BACKGROUND: Class numbers are sometimes cancelled (i.e., made obsolete). Previously, obsolete class numbers were parenthesized and retained for one edition of the schedule in which they appeared, after which they were removed. Current practice is to retain the parenthesized obsolete numbers indefinitely, as a guide for catalogers.

Cross-references to the preferred number or span of numbers are usually provided from an obsolete number. However, when a significant portion of a schedule is made obsolete, instructions on the preferred span of numbers may be provided at a higher level of hierarchy.

Examples:

(DC107.3)  Italian expedition
            see DG541

Sociology
Social elements, forces laws
(HM211)  Economic

[The span HM1-299 is obsolete. The note at HM1 reads: The numbers HM1-HM299 were used by the Library of Congress until January 1999. After that date, they were replaced by a revised subclass HM that begins at HM401. The numbers HM1-HM299 are currently used only to class new continuations of serials that are already classed in those numbers.]

1. Assigning obsolete numbers to monographs. Obsolete numbers may not be assigned to monographs. For classification of new editions of works when older editions are already classed in an obsolete number, see F 175 sec. 1.

2. Assigning obsolete numbers to continuations of periodicals and serials. See F 210 sec. 6.