

Introduction to Children's Subject Headings

The Children's and Young Adults' Cataloging Program (CYAC; formerly called the Annotated Card Program, or AC Program) provides data tailored to the needs of children and young adults who use school and public libraries. The cataloging is available from many sources because of its distribution in the Library of Congress MARC files and inclusion in the Library of Congress Cataloging-In-Publication Program. Records are prepared using the MARC 21 format for authorities, RDA instructions, valid Library of Congress subject headings, valid children's subject headings, current Library of Congress subject cataloging policies and practices, and current children's subject cataloging policies and practices.

The Literature Section in the U.S. Programs, Law and Literature Division of the Library of Congress is responsible for *Children's Subject Headings*. The Section catalogs items in scope for the children's subject cataloging program by creating a bibliographic citation complete with children's subject headings and a brief noncritical summary, develops new children's subject headings and proposes changes to existing headings as necessary, and monitors the policies and practices of children's subject cataloging.

This introduction provides a brief history of the program and outlines ways in which children's subject headings differ from standard LC headings in form and application. Terms not used, sources consulted in establishing headings, and subdivisions that are an exception to LC standard policies or patterns are described. The *Children's Subject Headings* list includes headings that vary in application or form from the standard LC subject headings and those especially created for the Children's and Young Adults' Cataloging Program. The *Children's Subject Headings* list must be used in conjunction with *Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH)*, and its cross-reference structure is to be observed except as noted. When headings that appeared in earlier editions of *Subject Headings for Children's Literature* are incorporated into *LCSH*, they are removed from the following list if the children's subject cataloging interpretation and LC interpretation are identical.

In MARC 21 bibliographic records children's subject headings are identified by the second indicator of 1 in 6XX fields. Records created prior to January 1, 1999, have the notation AC in subfield \$b of the 001 field. Records created or updated after January 1, 1999, have the notation lac in subfield \$a of the 042 field.

HISTORY

In the fall of 1965 the Library of Congress initiated the Annotated Card Program. The purpose of this program was to provide a more appropriate and in-depth subject treatment of juvenile titles and to offer easier subject access to those materials. This was accomplished chiefly through a more liberal application of the subject headings in *LCSH*. In some cases the rules for application were changed and headings were simplified; in a few instances headings were created where none had previously existed.

In 1969 the first edition of *Subject Headings for Children's Literature* was published. The Annotated Card Program list was a list of exceptions to the Library of Congress subject headings list and therefore was to be consulted and used in conjunction with it. It explained guiding principles of the AC program and listed those headings that varied from *LCSH* in application or form.

While the AC list contained certain departures from *LCSH*, it was intended primarily to provide a liberal extension of *LCSH*. Any departure from *LCSH* was to be guided by the headings in the *Sears List of Subject Headings (Sears)*, the advice of the ALA/RTSD/CCS Cataloging of Children's Materials Committee, and the needs of children's libraries as articulated by authorities in the field.

Since then the list has continued to evolve. New policies have been initiated and old ones changed or terminated as the Literature Section catalogs the wide range of material published for children and young adults and receives feedback from the American Library Association ALCTS/CA/MMS

Cataloging of Children's Materials Committee, librarians, and other users.

In 1996 the AC list, which had been maintained in a word processing file, was converted to individual authority records in the MARC 21 format for authorities. New and revised children's subject headings are now distributed as part of the weekly MARC distribution service for subject authorities.

CATEGORIES OF CHILDREN'S SUBJECT HEADINGS

The subject headings used in the Children's and Young Adults' Cataloging Program represent three categories: standard LC, modified LC, and headings established for exclusive use in CYAC cataloging.

By far the most numerous are the standard LC headings. Included are topical headings, most proper names, geographic names, and subdivisions. The following headings are typical of standard LC headings applied to children's materials: **Biology—Laboratory manuals; Conductors (Music); Nuclear power plants; People with disabilities; Utah—History; Vietnam War, 1961–1975; Marshall, Thurgood, 1908-1993.**

The modified LC headings contain the following types of adjustments:

(1) Hyphens are removed from headings like **Water supply; Fortune telling; Metalwork.**

(2) Foreign names are frequently used in forms more commonly known in the United States. Therefore, names of persons, organizations, or titles may be changed from the RDA form used in regular LC cataloging to conform with popular English usage, as with **Cortés, Hernando, 1485-1547** rather than **Cortés, Hernán 1485-1547; Solidarity (Polish labor organization)** rather than **NSZZ "Solidarnosc" (Labor organization)**; and **Dostoyevsky, Fyodor, 1821–1881. Crime and punishment** rather than **Dostoyevsky, Fyodor, 1821–1881. Prestuplenie i nakazanie.**

(3) Words and phrases that would be superfluous in a juvenile catalog are deleted in headings like **Separation anxiety [in children]** and **First aid [in illness and injury]**. The adjective **Children's** is usually deleted, so that a heading such as **Children's parties** becomes **Parties**, and **Children's songs** becomes **Songs**.

(4) Some headings and subdivisions used instead of the *LCSH* equivalents are: **Sports—Fiction** instead of **Sports stories**; **Trees—Planting** instead of **Tree planting**; and **Christmas—Drama** instead of **Christmas plays**.

(5) The common names of plants and animals are often used instead of the scientific ones. For those names not appearing in the following *Children's Subject Headings* pages, consult the *LCSH* headings.

Headings are established for use in children's subject heading cataloging when *LCSH* does not provide suitable terminology, form, or scope. Into this group fall such headings as **Clay modeling; Moon rocks; Safety; Seaweed; and Bedwetting.**

In establishing a heading that varies from LC, catalogers consult numerous sources in order to arrive at the term thought to be the most effective for children's subject

cataloging purposes. Literature in the subject area is consulted; spelling is accepted from *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* and *Random House Dictionary of the English Language*, except for some hyphenated terms; index terms are checked in indexing sources widely used by the public, such as the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature* and the *New York Times Index*. *Sears*, children's encyclopedias, and reference sources usually found in public and school libraries are also consulted.

APPLICATION OF CHILDREN'S SUBJECT HEADINGS

Some of the chief differences between the children's subject headings and LC headings are in application rather than in form. For example:

(1) Omission of subdivisions containing the word "juvenile," such as **—Juvenile fiction** and **—Juvenile literature**, which would be superfluous in a children's literature catalog.

(2) Restriction of the use of the subdivision **—United States** and the qualifying term **American** to topics that are predominantly international in scope, such as **Art, Music, and Folklore**. In cases where the presentation is limited to the United States, qualification or subdivision is used, as with **Art, American; Folklore—United States; Music—United States**. Otherwise, **—United States** and **American** are seldom used since most of the material purchased by children's libraries in the United States reflects an American orientation rather than an international one. Thus LC's **Cities and towns—United States** becomes the children's subject heading **Cities and towns**, denoting both works about United States cities and towns and works about cities and towns in several different countries. However, other geographical subdivisions are retained and are used for books limited to a particular country or state, as in the headings **Cities and towns—Great Britain** and **Cities and towns—Virginia**.

(3) Omission of any geographic subdivision for subject headings denoting classes of persons, such as **Athletes; Composers; and Explorers**.

(4) Assignment of subject headings to fiction to provide a helpful approach to the literature. For example, if a story adds to the reader's information about a country, a social problem, or a disease, headings are used such as: **Switzerland—Fiction; Drug abuse—Fiction; AIDS (Disease)—Fiction**. Abstract concepts are also recognized, such as **Friendship—Fiction** and **Self-reliance—Fiction**.

(5) Use of specific together with general subject headings. In a catalog for a children's collection, a young reader can locate works through both a specific and a general approach, whereas the regular assignment of subject headings may provide only the specific subject heading. Examples of this expanded analysis are: 1. **Incas**. 2. **Indians of South America**., 1. **Yosemite National Park (Calif.)** 2. **National parks and reserves**., and 1. **Veterinary medicine—Vocational guidance**. 2. **Vocational guidance**. Only the first subject would be assigned in regular cataloging.

(6) Use of both popular and scientific terms, sometimes assigned to the same work. For material intended for very young children, the popular term is used, as in the headings **Weather** and **Fossils**. When the book is intended for older children, both the popular and scientific terms are frequently assigned. Thus a single record may carry such headings as 1. **Weather**. 2. **Meteorology**. or 1. **Fossils**. 2. **Paleontology**. When books are intended for young adults, ordinarily only the scientific term is provided: **Meteorology** or **Paleontology**.

(7) Use of headings denoting form or kind. Such headings, created to make certain types of material more accessible to the reader, include **Jokes**; **Stories in rhyme**; **Spanish language materials**.

SUBDIVISIONS

While many of the most commonly used LC subdivisions can be used in a catalog devoted exclusively to children's literature, some subdivisions require modifications in form or application. The following subdivisions are exceptions to *LCSH* form and practice. Other subdivisions are used as they are in standard LC practice.

Adaptations

The subdivision —**Adaptations** is used under name, name/title, and title headings, and also under headings for literatures, for individual or collected works whose form has been changed from the original (e.g., drama to prose, prose to graphic novel).

Biography

Used for both collected and individual biographies but only under names of ethnic groups, as in **Indians of North America—Biography**, and under subject fields where no specific term designates the profession or contributions of the biographee, as in **Aeronautics—Biography**. However, where a term designates the profession, such as **Engineers**, the subdivision is not used.

Cartoons and comics

Used on topical materials presented through cartoons and comics.

Collections

Used for belles-lettristic publications containing works by more than one author with the exception of works that take specific form headings such as **Nonsense verses**; **Short stories**; **Humorous stories**; **Horror stories**; **Humorous poetry**; **Humorous plays**; **Nursery rhymes**; **Science fiction**; **Mystery and detective stories**; **Fairy tales**; etc.

Fiction

Used under all subjects for individual or collected works of fiction on identifiable topics.

Habits and behavior

Used under any kind of animal, bird, reptile, or fish.

Humor

Used on topical wit and humor, including jokes and riddles.

Illustrations

Not used. See **Pictorial works**.

Pictorial works

Used under all subjects presented exclusively or predominantly through pictorial matter.

REFERENCES

While complete hierarchies are usually not provided for terms in the *Children's Subject Headings* list, most headings have at least one reference. The most common reference occurs when one term is used to designate a particular topic or concept, and UF (Used for) references are made from synonyms or alternative expressions to that heading. For example, for children's subject cataloging purposes the term **Tumbleweeds** is preferred to the LC heading **Russian thistle** and a UF reference reflects this fact. If a complete hierarchy is needed, consult the LC list under **Russian thistle**.

In some cases, a valid heading from *LCSH* may be printed in the *Children's Subject Headings* list in order to provide references that show how the term is related to others for children's subject cataloging purposes.

When a heading appears with no references, it usually means that the spelling or form differs from that used in *LCSH*. **Wood carving** has no references; it appears in *Children's Subject Headings* list as two words but is hyphenated in *LCSH*.

SCOPE NOTES

A note may be included to define the scope of a heading, especially if it is being used in a way that differs from *LCSH*.

PRODUCTS

Five services provide information about new and changed Children's Subject Headings.

(1) Children's Subject Headings are distributed as part of the Internet FTP distribution service that provides headings in the MARC 21 authorities format on a weekly basis to supplement the master database of children's subject heading authority records.

(2) Children's Subject Headings appear at the end of *L.C. Subject Headings Monthly Lists* which are posted monthly to the World Wide Web at <http://www.loc.gov/aba/cataloging/subject/weeklylists>.

(3) Children's Subject Headings are included in *Classification Web*, a fee-based World Wide Web service that also provides access to *Library of Congress Subject Headings*, the *Library of Congress Medium of Performance Thesaurus* for

Music, Library of Congress Demographic Group Terms, and Library of Congress Classification.

(4) Children's Subject Headings are included in in LC Authorities <http://authorities.loc.gov>, a free web-based database that allows for browsing, display, and download (in MARC 21 format) of the authority records.

(5) Children's Subject Headings are included in the LC Linked Data Service (<http://id.loc.gov>), a free-web based service that allows for browsing, display, and bulk download (in various formats) of the authority records.

COVERAGE

The *Children's Subject Headings* list contains 997 headings established for use through March 2019.

CONTACT

Questions about children's subject cataloging and the construction and use of *Children's Subject Headings* should be sent to:

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