
Library of Congress Subject Headings

Ideas for change

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Caveats

Preliminary thoughts

Long time horizon

**Mostly just
my ideas**

**Not limited by
legacy data**

**Not limited by
technology**

Goal: modernize LCSH

- Linked data vocabulary
 - Every string has an identifier
- Long left-anchored character strings with many subdivisions will go away
- Emphasis on keywords, faceting, and post-coordination

Modernize LCSH: Preliminary steps that *must* happen

- Multiples subdivision project must be completed
 - Get rid of: Translations into French, [German, etc.] and convert to Translations into English, Translations into French, Translations into German, etc.
- Form subdivisions must be removed
 - Implement LCGFT
- Medium of performance terms must be removed
 - Implement LCMPT

Modernize LCSH: BIG change

- Eliminate almost all free-floating subdivisions

Modernize LCSH: Evaluate every free-floating subdivision

Existing free-floating subdivisions	Instructions	Usage in database	Eliminate as FF	Editorially establish?	Post-coordinate?	Subtopic ?
\$x Abbreviations	Use under topical headings for works about abbreviations pertaining to those topics.	610	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes
\$x Abbreviations \$v Dictionaries	Use under topical headings for lists of abbreviations pertaining to those topics.	Included in 610	Yes	Yes	Yes, with LCGFT	
\$v Abbreviations of titles	Use under types of periodicals, for example, English periodicals--Abbreviations of titles.	26	Yes	Yes		
\$x Ability testing (May Subd Geog) (H 2186)	Use under topical headings.	642	Yes	No?	Yes	Yes
\$x Corrupt practices	Do not subdivide geographically under names of individual corporate bodies. Use as a topical subdivision under names of individual corporate bodies, and under types of organizations, activities, and industries.	4516	Yes	No.		Yes
\$x Abnormalities	Further subdivide by subdivisions used under diseases when used under animals and organs and regions of the body. Use as a topical subdivision under individual animals and groups of animals, individual plants and groups of plants, and individual organs and regions of the body.	816	Yes	Yes		
\$x Abrasion resistance	Use as a topical subdivision under individual materials and types of materials.	7	Yes	Yes	No	

Modernize LCSH: generate IDs

- For any free-floating subdivision that we maintain, create a way to automatically generate an ID (authority record) without a review process

Modernize LCSH: FF to ID-generated

- Identify every heading by type with an internal code:
 - Topical
 - Geographic
 - Corporate body
 - Family
 - Wars, etc.
 - Etc.
- Use type to dictate what subdivisions can be used under it

Modernize LCSH: Time

- Create time period headings for use with post-coordination:
 - Directly
 - 20th century; 1920s
 - Subordinate to a geographic place
 - United States—1861-1865
 - As part of event heading
 - 1st World War—1914-1918
 - Big Bethel, Battle of—Virginia—1861

Modernize LCSH: Get rid of “and” headings

- Architecture and philosophy

replaced by

- Architecture—Influence of philosophy
- Philosophy—Influence of architecture

Modernize LCSH: Get rid of “and” headings

- Democracy and architecture

replaced by

- Architecture—Political aspects
- Democracy

Modernize LCSH: Speculative thought

- Maintain some level of nuance?
 - United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Naval operations
 - United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—African Americans
- United States—1861-1865 (subject heading #1 is a primary topic)
 - Naval operations (subject heading is a secondary topic of primary topic #1)
 - African-Americans (subject heading is a secondary topic of primary topic #1)

Modernize LCSH: other controlled vocabulary #1

- Cease creating medical headings: use MeSH as “part” of LCSH

Modernize LCSH: other controlled vocabulary #2

- Use Integrated Taxonomic Information System (www.itis.gov) for all biological names as “part” of LCSH

Modernize LCSH: other controlled vocabulary #3

- Expand to take ALL fictitious characters, places, works, etc., out of LCSH and put into NAF

Example:

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry (Imaginary organization)

Modernize LCSH: discussion group

- Create a group to discuss these ideas with librarians and library technologists from all parts of the library community
- LCSH is an LC product and will remain an LC product

Cat among the pigeons? Volcanic eruption?



[Cat among the pigeons](#)

Modernize LCSH

Let's discuss