

BACKGROUND: This instruction sheet provides Library of Congress catalogers with policy guidelines for classifying an edition of a work when another edition of the same work has already been cataloged and classified by the Library. It replaces parts of D 450, an instruction sheet that was formerly in the *Subject Cataloging Manual: General Cataloging Procedures*. For information on shelisting editions, see G 145. For information on assigning subject headings to editions, see H 175. *For guidelines on classifying translations, see F 177.*

1. General principle. Except as noted below, if a previously cataloged edition of a work is correctly classified, assign the same class number to the new edition being cataloged.

Exceptions:

a. Classification numbers representing time periods. If a specific classification schedule provides for separate class numbers based on the period covered in the work or on the publication date of the work, follow the provisions of the classification schedule as explained in F 320 sec. 1.b.(2) and F 320 sec. 2.b (2).

b. Obsolete classification numbers. If the classification number of the previously cataloged edition is no longer a valid number, classify the new edition in the currently authorized number. For general information on obsolete numbers, see F 185.

2. Reclassing previously cataloged editions. Except under the circumstances described in sec. 1, above, all editions of a single work published within the last three calendar years (current year, last year and the previous year) are to be classed in the same number. If the number assigned to previously cataloged editions within this three-year span is not correct, class the new edition in the correct number and reclass the previously cataloged edition(s), following the procedures in Workflow #20 in the *ILS Supplement to the Classification and Shelisting Manual*, available to Library of Congress catalogers at

<<http://www.loc.gov/staff/aba/psd/WF20.PDF>>

F 175 Editions

3. *Treatment of editions published simultaneously in different countries or languages.*
When two or more editions have been published simultaneously in different countries or in different languages, treat the first edition received as the “original” edition and the others as “subsequent” editions or translations.

Note: Until the adoption of RDA in 2013, if one of the simultaneously published editions was published in the United States, it was treated as the original edition. If the simultaneously published editions were in different languages and had different titles, the “original” edition was the one with the title in English, French, German, Spanish, or Russian (in that order of preference). If none of those languages was represented, the first one cataloged was treated as the “original” edition.

Apply these principles only if a preferred title has been used to link the editions. A general note in a 500 field is not sufficient as a link. If the editions are not linked by means of a preferred title, treat them as two different works.