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## Advancing your library with metadata that engages

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## **Decolonizing your library: metadata that empowers**

Kelley Flannery Rowan

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FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



# Decolonizing your library

Metadata that empowers

IATUL 2022 **Kelley Rowan**, Digital Archives Librarian & **Annia Gonzalez**, Special Collections Librarian

# What is decolonial metadata?

Removal of colonial language that marginalizes ethnicities, genders, and states of being that differ from the historical "default" state of being:

- ✓ White
- ✓ able-bodied
- ✓ Protestant
- ✓ heterosexual
- ✓ male
- ✓ of means
- ✓ between the ages of 20 and ~50

# Inclusive metadata: respect, diversity, & integrity

## Terminology replacement and addition

"450,000 illegal aliens work in the city of Miami."

"450,000 \*non-citizens work in the city of Miami."

"450,000 non-citizens (often referred to as "illegal aliens" before 2015) work in the city of Miami."

*\*unauthorized workers*

## Laudatory language

"Thomas Edison was the remarkable/noteworthy/esteemed inventor of the light bulb."

"Lewis Latimer was the inventor of a long-lasting filament for the light bulb."



Working in a liminal space to  
implement reparative description

neutrality v. partiality

# Thesaurus

- Ableist
- Ageist
- History & Society
- Homophobic
- Laudatory
- Racist
- Sexist
- Religious discrimination



	A	B	C
1	<b>Term</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Fix</b>
2	Jap	2	<b>Japanese or Asian American or Japanese American</b>
3	Gook	1	May refer to Japanese, Phillipino, Vietnamese, or Korean peoples, use <b>Asian</b> or <b>Asian American</b> as appropriate
4	Oriental	334	Replace with <b>Asian</b> or <b>Asian American</b> as appropriate
5	gusano	2	Replace with <b>Cuban</b> - coined by Fidel Castro referring to Cubans leaving on the Freedom Flights
6	wog	1	Racial slur referring to Southern/Mediteranean Europeans, mainly in Australia. Remove.
7	Indian	523	Always use the <b>tribe</b> if known; In the U.S., <b>American Indian</b> (preferred) or <b>Indigenous American</b> ; In Canada, First Nations (excludes inuit or metis) or First Peoples (includes First Nations, Inuit, and Metis, Aborigines, Maori); Indigenous Peoples (the "s" in Peoples is important) can be used in worldwide reference to original inhabitants of lands
8	Eskimo	1	Replace with <b>Inuit</b>
9			

# Horse and Carriage

An unidentified man rides in a carriage drawn by a black horse in front of a large house.

Coachman?

**ERASURE**



**FIU**



## Band Women

An all woman band. The identified members are Ida Barron and Dolice Curry. From the Ida Woodward Barron Collection.

**INCOMPLETE**

**FIU**



<http://dpanther.fiu.edu/dpService/dpPurlService/purl/MM00008563/00001>

## Alligator roping and wrestling, 1921-1927

Two Seminoles  
carrying alligator at  
Musa Isle. Left,  
Henry (Cowboy)  
Billie. Right, Tony  
Tommie. February  
15, 1927. no. 126-30



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# Reparative Metadata at FIU



Resources



Collection scan



Thesaurus creation



Meet with partners



Create working groups

## Harmful language statement

- Inform the user that they may encounter offensive or harmful language.
- Let users know that the views expressed within the harmful content does not reflect the view of the institution.
- Offer a reason for why the harmful language exists.
- Distinguish between historical content and FIU staff created descriptions.
- Work towards creating respectful and inclusive description is ongoing.
- Provide a way to report harmful language.

# Creating Finding Aids: an Opportunity to Decolonize the Archives



## Challenges

- Access barriers – power structure, funding, description, language
- Subject knowledge – description
- Ownership
  - physical
  - Intellectual

## Solutions

- Increase points of access
- Engage community
- Postcolonial stewardship
- Administrative support
- Local controlled vocabulary
- Reparative metadata
- Disrupt

# Finding Aid: Julián Peláez del Pozo Papers

Julián Peláez del Pozo Papers, SPC8070. Florida International University.  
<https://archives.fiu.edu/repositories/2/resources/102>

The collection contains personal and professional documents related to Julián Peláez del Pozo, a Spanish Magistrate who was assigned to the Overseas Courts in Cuba and Puerto Rico during the 19th century. The collection compiles personal and professional documents of Julián Peláez del Pozo. It also holds a variety of documents related to different aspects of the court system applied by Spain in Cuba and Puerto Rico.

FIU Special Collections - collecting mission (genealogy, Cuban law)

- Making a case
- Staffing skills
- Increased knowledge of projects
- Donor could contribute information

# New vision/New approach

New information/knowledge disrupted archival process

- Cannot fail to see
- Accountability
- Not contradictory to archival practice
- Engage community to enhance
- Continue to seek educational opportunities
- Training students, interns, and volunteers
- Review and revise procedures, guidelines and local vocabulary
- Share transformative experiences with colleagues and scholars

# Examining the Collections

## Other examples

### Abril Lamarque Collection

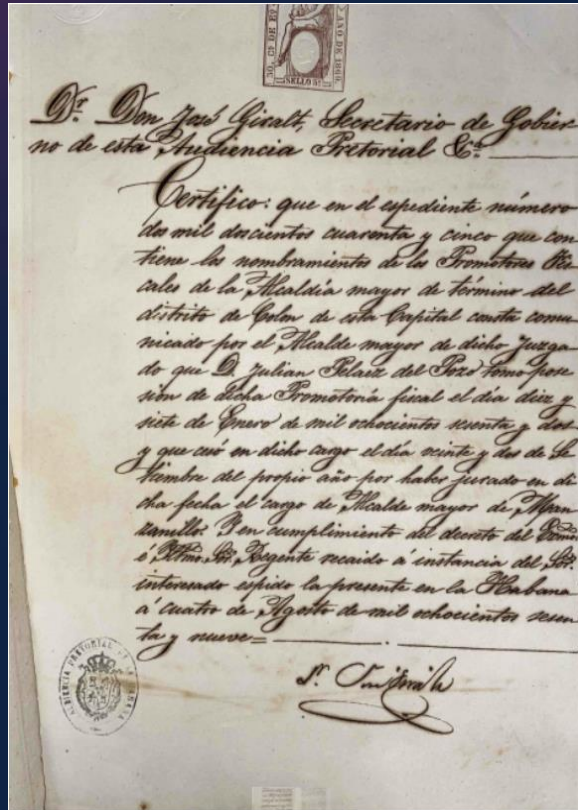
- Created a statement specific to the collection to address harmful language used

***Written on verso:*** Pascual Lozada es el lisiado que aparece en carrito, rodeado de sus familiares. El terremoto le echó encima una pared que se derrumbó en su residencia de la calle D numero 13 en Sueño, escapando milagrosamente con vida. Sufrió una herida en el cuello.

Please note: Transcriptions of handwritten notes on photographs in the collection and their English translations have been provided for context. This text may reflect biases and prejudices or terms that are outdated, offensive or insensitive.



# Julián Peláez del Pozo Papers



## Julián Peláez del Pozo Papers

Item Identifier: SPC8070

Florida International University | Julián Peláez del Pozo Papers

Collection Overview

Collection Organization

Container Inventory

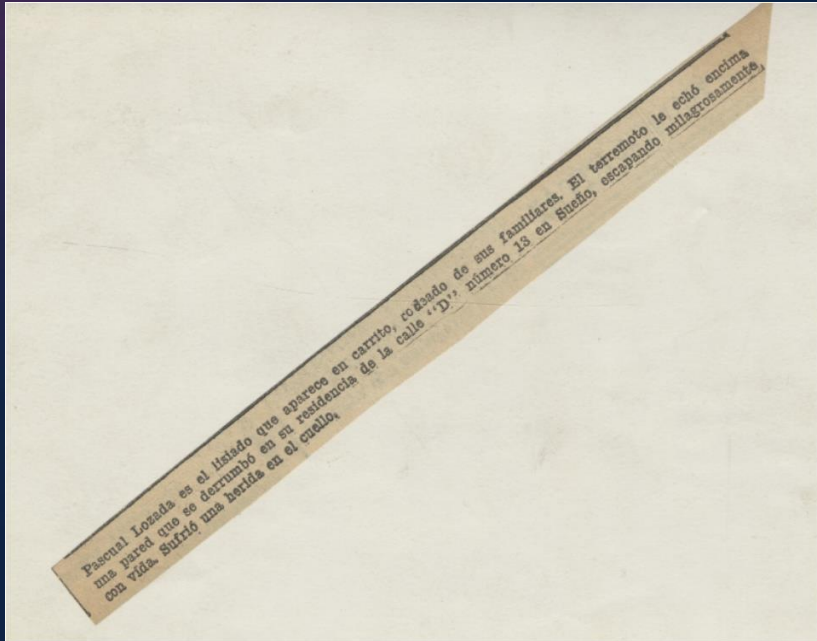
## Scope and Contents

La colección contiene documentos personales y profesionales relacionados a Julián Peláez del Pozo, Magistrado español que sirvió en los tribunales de Ultramar en Cuba y Puerto Rico durante el siglo XIX. La colección recopila documentos personales y académicos de Julián Peláez del Pozo entre los que se encuentran su certificado de bautismo, diplomas y certificados de estudios realizados en la Universidad de Madrid. La colección también contiene una variedad de documentos relacionados con su carrera profesional y diferentes aspectos del sistema de tribunales de justicia aplicados por España en Cuba y Puerto Rico.

The collection contains personal and professional documents related to Julián Peláez del Pozo, a Spanish Magistrate who was assigned to the Overseas Courts in Cuba and Puerto Rico during the 19th century. The collection compiles personal and academic documents of Julián Peláez del Pozo, among which are his baptismal certificate, diplomas and certificates of studies carried out at the University of Madrid. The collection also contains a variety of documents related to his professional career and different aspects of the court system applied by Spain in Cuba and Puerto Rico.


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# Abril Lamarque Collection



FIU

## Abril Lamarque Collection

 **Collection** Identifier: SPC6045

 Florida International University |  Abril Lamarque Collection

[Collection Overview](#)

[Collection Organization](#)

[Container Inventory](#)

### Finding Aid & Administrative Information

<b>Title</b>	Abril Lamarque Collection
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Author</b>	Annia Gonzalez and Stephanie Gambill
<b>Date</b>	2006
<b>Description rules</b>	Describing Archives: A Content Standard
<b>Language of description</b>	English
<b>Script of description</b>	Code for undetermined script
<b>Language of description note</b>	English

### Revision Statements

- 2021: Updates focused on improving description of disabled people.

Contact us!



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