

PREFACE

The first edition of subclasses BL-BQ, *Religion (General). Hinduism. Judaism. Islam. Buddhism*, was published in 1927 in a volume that also included subclasses BR-BX. The second edition was published in 1962 in the same configuration. The third edition was published in 1984. A 2001 edition cumulated additions and changes that were made during the period 1984-2001, followed by an edition in 2008. This 2015 edition cumulates additions and changes made since the publication of the 2008 edition.

In the Library of Congress Classification schedules, classification numbers or spans of numbers that appear in parentheses are formerly valid numbers that are now obsolete. Numbers or spans that appear in angle brackets are optional numbers that have never been used at the Library of Congress but are provided for other libraries that wish to use them. In most cases, a parenthesized or angle-bracketed number is accompanied by a "see" reference directing the user to the actual number that the Library of Congress currently uses, or a note explaining Library of Congress practice.

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Janis L. Young, senior subject cataloging policy specialist in the Policy and Standards Division, is responsible for coordinating the overall intellectual and editorial content of subclasses BL-BQ. Kent Griffiths and Ethel Tillman, assistant editors of classification schedules, are responsible for creating new classification records, maintaining the master database, and creating index terms for the captions.

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