

Singular vs. Plural Forms in Subject Headings H 285

1. General rule. Use the plural form when establishing topical headings that designate entities capable of being enumerated. Use the singular form when establishing topical headings that designate abstract concepts. *Examples:*

<i>Plural</i>	<i>Singular</i>
Cats	Sociology
Artificial reefs	Love
American newspapers	Art, French
Austronesian languages	
Children	
African American lawyers	

2. Specific categories of headings. Special rules for the categories of headings listed below have evolved in *LCSH* over the period of its development. For some of these categories, the specific instruction sheets cited provide detailed information on the use of the singular or plural form.

a. Parts of the body. In general, use the singular form when establishing headings for parts of the body, for example, **Eye; Heart; Hand**. Some parts of the body, however, are exceptions to this practice and have been established in the plural form, for example, **Kidneys; Fingers**. These headings may be retained in the plural form.

b. Named products. Use the plural form when establishing headings that designate brands, makes, or lines of products manufactured by a particular company. *Examples:*

General Motors automobiles
Sony televisions
IBM microcomputers

*Note: Many older headings established in LCSH do not conform to this policy, for example, **Kodak camera; Ford automobile**. Headings of this type may be changed as workload permits.*

Use the singular form when establishing headings for specific named models of a product. *Examples:*

Xerox 1075 (Copying machine)
Volkswagen New Beetle automobile
Boeing 767 (Jet transport)

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2. *Specific categories of headings.* (Continued)

c. Biological names. See H 1332, sec. 2.b.

d. Musical compositions. See H 1160, sec. 5, and H 1917.5, sec. 1.b.

e. Musical instruments. See H 1918, sec. 1.a.(2).