
Is user-centered design in conflict with cataloging ethics?

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A detailed botanical illustration serves as the background for the slide. It features a variety of plants: a large yellow hibiscus flower with a dark red center on the left; a pink flower with a long, curved stem and heart-shaped leaves in the top left; a branch with small white flowers and green leaves in the top right; a branch with small red flowers and green leaves in the bottom left; and a branch with a single yellow lemon and small white flowers in the bottom right. The central text is enclosed in a white rectangular box with a thin black border.


**Is user-centered
design in conflict
with cataloging
ethics?**



Agenda:

Session logistics
Local context
Ethical questions
Breakout rooms
Report back





*...participants are free to use the
information received, but neither
the identity nor the affiliation of
the speaker(s), nor that of any
other participant, may be revealed.*

”




Ground Rules



Use “I”
statements

Acknowledge
the difference
between intent
and impact

No one knows
everything;
together we
know a lot





Facilitators

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1. Local Context



Marble

- 3-year grant
 - ◎ Unified discovery of digital collections
 - ◎ Art museum, rare books, university archives
- Extensive user testing, both internal and external



Users wanted
MORE





Users wanted **personal** information

Race and ethnicity

What art can I use to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month on social media?

Can I browse all digitized African American literature?

Gender and sexuality

I want to view all works--art and literature--from LGBTQ+ creators.

How many works do you have by women artists?



2. Ethical Questions



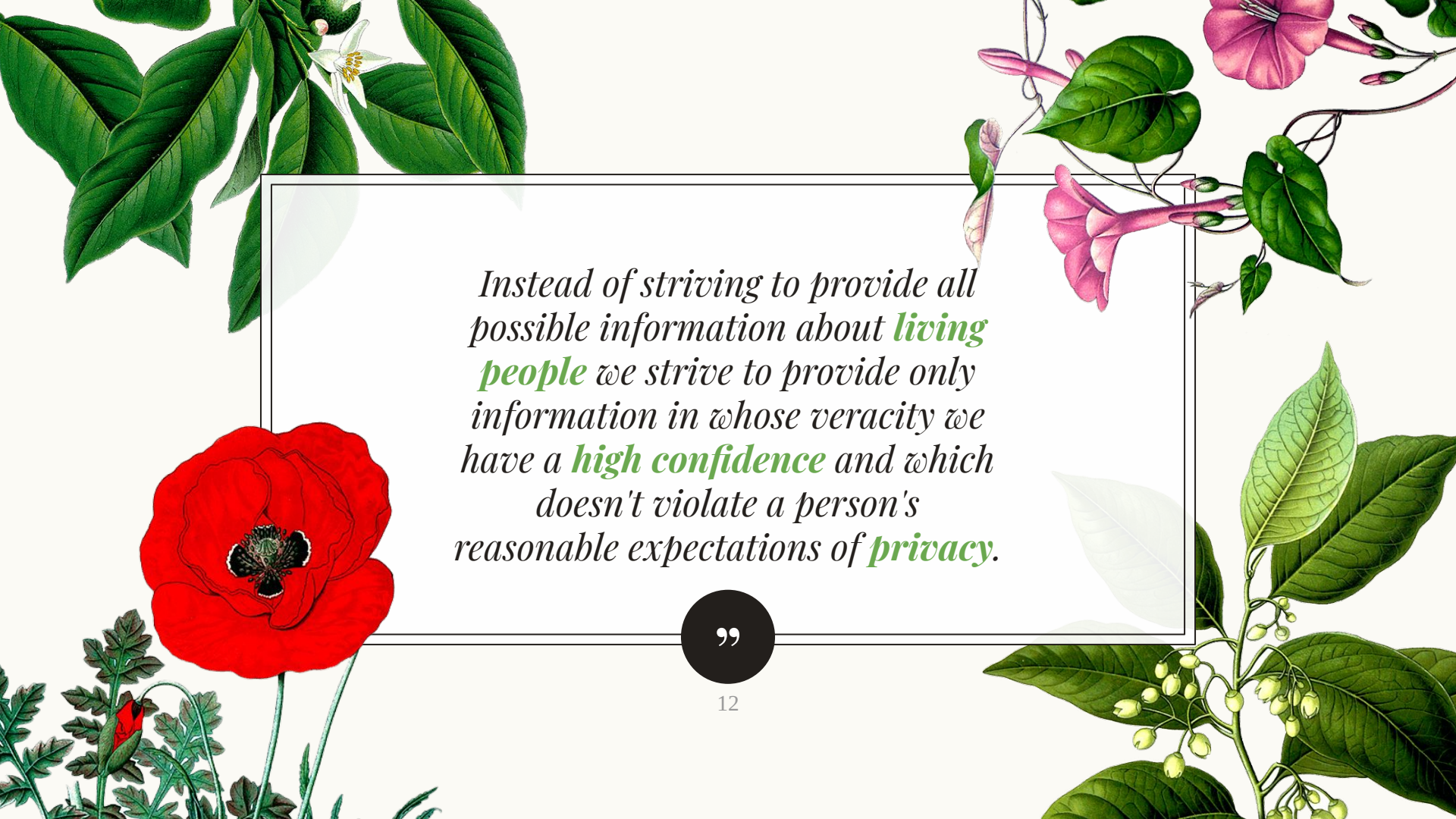
Is user-centered design in **conflict** with catalogining ethics?

User-centered design

a process for managing digital projects that focuses on the users and their needs

Catalogers' judgement

defined by Jennifer M. Martin (2021) as “the considered application of professional experience to cataloging decisions”



*Instead of striving to provide all possible information about **living people** we strive to provide only information in whose veracity we have a **high confidence** and which doesn't violate a person's reasonable expectations of **privacy**.*

”



3. Discussion

The slide is decorated with botanical illustrations. In the top-left corner, there are green leaves and small yellow buds. In the bottom-left corner, there is a vibrant red poppy flower. In the bottom-right corner, there is a white poppy flower with pinkish-red markings on its petals. The central text is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Should users be able to search
on **creator identity terms** in
online digital collections?



Session Resources

Notes and resource list: <https://bit.ly/LD4-users-ethics>

Marble project documentation: <https://osf.io/cusmx/>

Ethics Slack channel:

<https://2021ld4conference.slack.com/archives/C026STD9278>





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