at SLA Conference](#)

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## Latest Blog Post

### Designing an OPAC

By Sereen Suleiman

Imagine you walked into a brand new library, and you have a target item in mind, a pastry cookbook perhaps. With all the necessary pieces of information on hand, you immediately veer towards the computers that have the online public access catalogs (OPAC) loaded. However, you automatically notice that the OPAC is clunky and disorganized. Now, you start to worry, wondering if you will ever find your desired item quickly, knowing that instead, you will spend a majority of your time learning how to navigate through the OPAC. For libraries that have trouble designing an efficient OPAC, I propose a faceted taxonomy approach.

Think of the navigation menu from Amazon.com. There are the main headings of “Trending”, “Digital Content and Devices”, “Shop by Department”, and “Programs and Features”. Underneath all those headings are categories for each. If I were to go to a category under “Shop by Department” such as “Books”, then I discover that there are more subcategories under books. After clicking on the “Children’s Books” subcategory, then I come to a menu with limiters on the left-hand sidebar and a menu of more specific subcategory suggestions of children’s books. What I have just described is an example of a faceted taxonomy. In fact, the Orange County Public Library’s online public access catalogs have a somewhat similar design to Amazon’s “Children’s book” menu, with limiters on the left-hand sidebar.

## Continue Reading

## Tips for Mapping Controlled Vocabulary Terms

## Paula McCoy

Sr. Manager Louisville Editorial  
ProQuest, a Part of Clarivate

Much has been written about the notion and the process of mapping one set of vocabulary terms to another. When the taxonomist is confronted with multiple controlled vocabularies and a content set that needs to be indexed with only one vocabulary, one solution is to integrate or merge the vocabularies such that subtle term differences are resolved, key terms from each are retained, and terms deemed unnecessary for the new indexing task are removed. Another solution, and one that I have done multiple times, is to map the terms from a discrete, scope-specific vocabulary to those of the main overarching vocabulary, with both sets of terms being displayed and searchable on the document. Here, I want to talk about some of the challenges involved in this kind of mapping exercise and what questions the taxonomist should ask before taking on such a project.

### **Why Are You Mapping?**

The first question to ask is why the mapping is needed. In my case, the most common situation is that a unique content set with its own indexing is being included in a new product that contains other content indexed with the main ProQuest Thesaurus. The new content, when integrated with a much larger volume of documents all indexed with another thesaurus, will not be findable if its indexing is out of kilter with that of the existing content. One solution is to simply discard the original indexing and reindex this next content with the ProQuest Thesaurus.

[Continue Reading](#)

*"It is tempting to jump into a mapping project because, well, it's fun, but we must not assume that mapping is the right solution until we've determined that it will actually be possible and serve the end user."*

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If you haven't already signed up for the email version of this newsletter, click on the button below.

[Sign up for the Newsletter](#)

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## Membership

Welcome to the members who recently joined the Taxonomy Community!

### June

- Tiffany Robinson

### August

- Anne Holcomb

- Jody Perkins

### **October**

- Morgan Breitenstein
- Kate Sheridan
- Nancy Sirapyan
- Susan Thieme



## Member Profile

Betsy Mair

I was a Finance and Economics major in college. When I discovered I could marry my academic focus with my love of research, my career path became clear. I earned my Master's degree in Library & Information Science at Drexel University. Early on, I was a business researcher at JP Morgan and research manager at Goldman Sachs. I then detoured into sales at Thomson Financial briefly. I managed a group of researchers at Ernst & Young and then shifted my focus to knowledge management. I continued my KM tour at Deloitte and Marsh & McLennan. After 30+ years working in financial services on and around Wall Street, I relocated back to Pennsylvania to accept a knowledge manager role at Teva Pharmaceuticals 2 years ago.

Why did you join the SLA taxonomy community?

I joined the SLA Taxonomy Division at the strong recommendation of former Marsh & McLennan colleague Janice Keeler. Janice was the taxonomist par excellence at NERA. She provided tremendous guidance and support as I worked to create the taxonomy for the Marsh Risk Consulting knowledge platform and identify software tools to enhance SharePoint on which the platform was built.

What is your definition of taxonomy?

My definition of taxonomy is rather narrow -- I equate taxonomy with controlled vocabulary. I have had the opportunity to create controlled vocabularies for collections focused on commercial lending and insurable risks. I am now working with a controlled vocabulary focused on pharmaceuticals. Taxonomy provides structure for defining these fields and their diverse and acronym-rich content.

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## Vision

The vision of the Taxonomy Community is to be a community of information professionals with an interest in taxonomies, ontologies, thesauri, authority files, and other controlled vocabularies, cultivating shared interest by pooling expertise, providing challenging and relevant year-round learning opportunities, and nurturing a vibrant, responsive and sustainable unit within the Special Libraries Association.

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## Taxonomy Community Leadership

### Executive Board

President: Marisa Hughes

President Elect: John Bertland

Secretary: Emily Toder

### Committee Chairs

Newsletter (Taxonomy Times): Marisa Hughes, Editor; Kathy Berry, Co-Editor

Social Networking: OPEN

Professional Development: Paula McCoy

Web and Connect: OPEN

Social Media (NEW): Ashley Hamblin

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The Taxonomy Times Newsletter is published quarterly at the end of January, April, July, and October. All submissions are due by the 20th of the month of publishing.



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