



Potentially Harmful Language and Content Warnings

Digital Commonwealth, June 14, 2022

Sari Mauro and Adrienne Pruitt
Tufts University Digital Collections and Archives



Power Fist circa 1969-1974, Metcalf Hall Protest Posters, <http://hdl.handle.net/10427/015587>

Tufts University Digital Collections and Archives

- 8 FTE
- Reports to Provost's office
- ~100,000 objects in Digital Library
- ~11,000 linear feet of collections

- Upcoming accessions, Fall 2018
- Yearbook blackface controversy, February 2019
- Literature review, Summer 2019
- Statement on potentially harmful language in archival description, Winter 2019
- Content warnings for digital archival material, Winter 2019
- Harmful description survey, Fall 2020

SUBJECT HEADINGS AND OTHER DESCRIPTION

AUTOMATED AND MANUAL REMEDIATION

- • Modified scripts created by others to review existing description for anti-Black racism, anti-Semitism, and aggrandizing language
- • Exported csv results for manual review, tinkered to remove false positives, reviewed again
- • Some automatable replacements but most required human intervention

Tufts graduate poses with his family

Grant, Spencer
1977



[OPEN IN VIEWER](#)

Subject

Black people

Alumni and alumnae

Description

This date is approximate.

This object is in collection

[Spencer Grant photographs collection](#)

Subject

[Black people](#)

[Alumni and alumnae](#)

Permanent URL

<http://hdl.handle.net/10427/008250>

ID: [hx11xq44p](#)

Component ID: [tufts:MS171.001.00082](#)

To Cite: [DCA Citation Guide](#) [EndNote](#)

Usage: [Detailed Rights](#)

To request a high-resolution image, choose [Add to List](#).

Poster Offering 300 Dollar Reward for a Fugitive from Slavery

Collection

Call Number: MS183

Digital Collections and Archives, Tufts University

Poster Offering 300 Dollar Reward for a Fugitive from Slavery

Collection Overview

Finding Aid View

Container List

Scope and Contents

This collection includes one poster from 1856 offering a 300-dollar reward for a fugitive from slavery named Tom, from New Orleans, Louisiana.

Dates

1856

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Some material in this collection may be protected by copyright and other rights. Please see "Reproduction to publish. No documentation is available regarding the intellectual property rights in this collection."

Extent

1.42 Linear Feet (1 oversized folder)

Language of Materials

English

Expand All

Additional Description

Subjects

- African American history
- Enslaved persons

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- African American history
- Enslaved persons

OFFENSIVE IMAGERY AND CONTENT WARNINGS



DACS 3.1 : Scope and Content (required)

This element provides information about the nature of the materials and activities reflected in the unit being described to enable users to judge its potential relevance.

[Home](#) [Collections](#)[Political](#)[Collection](#)[Call Number](#)[Digital](#)[Collection](#)

Content Warning

This collection contains materials created by conservative groups across the United States, and research materials about these groups. These materials deal with topics including right-wing extremism, anti-Semitism, anti-abortion violence, nativism, racism, traditional family values, anti-LGBT issues, the Klu Klux Klan, the Nazi Party, women's rights, social justice, and human rights monitoring. Materials in this collection contain images and rhetoric that is anti-Semitic, racist, homophobic, and misogynist, as well as images that are graphic in nature.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of materials created and collected by the Political Research Associates. The records are arranged into three series: 1. Publications, 2. Chip Berlet Research Files, and 3. Subject Files. The first series consists of publications created by political, social, and religious organizations as well as hate groups and watchdog organizations, largely in the United States. The materials are largely professional publications...[See more >](#)

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This finding aid contains language that may be offensive or outdated. Because such language is in direct transcription of existing older titles or of published materials, it has not been changed. Keeping this language intact provides the most accurate depiction of the creators' intent, and can potentially tell us important things about bigotry and bias on the part of the creators, or in a particular historical context. It can also preserve terms formerly applied by a group to self-identify that have since fallen out of common usage.

For more information on DCA's content warning policy please visit our [website](#). [See less](#)

[Home](#)[Collections](#)

Koehl, Matt, c

 Part of CollectionCall Number: **MS014.004**

Digital Collections and Archives

Content Warning

Materials in this folder contain racist and white supremacist language. For more information on DCA's content warning policy please visit our [website](#).

Content Warning

Materials in this folder contain racist and white supremacist language. For more information on DCA's content warning policy please visit our [website](#).

Dates

circa 1973 -- 1977

Language of Materials


From the Collection: Materials are mostly in English, with some materials in Spanish, German,

Conditions Governing Access

Open for research.

[Home](#) [Collections](#)

Scrapbook, c

 Item — Box: 1, FolCall Number: **MS260.00**

Digital Collections and Archives

Content Warning

This scrapbook contains a poem describing potential sexual violence in a supposedly humorous tone. For more information on DCA's content warning policy please visit our website: <https://dca.tufts.edu/content-warnings-protocol-for-digital-archival-material>

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This scrapbook contains a poem describing potential sexual violence in a supposedly humorous tone. For more information on DCA's content warning policy please visit our website: <https://dca.tufts.edu/content-warnings-protocol-for-digital-archival-material>

Dates

circa 1940 -- 1947

Conditions Governing Access

Open for research.

Extent

1 folders

Language of Materials

Tufts Daily, January 31, 1996

1996

Description

This issue of the Tufts Daily contains an article which includes quotes with specific, uncensored slurs about gay men and Black people. The article, about vandalism of Carmichael Hall, is on the front page of the issue and the slurs are quoted in the first paragraph of the article. Learn more about Digital Collections & Archives content warning policy on our website: <https://dca.tufts.edu/content-...> [read more](#)



Content Warning

This issue of the *Tufts Daily* contains an article which includes quotes with specific, uncensored slurs about gay men and Black people. The article, about vandalism of Carmichael Hall, is on the front page of the issue and the slurs are quoted in the first paragraph of the article.

This is a cover page provided by DCA to communicate a content warning for this item. The full issue is available on the next page of this PDF. Learn more about Digital Collections & Archives content warning policy on our website: <https://dca.tufts.edu/content-warnings-protocol-for-digital-archival-material>

Description

This issue of the Tufts Daily contains an article which includes quotes with specific, uncensored slurs about gay men and Black people. The article, about vandalism of Carmichael Hall, is on the front page of the issue and the slurs are quoted in the first paragraph of the article. Learn more about Digital Collections & Archives content warning policy on our website: <https://dca.tufts.edu/content-...> [read more](#)

This object is in collection

[Tufts Daily](#)

Temporal

1996

Permanent URL

<http://hdl.handle.net/10427/10266>

HISTORICAL LANGUAGE

This finding aid contains language that may be offensive or outdated. Because such language is in titles or direct transcription of published materials, it has not been changed. Keeping this language intact provides the most accurate depiction of the creators' intent, and can potentially tell us important things about bigotry and bias on the part of the creators, or in a particular historical context.

LANGUAGE REMEDIATION

In April 2021 this finding aid was reviewed for offensive description by Collections Management Archivist Adrienne Pruitt. Terms pertaining to slavery were updated according to P. Gabrielle Foreman, et al. "Writing about Slavery/Teaching About Slavery: This Might Help" community-sourced document, accessed December 15, 2020. The word "Black" was capitalized when used to refer to an identity or race.

CONCLUSION

Continuing Remediation, Integrating Practices, and Lessons Learned

ONGOING WORK



REVIEW

Implement peer and community review.



COMMUNITY

Work with Tufts community constituents to discuss our decisions.



GUIDELINES

Comprehensive guidelines for the creation of respectful documentation.



STANDARDS

Work with our colleagues in the library system to support changes to offensive authorized terminology.



CLOSED MATERIALS

Review Dark Archive materials for content issues.



STAY INFORMED

Continue to read current literature and keep up with projects in other repositories.

- Applying content warnings as part of processing and description
- Assessing for description and content warning needs at digitization
- Responding to user feedback

PRO-022 Content Warnings at DCA

Created by Sari Mauro, last modified by A

In Spring 2020 DCA adopted a Co

Protocol

Content Warnings Protoco

If you encounter harmful or
call us at 617-627-3737, or f

DCA holds materials that ma
engage with the items.

Content warnings may be co
finding aid.

The presence of content wa

Related policies:

DCA Statement on Potentia

Procedure

Assessing whether a content warning is needed:

Content warnings should be given for items that contain content – written, graphical, or spoken – that is offensive or hateful including but not limited to language that is racist, misogynistic, queer- or trans-phobic or misic, slurs, hate speech against a marginalized group, or speech advocating violence. Additional warnings may be warranted for items which document traumatic experiences or language about traumatic experiences which users may also find traumatic (i.e. graphic descriptions of injury or violence, medical trauma, eating disorders, domestic violence, child abuse, etc.). Staff should use their best judgement when discerning what content should be warned for. In cases of uncertainty, staff may choose to speak with colleagues about appropriate warnings.

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Crafting content warning statements:

Content warning statements should be:

- Specific with regards to what the warning is for (“blackface” instead of “racism”, “slurs about gay men” instead of “hate speech”)
 - Specificity does not necessarily mean exhaustive – especially in the case of boxes or folders of material described at the aggregate level, or AV material, where there may be too much content to make an exhaustive list practical, or in cases where it is not practical to watch, listen, or read the entire item. In such cases notes should strive to be as specific as necessary to convey the scope of the item, but staff should not endeavor to create an exhaustive note.

- • Don't reinvent the wheel
- • Use pre-existing practices
- • Build achievable workflows
- • Be aware of your context
- • Talk about it!

THANKS!

Any questions?

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and

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