

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGING MANUAL
*Appendix 5: Guidelines for Language Codes;
Government Publication Codes*

B5 App. 5: Page 1
rev. August 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

B5.10.1 ASSIGNMENT OF LANGUAGE CODES

B5.10.1.0 Change in Practice

B5.10.1.1 Text in One Language

B5.10.1.2 Text in More Than One Language

B5.10.1.2.1 Predominance

B5.10.1.2.2 Number of codes recorded

B5.10.1.2.3 Bibliographies, etc.

B5.10.1.2.4 Language dictionaries

B5.10.1.2.5 Initial publication of same text in more than one language

B5.10.1.2.6 Talmud

B5.10.1.3 Translations

B5.10.1.3.1 Publication of original

B5.10.1.3.2 Adaptation

B5.10.1.3.3 Resources not treated as translations

B5.10.1.3.4 Content designation

B5.10.1.4 Additional Guidelines for Translations

B5.10.1.4.1 Text in the original language and also in one or more translations

B5.10.1.4.2 Original language not specified

B5.10.1.4.3 Text in one language translated from two to six different languages

*B5.10.1.4.4 Text in one language translated from more than six languages, with no
predominance apparent for anyone of the original languages*

*B5.10.1.4.5 Text in one language translated chiefly from one language but with some
translations from other languages*

*B5.10.1.4.6 Text in one language, some translated from the original, the rest from an
intermediate language*

B5.10.1.4.7 Text in one language with some translations

B5.10.1.4.8 Text in two or more languages translated from one language

B5.10.1.4.9 Mixture of translations and originals

B5.10.1.5 Summaries/Tables of Contents

B5.10.1.5.1 Summaries alone

B5.10.1.5.2 Translations with summary in the original language

B5.10.1.5.3 Tables of contents

B5.10.1.6 Sign Languages

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGING MANUAL
*Appendix 5: Guidelines for Language Codes;
Government Publication Codes*

*B5 App. 5: Page 2
rev. August 2020*

- B5.10.2 ASSIGNMENT OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION CODE
- B5.10.3 NOTES ON ASSIGNING GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION CODE
 - B5.10.3.1** **Definition**
 - B5.10.3.2** **Autonomous or Semi-Autonomous Level**
 - B5.10.3.3** **Communist Countries**
 - B5.10.3.4** **Great Britain**
 - B5.10.3.5** **District of Columbia**
 - B5.10.3.6** **Uncertainty Whether Government Publication**
 - B5.10.3.7** **Uncertainty of Government Level**
 - B5.10.3.8** **Two Levels**
 - B5.10.3.9** **Academic Institutions and University Presses**

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGING MANUAL
*Appendix 5: Guidelines for Language Codes;
Government Publication Codes*

*B5 App. 5: Page 3
rev. August 2020*

B5.10.1 **ASSIGNMENT OF LANGUAGE CODES**

Language codes are included in records for retrieval purposes; they permit language to be one of the factors used in various machine searches of the catalog. The language(s) of the text of a resource is represented in the machine record by a three-character alphabetic code(s) assigned by the descriptive cataloger from the latest edition of *MARC Code List for Languages* (<http://www.loc.gov/marc/languages/>). For purposes of recording language codes, the “text” of a publication refers to the main content of the resource, but may also include prefatory matter and appendices if they are significant.

If the language of a resource being cataloged is not given in the list, request information about the code to use from the Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division (PTCP). Examine the resource being cataloged to determine 1) any alternate forms or spellings of the name of the language and 2) the country or geographic area in which the language is spoken. Send this information, along with the resource, to PTCP.

Input language codes in lowercase. If more than one language code is to be recorded, input all the codes in field 041; also input the first code in the fixed field for Language (008/35-37). If only one code is to be recorded, input it in the fixed field for Language and do not create an 041 field. Note that whenever an 041 field exists in a record, the code in the fixed field for Language must be the same as the first code in subfield \$a of field 041. Note also that in Voyager the codes are arranged in alphabetical order by code.

B5.10.1.0 **Change in Practice**

Through March 2003 multiple language codes occurring in field 041 related to the same condition were not individually subfielded, i.e., the multiple codes were input immediately adjacent to one another. Beginning in April 2003, multiple language codes occurring in field 041 are individually subfielded with the subfield appropriate to the condition. For example, the codes representing the languages of a multilingual resource are recorded in repeated \$a subfields. Those representing summaries in multiple languages are record in repeated \$b subfields. This revised DCM reflects this change in practice as shown in the examples in which multiple codes appear, but these changes have not been noted in the margin.

It is not necessary to apply the change in practice to older records that are updated for whatever reason.

B5.10.1.1 **Text in One Language**

Record the appropriate code. In IBC records, the code assigned at the pre-cataloging stage appears in the fixed field for Language. Review or revise this code as appropriate.

B5.10.1.2 **Text in More Than One Language**

B5.10.1.2.1 *Predominance*

Record each code in a repeated subfield \$a. Record the code for the predominant language first if readily apparent; record codes for all other languages in alphabetical order by code (i.e., not by language name). The predominant language is the one represented by the greater

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGING MANUAL
*Appendix 5: Guidelines for Language Codes;
Government Publication Codes*

*B5 App. 5: Page 4
rev. August 2020*

number of pages, etc. If the various segments of text are equal in extent or if predominance is not immediately apparent or if there is doubt as to which language is predominant, record all codes in alphabetical order by code.

EXAMPLE: A resource in Arabic, English, and French; English is the predominant language.

Input: 041 0# \$a eng \$a ara \$a fre

B5.10.1.2.2

Number of codes recorded

Record as many as six codes for text within a resource. If there is text in more than six languages, record the code for the language of the title proper followed by the code “mul” (multilingual) in a repeated \$a subfield.

NOTE: If the resource is in one language but has brief lines (snippets) in another language, do **not** treat the resource as multilingual, i.e., do not record a code for the language of the snippets. If, however, the resource is basically in one language but has extended passages (over several pages), extensive quotations and/or transcriptions, etc., in another language, consider it multilingual.

B5.10.1.2.3

Bibliographies, etc.

For bibliographies, catalogs, indexes, and guides to literature that contain citations in more than one language, record as many as six codes for the languages of the citations following the guidelines in DCM B5.10.1.2.1 above. If there are citations in more than six languages, follow B5.10.1.2.2 above.

B5.10.1.2.4

Language dictionaries

Treat language dictionaries as multilingual publications, **not** as translations.

B5.10.1.2.5

Initial publication of same text in more than one language

In general, treat resources which represent the initial publication in a single physical entity of the same text in more than one language (e.g., government publications of multilingual countries) as multilingual publications, **not** as translations. (In general, the original text does not exist independently of the publication in hand.)

EXAMPLE: A Dutch-French bilingual government publication from Belgium.

Input: 041 0# \$a dut \$a fre

B5.10.1.2.6

Talmud

Use the codes “\$a arc \$a heb,” since the original texts are in Aramaic and Hebrew. In cases of translations of the Talmud, use these codes as the languages of the original when the translation is of the original.

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGING MANUAL
*Appendix 5: Guidelines for Language Codes;
Government Publication Codes*

*B5 App. 5: Page 5
rev. August 2020*

B5.10.1.3 **Translations**

B5.10.1.3.1 *Publication of original*
Treat a resource as a translation regardless of whether the work in the original language has been published or not.

B5.10.1.3.2 *Adaptation*
If a translation is considered a new work because it has also been adapted, do **not** treat as a translation. However, if a revised translation is considered an expression of the original work, consider it a translation for the purpose of assigning a language code.

B5.10.1.3.3 *Resources not treated as translations*
The following are **never** considered to be translations:

- Editions of the Bible
- Bibliographies, catalogs (including exhibition catalogs), indexes, and guides to literature
- Language dictionaries
- Language editions with no evidence of a language of translation
- Separate but simultaneous initial publications of multilingual countries or institutions, regardless of whether a uniform title has been assigned.

EXAMPLE: United Nations publication in French. The same work has also been published separately in English, in Italian, in Spanish, and in Russian.

Input only the fixed field for language: fre

B5.10.1.3.4 *Content designation*
Indicate a resource is a translation by using value “1” in the first indicator position of field 041; two subfields (\$a and \$h) must be present. As the occasion warrants, subfield \$k (Language code of intermediate translations) may also be present.

- 1) Record the code of the language of the text in subfield \$a;
- 2) If applicable, record the code of the intermediate language of translation in subfield \$k;
- 3) Record the code of the language of the original in subfield \$h.

In most cases there will only be two language codes to be recorded: that of the translation and that of the original.

EXAMPLE 1: A monograph in English translated from French.

Input: 041 1# \$a eng \$h fre

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGING MANUAL
*Appendix 5: Guidelines for Language Codes;
Government Publication Codes*

*B5 App. 5: Page 6
rev. August 2020*

EXAMPLE 2: A monograph in English, translated from a Latin translation of a lost Greek original.

Input: 041 1# \$a eng \$k lat \$h grc

EXAMPLE 3: A monograph in English and Sanskrit translated from an original in German and Sanskrit.

Input: 041 1# \$a eng \$a san \$h ger \$h san

NOTE: Prior to November 1989, catalogers at the Library of Congress did not assign subfield \$h. The codes for the original languages were input in subfield \$a following the code for the language of the text in hand. The three examples above would have been content designated:

041 1# \$a engfre
041 1# \$a englatgrc
041 1# \$a engger

If field 041 in an existing record has first indicator value “1” and no subfield \$h, assume that the field was content designated prior to November 1989.

(NOTE ALSO: Prior to April 2003, when multiple codes were appropriate to a subfield, they were not individually subfielded.)

B5.10.1.4 *Additional Guidelines for Translations*

B5.10.1.4.1 *Text in the original language and also in one or more translations*
Treat as a translation. Record the code for the language(s) of the translation(s), followed by the code for the language of the original, each in a separate subfield \$a. Repeat the code for the language of the original in subfield \$h.

(NOTE: Prior to November 1990, the resource was not treated as a translation. The codes for the language of the translation and for the original language were recorded in alphabetical code order in subfield \$a.)

EXAMPLE: A publication of Plato’s *Republic* in the original Greek and in English translation:

Input: 041 1# \$a eng \$a grc \$h grc
Pre-Nov. 1990 practice: 041 0# \$a enggrc
(Note that first indicator value “0” was used.)

B5.10.1.4.2 *Original language not specified*
Treat as a translation. If the original language cannot be readily ascertained (do not investigate this matter at length), record the code “und” (undetermined) in subfield \$h.

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGING MANUAL
*Appendix 5: Guidelines for Language Codes;
Government Publication Codes*

B5 App. 5: Page 7
rev. August 2020

B5.10.1.4.3

Text in one language translated from two to six different languages

Record the code for the language of the translated text in subfield \$a of field 041. Record up to six codes, each in a repeated subfield \$h for the languages of the original. Input the code for the predominant language first if readily apparent; codes for all other languages of the originals are recorded in alphabetical order by code. If there is no predominant language or the predominance is not immediately apparent, input the codes in alphabetical order by code.

(NOTE: Prior to November 1990, only one predominant original language was recorded following the code for the language of the text of the translation. If the predominance was not determinable, the code of the original language of the first work in the resource was recorded.)

EXAMPLE 1: The resource is in French and contains three works, the first translated from German and two from Russian.

Input: 041 1# \$a fre \$h rus \$h ger
Pre-Nov. 1990 practice: 041 1# \$a frerus
(Note that only "Russian" was used for original language.)

EXAMPLE 2: The resource is in French and contains two works, the first translated from Spanish, the second from English.

Input: 041 1# \$a fre \$h eng \$h spa
Pre-Nov. 1990 practice: 041 1# \$a frespa
(Note that only code "spa" was used because predominance was not apparent in the resource.)

B5.10.1.4.4

Text in one language translated from more than six languages, with no predominance apparent for any one of the original languages

Treat as a translation. In field 041, record the code for the text of the translation in subfield \$a and the code "mul" (multilingual) in subfield \$h.

EXAMPLE: An anthology of poems translated into English from eight Indic languages.

Input: 041 1# \$a eng \$h mul
Pre-Nov. 1989 practice: 041 1# \$a engmul

B5.10.1.4.5

Text in one language translated chiefly from one language but with some translations from other languages

Record the code for the text of the translation in subfield \$a of field 041 and the code for the predominant original language in subfield \$h.

EXAMPLE: An anthology of Spanish (with some Catalan) poetry translated into English.

Input: 041 1# \$a eng \$h spa

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGING MANUAL
*Appendix 5: Guidelines for Language Codes;
Government Publication Codes*

B5 App. 5: Page 8
rev. August 2020

B5.10.1.4.6 *Text in one language, some translated from the original, the rest from an intermediate language*
Record original and intermediate languages each in repeated subfields \$h.

EXAMPLE: Resource in English, part translated directly from Romanian original and part from French translation of Romanian original.

Input: 041 1# \$a eng \$k fre \$h rum

B5.10.1.4.7 *Text in one language with some translations*
Record the code for the single language of the text. Do **not** treat as a translation. Examples would be an anthology of the world's greatest poems, with the entire text in English; or conference proceedings in one language, in which some papers were translated for publication.

B5.10.1.4.8 *Text in two or more languages translated from one language*
Treat as a translation. Record up to six codes for the languages of the text, each in a repeated \$a subfield following the guidelines in DCM B5.10.1.2. If more than six languages are involved, input code "mul" (multilingual). Record in subfield \$h the code for the language of the original.

(NOTE: Prior to November 1990, only the code for the predominant text (or code "mul," if no language predominated or if there was doubt that one did) was input in subfield \$a.)

EXAMPLE 1: Text in English and French, translated from Vietnamese.

Input: 041 1# \$a eng \$a fre \$h vie
Pre-Nov. 1990 practice: 041 1# \$a mulvie
(Note code "mul")

EXAMPLE 2: Text in English and French; originally published in Inuit, with English translation.

Input: 041 1# \$a eng \$a fre \$h esk
Old practice: 041 1# \$a mulesk

5.10.1.4.9 *Mixture of translations and originals*
If a resource contains separate pieces in various languages, some of which are translations and some of which are originals, follow DCM B5.10.1.2 to record languages of the text. Do **not** treat as a translation.

B5.10.1.5 **Summaries/Tables of Contents**

B5.10.1.5.1 *Summaries alone*

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGING MANUAL
*Appendix 5: Guidelines for Language Codes;
Government Publication Codes*

*B5 App. 5: Page 9
rev. August 2020*

If a resource includes a summary or summaries in language(s) other than that of the text(s), input codes for the languages of the summaries in alphabetical order by code, each in a repeated subfield \$b of field 041. (Abstracts are included in the category of “summaries.”) Subfields \$a and \$b are required, one for each code as appropriate.

EXAMPLE: Text in English with summaries in French, German, and Russian.

Input: 041 0# \$a eng \$b fre \$b ger \$b rus

B5.10.1.5.2

Translations with summary in the original language

Treat the resource as a translation. In addition, in subfield \$b record the code for the summary following the code for the original language. **NOTE** that the input order of subfields is \$a \$h \$b.

EXAMPLE: Text in English translated from Danish with a summary in Danish.

Input: 041 1# \$a eng \$h dan \$b dan

B5.10.1.5.3

Tables of contents

If a resource includes a table of contents in language(s) other than that of the text(s) and that fact is noted in field 546 (Language Note), input a code for each table of contents in alphabetical order by code in repeated subfields \$f of field 041.

EXAMPLE 1: 546 ## \$a Table of contents in English.

041 0# \$a rus \$f eng

EXAMPLE 2: 546 ## \$a Summary and table of contents in English.

041 0# \$a rus \$b eng \$f eng

EXAMPLE 3: 546 ## \$a Summaries in German; table of contents
in Polish and German.

041 0# \$a pol \$b ger \$f ger

EXAMPLE 4: 546 ## \$a Articles in Russian, English, and Italian with
summaries in French; table of contents in French;
abstract in English.

041 0# \$a rus \$a eng \$a ita \$b eng \$b fre \$f fre

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGING MANUAL
*Appendix 5: Guidelines for Language Codes;
Government Publication Codes*

*B5 App. 5: Page 10
rev. August 2020*

EXAMPLE 5: 546 ## \$a Text in Romanian with the table of contents in
Romanian, English, and Russian.

041 0# \$a rum \$f eng \$f rus

B5.10.1.6 Sign Languages

The 1996 edition of the *MARC Code List for Languages* incorporated a newly established code (“sgn”) for Sign languages. The code is a general one used to indicate “sign language” in a generic sense. Use of this code in bibliographic records indicates materials containing a sign language or the representation of a sign language. The particular sign system present is stated in a 546 field (Language Note).

If the sole medium of communication is a sign language, e.g., a book containing pictures of the handshape of each letter of a particular sign system, or a videorecording that is signed, use the code for Sign languages in the fixed field for Language (008/35-37).

When the medium of communication includes a sign language or its representation as well as one or more other languages, judge whether the sign language or its representation is substantial. If so, assign language codes in field 041 for all the languages, including the one for Sign languages. The important thing is to indicate whether sign language is present or not, rather than to worry about predominance or other discriminations more easily determined for other languages. If predominance is apparent, code for the predominant language in the fixed field and as the first \$a subfield in field 041. If such discriminations are not readily apparent, assign codes in alphabetical order by code, each in a repeated \$a subfield, using in the fixed field for Language the same code as in the first \$a subfield.

Use the 546 Language Note to state the particular sign system, e.g., American Sign language, British Sign language. Formulate the note to reflect the situation, i.e., use terminology to distinguish between cases in which the content of the whole resource is signed, whether as the sole medium of communication or in conjunction with one or more others, and those in which sign language is present but the whole resource is not signed (or it is not clear whether it is). For example, if the sole medium of communication in a video recording is a sign language, then it would be appropriate to express that in the note as “Signed in [name of sign system].” If a video recording includes open signing (i.e., a sign language interpreter appears in a separate frame), record the note as “Open signed in [name of sign system].” For those situations that are less straight forward, for example a book in which both a language and a sign language occur, possibly a dictionary or a manual, use in the 546 field the more general statement “Includes sign language; the sign system represented is [name of sign system].” If it cannot be determined what sign system has been used, record an appropriate note indicating that the resource is signed but not specifying the sign system (i.e., “Includes sign language.”; “Open signed.”).

B5.10.2 ASSIGNMENT OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION CODE

If a resource is a government publication, input a one-character alphabetic code representing the jurisdictional level of the body publishing the resource in the fixed field for Government publication (008/28). The codes to be used and the jurisdictional levels they represent are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| – | Not a government publication |
| a | Autonomous or semi-autonomous component |
| c | Multilocal (i.e., regional combinations of jurisdictions below the state level) |
| f | Federal/national (i.e., sovereign nations, e.g., Canada) |
| i | International intergovernmental |
| l | Local (i.e., counties, cities, towns, etc.) |
| m | Multistate (i.e., regional combinations of jurisdictions at the state, provincial, territorial, etc. level) |
| o | Government publication-level undetermined |
| s | State, provincial, territorial, dependent, etc. |
| u | Unknown if item is government publication |
| z | Other |
| | No attempt to code |

B5.10.3 NOTES ON ASSIGNING GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION CODE

Use the following notes as a guide to assigning the government publication code, recognizing that the process cannot always be a precise one and that it is necessary in some cases simply to use one's best judgment.

B5.10.3.1 Definition

A government publication is defined as any resource published by or for an international, national, state, or local government agency (including intergovernmental bodies of all types), or by any subdivision of such a body. Note that under this guideline a government body and all its subdivisions are treated as government bodies regardless of how they may be entered as headings (i.e., entered under jurisdiction or not). In the bibliographic record created for the resource being cataloged, the body may be a main or added entry, but it should be named as publisher, etc., in the publication, distribution, etc., area, or have caused the resource to be published (usually inferred when the governmental body is responsible for the content of the work). When in doubt, treat the resource as a government publication.

B5.10.3.2 Autonomous or Semi-Autonomous Level

Use code “a” only for autonomous or semi-autonomous components of Malaysia.

B5.10.3.3 Communist Countries

Since coding of all resources published in communist countries would limit the usefulness of this fixed field, government coding should be used only for the same types of bodies that would be considered government in a non-communist country. In coding resources in this manner, one may often have to follow the statement that “when in doubt, treat the resource as a government

publication.”

B5.10.3.4

Great Britain

Use code “f” for resources published by or for the governments of England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

B5.10.3.5

District of Columbia

Use code “l” for resources published by or for the government of the District of Columbia.

B5.10.3.6

Uncertainty Whether Government Publication

Use code “u” (Unknown if resource is government publication) if one is not sure whether the resource is published by or for a government agency.

B5.10.3.7

Uncertainty of Government Level

Use code “o” (Government publication--level undetermined) when the resource is clearly published by or for a government body but the jurisdictional level cannot readily be determined.

B5.10.3.8

Two Levels

If a resource is published jointly by government agencies at two different levels, code for the higher government level.

B5.10.3.9

Academic Institutions and University Presses

Treat resources published by academic institutions as government publications if the institutions are created or controlled by a government. **However, do not apply this criterion to state university or state college press publications in the United States or to resources published by British university presses.**