BACKGROUND: This instruction sheet provides guidelines for assigning topical headings to classical and ancient works.   Although pre-1950 Library of Congress cataloging reflects a policy of not assigning topical headings to these works, that policy is no longer followed.

1. Topical works. Assign topical headings to any ancient work, original text or translation, that has a topical orientation.   *Example:*

> *Title: Aristotle's Politics.*
> *[a translation of the work by Aristotle]*
> 650 #0 $a Political science $v Early works to 1800.

2. Works of belles lettres.   Assign a literary form heading to any individual work of belles lettres, original text or translation, on an identifiable topic.   *Example:*

> 650 #0 $a Oedipus (Greek mythology) $v Drama.