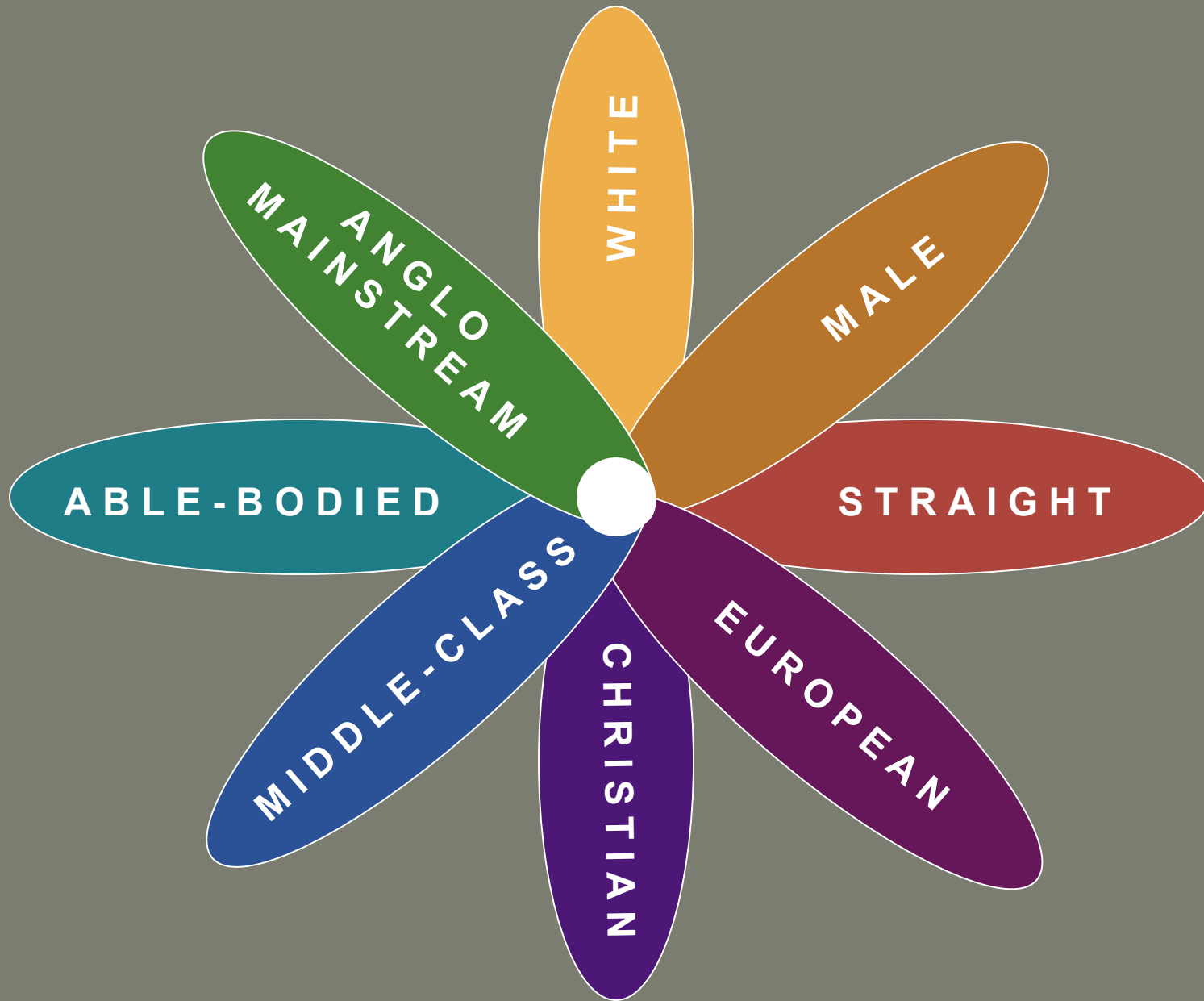


Angels, Idiots, and Negroes as Businessmen

Prejudice and Bias in Controlled
Vocabulary and Classification

By Bill Helman & Libby Lipin



Sandy Berman

“...we were ‘brought up that way’ is no valid reason for perpetuating, either in our crania or catalogues, the humanity-degrading, intellect-constricting rubbish that litters the LC list.”

- Races, nationalities, faiths, and ethnic groups
- Chauvinism, the “Bwana syndrome” and the third world
- Politics, peace, labor, law enforcement, etc.
- Man/woman/sex
- Children, youth, “idiots”, and the “underground”

Quote from *Prejudices and antipathies*

Dr. Hope A. Olson

“The very problems that this literature discusses make it difficult to find.”

- Treatment of the topic as an exception
- Ghettoization of the topic
- Omission of the topic
- Inappropriate structure of the standard
- Biased terminology

[Current Research](#)

Quote from *Bias in Subject Access Standards: A Content Analysis of the Critical Literature*

A tough road ahead

Problems and contradictions as we see them

- The culture that creates it
- Bad terms or bad access?
- Evolving language v. changing society

LCSH

So what do we do?

How you can help to fix what's broke

- What happened to Berman's DIY?
- Recent efforts
- Our humble suggestions for a practical solution