Natural Language in Topical Subject Headings   H 306

*BACKGROUND: In the past many subject headings were established in inverted form, for example, **Chemistry, Analytic**; **Insurance, Health**; **Bridges, Concrete**. In 1983 a decision was made to create most new headings in direct form using natural language. The inverted form was retained for topical or form headings qualified by languages, nationalities, and ethnic groups. Since 1983 the number and types of headings established in inverted form have been gradually reduced. This instruction sheet provides guidelines for formulating new topical or form headings in direct or inverted form, but is not intended to prescribe every type of heading or situation.*

1. Natural language headings. Except for those headings covered by sec. 2, establish new topical or form headings in straight form, using natural language, even if similar headings previously established are inverted. *Examples:*

```
          150 ## $a Older women
[not      150 ## $a Women, Older]


          150 ## $a Agricultural chemistry
[not      150 ## $a Chemistry, Agricultural]


          150 ## $a Anonymous art
[not      150 ## $a Art, Anonymous]


          150 ## $a Deaf bus drivers
[not      150 ## $a Bus drivers, Deaf]
```

Apply the above rule also to headings qualified by adjectives indicating religion (including the adjectives **Jewish** and **Islamic**), Christian denomination, or monastic or religious order. *Examples:*

```
          150 ## $a Catholic hospitals
          150 ## $a Hindu cave temples
          150 ## $a Jewish day schools
          150 ## $a Benedictine art
          150 ## $a Coptic embroidery
          150 ## $a Islamic jewelry
```

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2. Inverted headings.

    a. Language, nationality, or ethnic group qualifiers.   Establish topical or form headings qualified by languages, nationalities, or ethnic groups in inverted form. *Examples:*

```
150 ## $a Art, French
150 ## $a Cooking, Chinese
150 ## $a National characteristics, Argentine
150 ## $a Poets, Kannada
150 ## $a Revolutionary poetry, Bulgarian
150 ## $a Songs, Greek (Modern)
```

    Exceptions:

        (1) Language and literature headings.   The following language, literary, and related headings are established in normal word order.   Literary forms not on this list are established in inverted order.

```
150 ## $a [...] diaries
150 ## $a [...] drama
150 ## $a [...] drama (Comedy)
150 ## $a [...] drama (Tragedy)
150 ## $a [...] drama (Tragicomedy)
150 ## $a [...] essays
150 ## $a [...] farces
150 ## $a [...] fiction
150 ## $a [...] imprints
150 ## $a [...] language
150 ## $a [...] letters
150 ## $a [...] literature
150 ## $a [...] newspapers
150 ## $a [...] periodicals
150 ## $a [...] philology
150 ## $a [...] poetry
150 ## $a [...] prose literature
150 ## $a [...] wit and humor
150 ## $a [...] wit and humor, Pictorial
```

2. Inverted headings.

  a. Language, nationality, or ethnic group qualifiers.

    Exceptions: (Continued)

      (2) U.S. ethnic groups. Establish topical or form headings qualified by ethnic groups in the United States, or by Indian groups, in direct form. *Examples:*

```
150 ## $a African American college students
150 ## $a Chinese American architects
150 ## $a Mexican American art
150 ## $a Hawaiian philosophy
150 ## $a Navajo textile fabrics
150 ## $a Aztec art
```

  b. Time period. Establish headings qualified by time period in inverted form (cf. H 620). *Examples:*

```
150 ## $a History, Ancient
150 ## $a Aesthetics, Modern
150 ## $a Prayers, Medieval
150 ## $a Fountains, Renaissance
```

  c. Artistic style.   Establish headings with qualifiers for artistic style in inverted form (cf. H 1250). *Examples:*

```
150 ## $a Painting, Baroque
150 ## $a Architecture, Gothic
150 ## $a Arts, Primitive
150 ## $a Pottery, Renaissance
150 ## $a Sculpture, Rococo
```

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2. *Inverted headings*.   *(Continued)*

> ***d. Fossils*.**   Establish headings for types of fossils in inverted form (cf. H 1332, sec. 10). *Examples:*
>
> ```
>             150 ## $a Invertebrates, Fossil
>             150 ## $a Teeth, Fossil
>             150 ## $a Decapoda (Crustacea), Fossil
> ```
>
> ***e. Music headings.***   Establish headings with the following qualifiers in inverted form:
>
> ```
>             150 ## $a [...], Arranged
>             150 ## $a [...], Sacred
>             150 ## $a [...], Secular
>             150 ## $a [...], Unaccompanied
> ```
>
> ***f. Battles*.**   See H 1285.
>
> ***g. Geographic headings*.**   See H 690.
>
> ***h. Names of fictitious and legendary characters*.**   See H 1795.
>
> ***i. Royal houses, etc.***   See H 1574.

LC practice:
3. *Changing existing headings*.

If all headings of the type being proposed were established in inverted form, consider the feasibility, if time and workload permit, of changing them when establishing the first instance of heading in straight form in order to avoid introducing inconsistency.

If a mixed pattern exists (that is, if some headings are inverted and some are in straight form), propose new headings in straight form.   Change inverted headings if time and workload permit. Change is especially encouraged if few similar inverted headings with few bibliographical records exist.