



# Beyond the Las Vegas Strip: Assessing Archival Diversity at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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## PROBLEM STATEMENT

In a data-driven institution, how can existing archives data be used to advocate for increased resources focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)?

Read more about the project at <https://tinyurl.com/unlv2021RFhandout>

## METHODOLOGY

Assess existing internal data to determine what proportion of collections and activities are "diverse" - i.e. relate to subjects and communities outside the traditional narrative (white, cisgender, heteronormative, etc.):

- Accessions
- Archival collections
- Digital collections

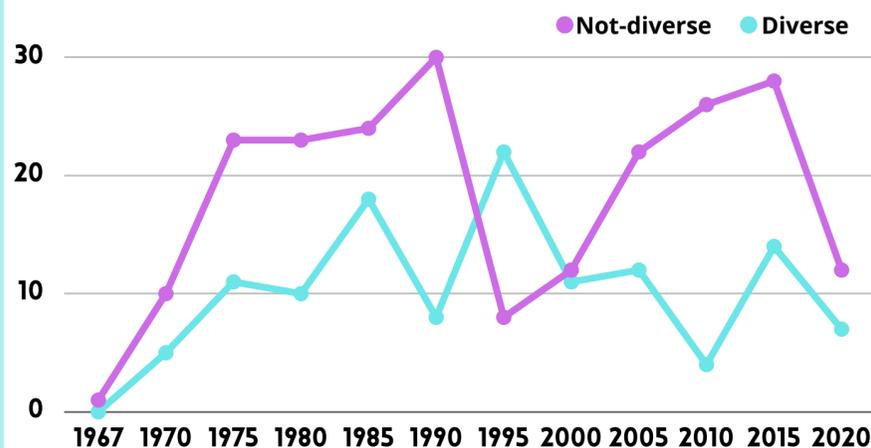
## FINDINGS

Reducing the diversity of human experiences and identities into neat categories is inherently subjective. Subject heading analysis is imperfect, but can provide a rough estimate of collections and digital objects related to specific topics.

Our findings demonstrate the need for:

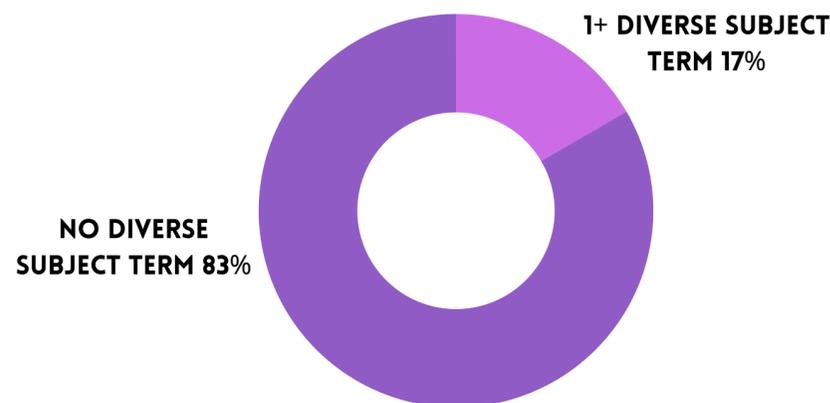
- Improved training and best practices in applying subject terms
- Description clean up and enhancement
- Prioritizing diverse voices in digitization and collecting
- Sustaining collaborations and relationships beyond grant funded projects
- Holistically incorporating DEI values into all work

## ACCESSIONS RECORDS



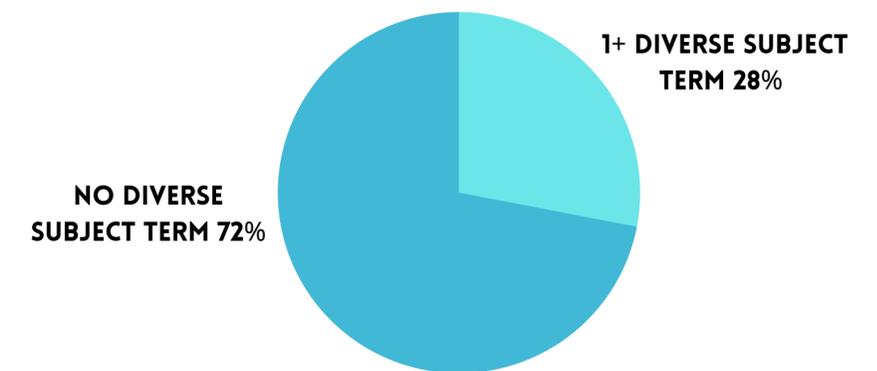
Out of 1,647 accessions between 1967 to March 2020, 35% (581) are representative of a diverse topic. Diverse collecting was most active during periods of grant funded initiatives.

## ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS



Out of 17,458 archival collections, 17% (2,902) are linked to at least one diverse subject heading. 66% of these collections are oral histories.

## DIGITAL COLLECTIONS



28% (17,069) of digital collections records with subject headings include at least one subject heading categorized as diverse.

## NEXT STEPS

- Present overall findings of internal audit to colleagues in UNLV SCA to start critically analyzing our practices and policies.
- Collaborate with curators to identify collections that may benefit from enhanced metadata, re-description, or digitization.
- Write up results and analysis of audit for a peer-reviewed publication.