

# Introduction

The thirty-eighth edition of *Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH 38)* contains headings established by the Library through January 2016. The headings included in this list were obtained by creating a file consisting of all subject heading and subdivision records in verified status in the subject authority file at the Library of Congress. Approximately 339,813 authority records were in the file then.

The subject authority database from which the headings in this edition were drawn indicates that the file contains approximately 24,156 personal name headings of which 22,985 represent family names, 9,659 corporate headings, 9 meeting or conference headings, 484 uniform titles, 241,047 topical subject headings, and 60,839 geographic subject headings. There are 770 general USE references, 4,372 general *see also* references, 296,784 references from one usable heading to another, and 358,083 references from unused terms to used headings.

The creation and revision of subject headings is a continuous process. Approximately 5,000 new headings, including headings with subdivisions, are added to *LCSH* each year. Proposals for new headings and revisions to existing ones are submitted by catalogers at the Library of Congress and by participants in the Subject Authority Cooperative Program (SACO). More information on SACO may be found at <URL <http://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc>>. Approved proposals become part of the online authority file of subject headings at the Library of Congress, from which various publications are created.

Five services provide information about new and revised headings. First, a distribution service supplies the subject headings in the MARC 21 authorities format via Internet FTP on a weekly basis to supplement the master database file of subject authority records. Second, *L.C. Subject Headings Monthly Lists* are a timely source of information about new and changed subject headings, class numbers, references and scope notes. The lists are posted monthly to the World Wide Web at <URL <http://www.loc.gov/aba/cataloging/subject/weeklylists>>. Third, *Classification Web* provides World Wide Web access to *Library of Congress Subject Headings* and *Library of Congress Classification* to subscribers. Fourth, subject authority records are included in the Library's Web authorities service and may be searched and viewed at <URL <http://authorities.loc.gov>>. Fifth, subject authorities are freely available for searching and download through the Library's Linked Data Service at <URL <http://id.loc.gov>>.

## USE WITH AUXILIARY AIDS

*LCSH 38* should be used with several auxiliary aids. Most important of these is the *Subject Headings Manual* (2008 edition), which is available through *Cataloger's Desktop*, a subscription-based online documentation service. The instruction sheets comprising the *Manual* may also be freely downloaded from LC's web site at <URL <http://www.loc.gov/aba/publications/FreeSHM/freeshm.html>>.

The *Manual* contains the same instructions used by subject catalogers at the Library of Congress in their daily work. Although some of the instructions describe internal Library of Congress procedures, most of them are essential for those who wish to understand and to apply Library of Congress subject headings correctly. Reference will be made to the *Manual* when additional information on a topic is described there.

Headings for names of persons, corporate bodies, jurisdictions, uniform titles, and other headings traditionally thought to be capable of authorship may be assigned as subject headings. Authority records for these headings reside in an online file of name headings at the Library of Congress. These records may be searched and viewed through the Library's Web authorities service at <URL <http://authorities.loc.gov>> and in *Classification Web*. These records are also distributed via FTP, and they must be consulted for the authorized form of name headings. When name headings have been printed in *LCSH*, they have usually been borrowed from the name authority file. The full reference structure and additional authority information will appear only in the name authority file.

Questions on the publications or their content should be referred to:

Policy and Standards Division  
Library of Congress  
101 Independence Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20540-4260  
Email: [policy@loc.gov](mailto:policy@loc.gov)

## HISTORY

Like its predecessors, this edition of *LCSH* continues to be an accumulation of the subject headings established at the Library of Congress since 1898. In 1897 after the Library had been moved from the U.S. Capitol into its resplendent new building, it became apparent that a new subject catalog was necessary to reflect more specifically the vast array of subjects of the books contained in the Library's rapidly growing collections. The Library decided that a dictionary catalog instead of an alphabetic-classed or a classed catalog should be adopted to complement the new classification system that would replace Thomas Jefferson's system. Using the *List of Subject Headings for Use in Dictionary Catalogs* (A.L.A. list), prepared by a committee of the American Library Association and published in 1895, as a base text, blank leaves that trebled the size of the original volume were added and the copies were bound in flexible leather. The A.L.A. list, several other lists of subject headings, and many reference books were consulted as sources for new subject headings. New subjects also arose in the daily cataloging done at the Library. By the spring of 1898 decisions were made and preliminary arrangements were in place. Actual work on the new subject catalog began simultaneously with the printing of the first author cards in July 1898.

The first edition of the Library of Congress list, called *Subject Headings Used in the Dictionary Catalogues of the Library of Congress*, was printed in parts between 1909 and 1914. Supplementary lists were issued as required, followed by a second edition in 1919. Later editions were published at irregular intervals. The title was changed to *Library of Congress Subject Headings* when the eighth edition was published in 1975.

Since the inception of the list, headings have been created as needed when works were cataloged for the collections of the Library of Congress. Because the list has expanded over time, it reflects the varied philosophies of the hundreds of catalogers who have contributed headings. Inconsistencies in formulation of headings can usually be explained by the policies in force at the varying dates of their creation.

## COMPONENTS OF ENTRIES

Headings are listed in boldface type, e.g., **Alphabet**, **Life on other planets**, **Nuclear physics**. A heading may be followed by the legend (*May Subd Geog*), which shows that the heading may be subdivided by places according to the rules in the *Manual*, and by class numbers. Scope notes giving guidance in the meaning or application of a heading may follow in separate paragraphs. References associated with the headings are then listed in groups, followed by subdivisions of the subject headings, which may have any or all of the above-named elements. Each of these components is described below.

### Headings

Subject headings may consist of one word or several. A one-word heading is usually a noun, **Viscosity**, **Dogs**, or **Schools**,

for example. Concepts are normally named in the singular and objects in the plural, though exceptions may be found.

Two-word headings usually contain an adjective and a noun. These may appear in normal word order, as with **Nuclear physics**, **Local taxation**, and **Pumping machinery**, or in inverted form. Inversion is common with adjectives describing language or nationality, such as **Lullabies, Urdu; Songs, French; Art, American**; and **Drawing, Australian**. Other types of headings may also be inverted in order to bring the noun into the initial position, such as **Love, Maternal** and **Injections, Intramuscular**. The current policy is to use normal word order for topical headings except for headings with language, nationality, or ethnic adjectives, headings qualified by time period, such as **Art, Medieval**, headings qualified by artistic style, headings with the adjective **Fossil**, and certain music headings.

Although the original intent was that subject headings would follow a dictionary plan instead of an alphabetic-classed plan, the list reflects a reluctance to disperse related entries. Many headings were originally constructed in a manner that placed the name of a class first through the use of subdivisions, through inversion, or through parenthetical qualification. Examples of these are: **Photography—Studios and dark rooms; Geology, Stratigraphic—Cenozoic; Railroads—Timetables; Vacation schools, Religious; Art, Byzantine; Cooking (Fish); and Trials (Forgery)**. These headings and many similar ones continue to exist in the list today.

Names of geographic features have traditionally been inverted in order to place a significant word in the initial position instead of the generic word. For example, Lake Erie is formulated as **Erie, Lake** so that the distinguishing part of the name, Erie, appears first.

When more than two words are used in a heading, the heading may include conjunctions and prepositional phrases. Headings with the word *and* may express a reciprocal relationship, as in **Technology and civilization**, or they may combine two headings so similar that they are often treated together in one work, as with **Bolts and nuts**. Headings with prepositional phrases may be inverted, as in **Criminal justice, Administration of**, or in normal word order, as in **Photography of birds, Occupational therapy for children, and Prediction of scholastic success**. The Library has changed some headings with inverted prepositional phrases into headings with subdivisions or phrase headings on a case-by-case basis.

### Class Numbers

Approximately 88,983 subject authority records contain Library of Congress class numbers, which generally represent the most common aspect of a subject. If several aspects of a subject are covered by different class numbers, an explanatory term is included to indicate the specific discipline. For example,

#### **Hydraulic presses**

[TJ1460]

#### **Norwegian language**

[PD2571–PD2699]

### **Gums and resins**

[*QD419–QD419.7 (Chemistry)*]

[*SB289–SB291 (Culture)*]

[*TP977–TP979.5 (Chemical technology)*]

Class numbers are added only where there is a close correspondence between the subject heading and the provisions of the Library of Congress classification schedules. Because these, as well as the subject heading list, are subject to continuous revision, the class numbers in the *LCSH* should not be used without verification in the latest editions of the schedules.

### Scope Notes

Scope notes are provided when needed to ensure consistency of subject usage by specifying the range of subject matter to which a heading is applied in the Library's catalogs, by drawing necessary distinctions between related headings, or by stating which of several meanings of a heading is the one to which its use in the Library's catalogs is limited. These notes appear in the list immediately following the headings with which they are used. A typical example may be found under the heading **Home-based businesses**. The *Manual* contains a full description of the types of scope notes and their use. Over 11,885 headings have scope notes in *LCSH*.

### REFERENCES: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HEADINGS

*LCSH* contains cross-references constructed at different times according to different philosophies. Some references from specific to general topics remain as a legacy past practices. For many years cross-references were made to subjects "likely to be of interest to the user" who consulted a subject heading. In 1985 new rules for making references were put in place. As a result more attention is being paid to hierarchical relationships, and superfluous or inaccurate references are deleted from the list when found. These rules are described fully in the *Manual*.

### The Equivalence Relationship: USE References

USE references are made from an unauthorized or non-preferred term to an authorized or preferred heading. Under the heading referred to, the code UF (Used For) precedes the term not used. The codes USE and UF function as reciprocals.

Cars (Automobiles)

USE Automobiles

#### **Automobiles**

UF Cars (Automobiles)

The word USE and the code UF appear only in front of the first reference if several references are present.

### **Raw foods**

UF Food, Raw [*Former heading*]

Uncooked food

Unfired food

A reference that is an earlier form of a heading is followed by the legend [*Former heading*].

### **Databases**

UF Data bases [*Former heading*]

USE references are made from synonyms, variant spellings, variant forms of expression, alternate constructions of headings, and earlier forms of headings. USE references are also made when it has been decided that words should not be used as a heading even if the heading and the unused words are not truly synonymous. Headings having more than one word frequently have USE references from the words not chosen as the entry element. USE references are not normally made in this list from abbreviations, unless they are in widespread use, nor are they generally made from foreign language equivalents of topics.

USE references are often omitted if they would begin with the same word as a broader term needed for hierarchy. That is,

### **Exterior lighting**

BT Lighting

is made instead of

### **Exterior lighting**

UF Lighting, Exterior

The Hierarchical Relationship: Broader Terms and Narrower Terms

Subject headings are linked to other subject headings through cross-references now expressed as Broader Terms (BT) and Narrower Terms (NT). The code BT precedes a subject heading representing, according to current policy, the class of which the heading is a member. The code NT precedes a subject heading representing, in most cases, a member of the class represented by the heading under which the NT appears. The codes BT and NT function as reciprocals. A heading appearing as a BT must be matched by the reversed relationship as an NT, as demonstrated by the following example:

### **Exterior lighting**

BT Lighting

### **Lighting**

NT Exterior lighting

A heading is normally linked to one immediately next to it in the subject heading hierarchy. Since the referenced headings are linked in turn to other headings, references for distant relationships are no longer made. References leading to two or more levels in a hierarchy reflect an obsolete practice.

Making hierarchical relationships explicit creates a system in which superordination and subordination are clearly stated. Headings created after 1984 should follow these principles. Headings established before 1985 are reviewed on a gradual basis. Their references are being changed to conform with current rules. Until this review is completed, the list will contain references that do not reflect hierarchy.

The making of hierarchical references creates the ability to systematically find headings that are more general or more specific than the heading being consulted. No matter the level at which one enters the hierarchy, one can follow either BTs or NTs to find the broadest or most specific heading available. The following headings illustrate this:

**Vehicles**

- BT Transportation
- NT Motor vehicles

**Motor vehicles**

- BT Vehicles
- NT Trucks

**Trucks**

- BT Motor vehicles
- NT Dump trucks

**Dump trucks**

- BT Trucks

By following the NTs it is apparent that the most specific heading is **Dump trucks**. By following the BTs it is apparent that the broadest heading is **Transportation**.

In the past, many hierarchical references were omitted when the narrower heading began with the same word as the broader heading. For example, the heading **Schools of architecture** does not contain the BT **Schools**. It was believed that alphabetic proximity eliminated the need for a hierarchical cross reference to a heading filing immediately adjacent. Broader headings are gradually being added if required by hierarchical principles regardless of alphabetic proximity.

The Associative Relationship: Related Terms

The associative relationship, expressed by the code RT meaning Related Term, links two headings that are associated in some manner other than by hierarchy. For example,

**Birds**

- RT Ornithology

**Ornithology**

- RT Birds

According to current policy few headings will be linked by associative references until the hierarchy in the list has been thoroughly reviewed.

General References

A general reference is a reference made not to specific individual headings but to an entire group of headings, frequently listing one or more headings by way of example. It was formerly considered impractical to list as specific references all of the individual headings encompassed by a broader heading, even though such specific references would have been theoretically logical and proper and even though the individual headings were printed in *LCSH*. Instead, general *see also* references have been made, retaining the code SA, such as

**Woodworking industries**

*SA names of specific industries, e.g., Furniture industry and trade*

It is expected that each library will make specific references to each individual industry about which the library has works. Many general references will gradually be replaced by specific references to narrower headings.

General references have also been made from a generic heading to a group of headings all beginning with the same word:

**Chemistry**

*SA headings beginning with the word Chemical*

Other general references may lead to subdivisions:

**Economic history**

*SA subdivision Economic conditions under names of countries, cities, etc., and under classes of persons and ethnic groups*

General USE references also are made:

Access control

*USE subdivision Access control under types of archives, records, computers, computer networks, and statistical and data-gathering services, e.g., Computers—Access control; Psychiatric records—Access control*

Such general references to subdivisions do not necessarily indicate that the subdivisions are free-floating.

SUBDIVISIONS

The application of Library of Congress subject headings requires extensive use of subject subdivisions as a means of combining a number of different concepts into a single subject heading. Complex topics may be represented by subject headings followed by subdivisions. Some subdivisions are printed in *LCSH* but a greater number of subdivisions may be

assigned according to rules specified in the *Manual*. Only a fraction of all possible heading-and-subdivision combinations are listed in *LCSH*.

In order to facilitate reading the list, initial parts of a heading with subdivision are suppressed in printing. Instead, subdivisions appear in the list following a long dash, without repetition of the heading. For example,

**Massachusetts**  
—**Antiquities**

was produced from a machine-readable record with the words **Massachusetts—Antiquities**. If two subdivisions are used, the main heading and the first subdivision are replaced by two long dashes:

**Massachusetts**  
—**History**  
— — **Colonial period, ca. 1600–1775**  
— — **New Plymouth, 1620–1691**

These are carried in subject authority records as **Massachusetts—History—Colonial period, ca. 1600–1775** and **Massachusetts—History—New Plymouth, 1620–1691**. When a heading has many subdivisions that are further subdivided, such as **United States—History**, the dashes help to align the subdivisions properly.

#### Categories of Subdivisions

Four categories of subdivisions are generally recognized: topical, form, chronological, and geographic. Each category is described separately below, and examples may be found in *LCSH*. Instructions for assigning them appear in various sections of the *Manual*.

#### Topical Subdivisions

Topical subdivisions are used under main headings or other subdivisions to limit the concept expressed by the heading to a special subtopic, e.g., **Corn—Harvesting, Automobiles—Motors—Carburetors**, and **Women—Employment**. Many topical subdivisions are omitted from the printed list. The rules for their application are found in the *Manual* and in general references printed under the generic headings in *LCSH*.

#### Form Subdivisions

Form subdivisions are used to indicate the form in which the material on a subject is organized and presented (e.g., congresses, dictionaries, periodicals) and as such are added as the last element to any heading. Form subdivisions represent what a work is rather than what it is about. They can generally be used under any topic, and therefore are seldom printed in *LCSH*. Nevertheless, a few instances occur in the list, usually because they were established and printed before 1974 when they became free-floating, e.g.,

**Massachusetts—History—Colonial period, ca. 1600–1775—Juvenile literature**  
**United States—History—Periodicals**

Most form subdivisions are indicated in the list by a general *see also* reference under the heading representing the form as a whole, e.g.,

#### Periodicals

*SA subdivision Periodicals under specific subjects, e.g., Engineering—Periodicals; United States—History—Periodicals*

Guidance on the use of many specific form subdivisions, such as **—Abstracts, —Catalogs, —Dictionaries, —Digests, —Handbooks, manuals, etc., —Pictorial works, —Tables**, and others, is given in the *Manual*.

#### Chronological Subdivisions

Chronological subdivisions are used to limit a heading or heading-and-subdivision to a particular time period. Under names of countries and other jurisdictions or regions are printed specific topical subdivisions and the chronological subdivisions that may be used with them. The date subdivisions given under **United States—Economic conditions, United States—History**, and **United States—Politics and government** are illustrative.

When topical headings contain chronological subdivisions not preceded by the subdivision **—History**, the subdivisions are usually established and printed in *LCSH*, e.g.,

**Philosophy, French—18th century**  
**Art, Chinese—To 221 B.C.**

#### Geographic Subdivisions

The designation (*May Subd Geog*) after a subject heading or subdivision indicates that a geographic location may follow the heading or subdivision. The designation (*Not Subd Geog*) after a subject heading or subdivision indicates that a decision has been made not to divide a particular heading by geographic location. Omission of either designation normally means that the heading has not yet been reviewed to determine whether geographic subdivision is possible or desirable and that geographic location should not therefore be used.

Instructions for subdivision by place may occur under an individual heading in a scope note, but a full description of the rules is given in the *Manual*. Generally, if the geographic entity is the name of a country or is larger than a single country, the established name is placed immediately after the heading or subdivision that has the code (*May Subd Geog*). **Labor supply** (*May Subd Geog*) means that place follows the subject, as in **Labor supply—France**. If the geographic entity is the name of a region or geographic feature within a country, the name of a state or province, or the name of a city, then the name of the country it is in generally precedes the name of the smaller geographic locality. The result of this practice is to gather most

of the localities as further subdivisions under the name of the country, as with **Labor supply—France—Paris**.

The major exception to interposing the name of the country is that three countries — the United States, Great Britain, and Canada — do not serve as gathering devices for smaller jurisdictions or geographic entities. The names of states, constituent countries, and provinces, respectively, instead of the country name, serve as gathering devices for the smaller jurisdictions or geographic areas. Additional exceptions to the general rule stated above are described in the *Manual*.

If a heading contains both a geographic subdivision and topical or form subdivisions, the location of the geographic subdivision depends on which elements can be subdivided by place. As a general rule, place follows the last element that can be divided by place. Following this rule for the heading from *LCSH* with subdivisions below

**Construction industry** (*May Subd Geog*)  
—**Finance**  
— —**Law and legislation** (*May Subd Geog*)  
—**Government policy** (*May Subd Geog*)  
—**Mathematical models**

will result in these combinations:

**Construction industry—Italy**  
**Construction industry—Italy—Finance**  
**Construction industry—Finance—Law and legislation—Italy**  
**Construction industry—Government policy—Italy**  
**Construction industry—Italy—Mathematical models**

Few geographic subdivisions are printed in *LCSH*. For example, the heading **Petroleum waste** is followed by the code (*May Subd Geog*), but no instances of geographic subdivision are printed. In this case, the specific rules for geographic subdivision in the *Manual* must be consulted in order to construct a subject heading with geographic subdivision correctly. Those geographic subdivisions that are printed are usually required so that references to narrower headings may lead from the topic in a special place to an instance of that topic. For example, many geographic subdivisions are printed under the heading **Rivers** (*May Subd Geog*) so that references may lead to the names of individual rivers.

#### Geographic Subdivision and Place Names Divided by Topic

The expression of geographic place in relation to a topic is handled in two different ways in *LCSH*. Topical subject headings can be subdivided by place, as in **Labor supply—France**, or geographic headings may be subdivided by topic, as in **Massachusetts—History**. Since a general rule does not exist that explains under which circumstances one method is preferred to the other, it is best to rely on instructions under the specific subject headings to determine which method is used. If a subject heading contains the designation (*May Subd Geog*), a geographic place is brought out by subdivision. For example, **Labor supply**

(*May Subd Geog*) means that place will follow the subject, as in **Labor supply—France**. If, however, the heading lacks the instruction or specifically states (*Not Subd Geog*) and there is a general reference to a specific subdivision under names of places, then the specific geographic area precedes the topic. For example,

#### **History**

*SA subdivision History under names of countries, cities, etc., and individual corporate bodies, uniform titles of sacred works, classes of persons, ethnic groups and topical headings*

authorizes the construction of the combination **Massachusetts—History**.

The use of subdivisions under names of places is more problematic because it is necessary to refer to the *Manual* for a complete listing of these subdivisions. No place name that lists all of the available subdivisions has been chosen. Nevertheless, the subdivisions under the headings **France**, **Great Britain**, and **United States** in *LCSH* are representative of some of the subdivisions that may be used. However, date subdivisions that represent historical periods must be established uniquely under each place name.

#### Free-floating Subdivisions

Until 1974, subject catalogers normally established specific heading-and-subdivision combinations for printing in *LCSH*. In 1974 it was decided that many subdivisions of subject headings would in the future be constructed according to rules instead of according to specific authorization, and the term *free-floating subdivision* was coined. Because authority records have seldom been prepared for these combinations since 1974, the resulting combinations infrequently appear in *LCSH*. Therefore, those subdivisions that do appear are either remnants from earlier days or subdivisions needed so that narrower headings or previously used headings can be shown.

Subject heading strings, made up of established headings and free-floating subdivision combinations, are assembled in building-block fashion by the cataloger at the time of assigning subject headings to a work being cataloged. Most subdivisions are accessible in *LCSH* itself either through a general *see also* (SA) reference under the heading that is the same as a subdivision (for example, **Abstracts**), or through a general USE reference (for example, **Ability testing**). In addition, guidelines for the use of many subdivisions appear in the notes and references under the corresponding generic headings or references in the text of *LCSH*. In addition, catalogers should refer to various lists and instruction sheets in the *Manual* in order to combine elements correctly. For a complete list of the free-floating subdivisions in use as of January 2016, as well as guidelines for their use, see the section “Free-floating Subdivisions” in this 38th edition of *LCSH*.

## PATTERN HEADINGS

In 1974 the principle of free-floating subdivisions controlled by pattern headings was officially incorporated into *LCSH*. Standardized sets of topical and form subdivisions were developed for use under particular categories of subject headings or name headings used as subjects. To avoid repeating these subdivisions under all possible headings, only one or a few representative headings from each category are printed in *LCSH* with a set of the subdivisions appropriate for use under other headings belonging to the category. Such headings are called pattern headings for the respective categories.

Because many subdivisions now authorized as free-floating by a pattern heading were printed in *LCSH* before 1974, they still appear in numerous instances under individual headings belonging to a category. Some headings incorporating subdivisions controlled by pattern headings are needed to provide the reference structure for other headings.

General free-floating subdivisions are not usually printed in *LCSH* under pattern headings. However, some general free floating topical and form subdivisions are listed under pattern headings if they represent an important topic or type of material pertinent to the category, or if they are cited as examples in general *see also* references.

Any subdivision once established under a pattern heading is usable, if appropriate and no conflict exists, under any other heading belonging to its category. Within these specified limits, it is a free-floating subdivision.

For example, a set of subdivisions has been developed for organs and regions of the body. Typical headings belonging to this category include **Alimentary canal**, **Autonomic ganglia**, **Renal artery**, **Toes**, etc. There are two pattern headings for parts of the body: **Foot** and **Heart**. The subdivisions established under either of these headings may be used as free-floating subdivisions under any heading belonging to the category if it is appropriate. To illustrate, the heading **Joints—Biopsy** is not printed in *LCSH*. It is nonetheless a valid heading because the subdivision —**Biopsy** appears under **Heart**.

Additional information on pattern headings is found in the *Manual*. Types of headings included in the categories are described there. Lists of the subdivisions that can be used under other headings belonging to the category are also provided. When new subdivisions are added to the pattern headings, the subdivisions are printed under the pattern headings in *LCSH*.

The table of pattern headings is arranged alphabetically by category of headings covered by pattern headings; the specific headings under which the subdivisions will appear in *LCSH* are listed in the right-hand column.

## Table of Pattern Headings

<i>Category</i>	<i>Pattern Heading</i>
Animals	Fishes
Art	Cattle
	Art, Chinese
	Art, Italian
	Art, Japanese
	Art, Korean
Chemicals	Copper
	Insulin
Colonies	Great Britain—Colonies
Diseases	Cancer
	Tuberculosis
Educational institutions	
Individual	Harvard University
Types	Universities and colleges
Industries	Construction industry
	Retail trade
Languages and groups of languages	English language
	French language
	Romance languages
Legal topics	Labor laws and legislation
Legislative bodies	United States. Congress
Literary authors (Groups)	Authors, English
Literary works entered under author	Shakespeare, William, 1564–1616. Hamlet
Literary works entered under title	Beowulf
Literatures (including individual genres)	English literature
Materials	Concrete
	Metals
Military services	United States—Armed Forces
	United States. Air Force
	United States. Army
	United States. Marine Corps
	United States. Navy
Musical compositions	Operas
Musical instruments	Piano
	Clarinet
	Violin
Organs and regions of the body	Heart
	Foot
Plants and crops	Corn
Religious bodies	
Religious and monastic orders	Jesuits
Religions	Buddhism
Christian denominations	Catholic Church
Sacred works	Bible
Vehicles, Land	Automobiles
Wars	World War, 1939–1945
	United States—History—Civil War, 1861–1865



## CATEGORIES OF HEADINGS INCLUDED IN THE LIST

*LCSH* is primarily a listing of topical subject headings. Ever since the first edition, names of persons and names of corporate bodies (jurisdictions, companies, etc.) have been omitted from the list unless needed as patterns or examples, or unless a subdivision must be printed. In addition, the list in the past omitted some of the topical headings established and assigned as subject headings to bibliographic records by the Library of Congress. Although certain categories of headings were established and applied to works cataloged, they were omitted from the printed list in order to save space.

In 1976 the decision was made to print the following types of formerly omitted headings: names of sacred books; names of families, dynasties, and royal houses; gods; legendary and fictitious characters; works of art; biological names; and chemicals. Headings in these categories appear in the list if they were established after 1976. In 1976 the Library also began to print several other categories of formerly omitted headings: geographic regions and features; city sections; archaeological sites; extinct cities; structures; buildings; roads; parks and reserves; plazas; streets; and other proper names not usually capable of authorship. The list also contains an artificial structure called a “multiple,” of which **Subject headings—Aeronautics, [Education, Latin America, Law, etc.] and Civil rights—Religious aspects—Buddhism, [Christianity, etc.]** are examples. These multiple subdivisions are intended to indicate that analogous subdivisions may be used as needed without a specific authority record. That is, under the heading **Civil rights—Religious aspects** the name of any religion may be assigned as a further subdivision.

## CATEGORIES OF HEADINGS OMITTED FROM THE LIST

Four categories of headings are omitted from the list: headings that appear in the Name Authority File, free-floating phrase headings, certain music headings, and machine-generated validation records.

### Headings Residing in the Name Authority File

Personal names, corporate bodies, names of jurisdictions, names of meetings, conferences, and other organized events, such as competitions and sports events, and uniform titles are omitted from the subject headings list unless used as a pattern or example, or unless a subdivision or special instruction must be printed.

In 2013 the decision was made to discontinue establishing several types of headings in *LCSH*, including names of individual fictitious characters, legendary characters, and mythological figures; names of individual deities; and individually named animals. The headings are now established in the name authority file, and existing subject headings are gradually being cancelled in favor of the name authority records. To find the established forms of headings that do not appear in

*LCSH* consult the online file of name authority records. For more information, consult the *Manual*.

### Free-floating Phrase Headings

These headings are not established by subject catalogers but are composed and applied as needed without the creation of an authority record. These headings are:

[Name of city] Metropolitan Area ([Geographic qualifier])

[Name of city] Region ([Geographic qualifier])

[Name of city] Suburban Area ([Geographic qualifier])

[Name of river] Region ([Geographic qualifier])

[Name of geographic feature] Region ([Geographic qualifier])

### Establishing and Printing Certain Music Headings

Although a large number of existing music headings have been printed in *LCSH* when specific cross-references are not needed, LC does not print headings with qualifiers specifying instruments or vocal parts when the main heading has a general scope note, with or without a general *see also* reference.

### Machine-generated validation records

In 2007 the Policy and Standards Division began to create and distribute subject authority records that were machine-generated from subject headings residing in bibliographic records in the Library’s files. These strings typically include a topical subject heading followed by a geographic, topical, or form subdivision. Validation records are distributed to subscribers of the MARC 21 subject authority records via Internet FTP on a weekly basis along with the subject authority headings that appear in these volumes. Through January 2016 more than 78,000 validation records have been created.

For more specific instructions, consult the *Manual*.

## FILING ARRANGEMENT

Filing rules that provide for efficient arrangement of bibliographic entries by computer have been followed. These rules (*Library of Congress Filing Rules*, 1980) are also used in other Library of Congress computer-generated bibliographic products.

The basic principle is to file a heading strictly as expressed in its written form, word by word. A word is defined as consisting of one or more letters or numerals set off by spaces or marks of significant punctuation, such as the hyphen. Therefore, abbreviations, acronyms, and initials without interior punctuation (e.g., Dr., ALGOL, IBM) are filed as words. Initials separated by punctuation are filed as separate words at the beginning of their alphabetic group.

C-coefficient, USE Clebsch-Gordan coefficients

C.F. & I. clause, USE C.I.F. clause

**C.O.D. shipments**

Ca Gaba Indians, USE Kagaba Indians

**Cazcan Indians**

CCPM test, USE Constant-choice perceptual maze test

**Crystals**

CTD (Injuries), USE Overuse injuries

Modified letters with diacritics are filed with their unmodified equivalents.

**Möbius function**

**Mobs**

**Moeller family**

**Molds (Fungi)**

Möller family, USE Moeller family

**Mollusks**

Numbers that are expressed in digits, both Arabic and Roman, precede alphabetic characters and are arranged in increasing numeric value.

**4-H clubs**

**14 Ranch (Wyo.)**

**35mm cameras**

1939 A.D. USE Nineteen thirty-nine, A.D.

**6502 (Microprocessor)**

**A-5 rocket**

**A.C. automobile**

**A priori**

**Aamand family**

**Four-day week**

**Nineteen thirty-nine, A.D.**

**P-40 (Fighter plane)**

**p-adic numbers**

**P-STAT (Computer system)**

**Paavola family**

**Pac-Man (Game)**

**Pacific Coast (Peru)**

**PADIS (Information retrieval system)**

**PC-1500 (Computer)**

**Peace**

In a chronological file, dates are arranged according to proper chronology. The word "To" is treated as if it were 0 (zero). In a chronological progression the shortest period is filed first. Period subdivisions are arranged chronologically even when the dates do not appear first. If two spans begin with the same date, the shorter time period files first:

**Great Britain—History—To 55 B.C.**

**Great Britain—History—To 449**

**Great Britain—History—To 1066**

**Great Britain—History—To 1485**

**Great Britain—History—Anglo-Saxon period, 449–1066**

**Great Britain—History—Edward, the Confessor, 1042–1066**

**Great Britain—History—William I, 1066–1087**

**Great Britain—History—Norman period, 1066–1154**

**Great Britain—History—1066–1687**

Inverted headings file ahead of headings with parenthetical qualification:

**Children**

**Children, Maori**

**Children (International law)**

**Children (Roman law)**

In any subject heading, subordinate elements that follow a dash are grouped in the following order:

- (a) period subdivisions, arranged chronologically
- (b) form and topical subdivisions, arranged alphabetically
- (c) geographic subdivisions, arranged alphabetically

These sequences are maintained at every level of subject subdivision.

**United States—Foreign relations—20th century**

**United States—Foreign relations—1945–1989**

**United States—Foreign relations—Executive agreements**

**United States—Foreign relations—Treaties**

**United States—Foreign relations—Iran**

**United States—Foreign relations—Latin America**

The filing rules require that certain entries, usually personal and corporate entries with titles, follow an unsubdivided heading and precede that heading with subdivisions. This will result in filing sequences as follows:

**Bible**

**Bible. English**

**Bible—Abridgments**

**Bible—Versions**

**Bible. Matthew**

**Shakespeare, William, 1564–1616**

**Shakespeare, William, 1564–1616. Hamlet**

Shakespeare, William, 1564–1616—Acting  
see Shakespeare. . . .

**United States**

**United States. Declaration of Independence—Signers**

**United States—Antiquities**

**United States—Territories and possessions**

**United States. Air Force**

It is necessary to consult the unsubdivided heading preceding the author/title combination because it may contain information essential to understanding how the heading operates, such as whether it may be divided by place.