

[Benjamin M. Parks](#)

Apr 5 4:01pm

LIS 703 01

Reply from Benjamin M. Parks

1. For this week's post, I chose *"Three Finger: The Mordecai Brown Story"* from my personal collection. It's a biography that focuses on Mordecai "Three Finger" Brown, a legendary baseball pitcher known for his unique pitching style shaped by a hand injury. The book highlights Brown's baseball career and how his injury became an advantage on the field.

2. I scanned the title, table of contents, and introduction to identify the main themes. I noticed that the book consistently focuses on Brown's baseball career and how his hand injury shaped his pitching technique. I asked myself what the primary message was, and it became clear that the story is about turning a physical challenge into an athletic strength. Mentally, I composed a summary that highlights Brown's resilience and his unique pitching style as main themes.

3. 650 _0 \$a Brown, Mordecai, \$d 1876-1948

Reflection: Subject Terms and Inclusivity:

Subject terms are meant to make information discoverable, but sometimes they end up being too rigid or outdated. They're supposed to reflect what a work is about, but the problem is that LCSH doesn't always capture the nuance or context of a story.

1. Accuracy: The LC Subject Headings used for "Three Finger: The Mordecai Brown Story" do accurately reflect the book's content by identifying Brown as a baseball player and pitcher. However, they fall short in capturing the central theme of resilience and how his injury became a defining part of his athletic success.
2. Comparison: The subject headings I constructed are identical to those listed in the WorldCat.org catalog record. This consistency shows that my analysis aligned with standard cataloging practices, but both my headings and the existing ones lack a focus on the overcoming adversity aspect of Brown's life.
3. Challenges and Inclusivity: According to Cronquist et al., one of the major issues with LCSH is how it can fail to reflect changing social perspectives or fully capture personal experiences. The "Change the Subject" documentary highlights how cataloging practices can sometimes unintentionally frame topics in a way that doesn't match users' perspectives or modern language norms. In this case, adding a heading like "Perseverance in Sports" or "Disability in Athletic Performance" could better convey the story's deeper message. Catalogers need to regularly assess and update terms to ensure they reflect both content and context, promoting more accurate and inclusive representation.

Cronquist, M., Ross, S., Hobart, E., & Farrell, K. (2021). Decolonizing the Catalog: Antiracist Description Practices from Authority Records to Discovery Layers. American Libraries Magazine.

Change the Subject (2019). Documentary film. Dartmouth College.