

## When to Establish a New Topical Subject Heading H 187

**1. General rule.** Establish a subject heading for a topic that represents a discrete, identifiable concept when it is first encountered in a work being cataloged, rather than after several works on the topic have been published and cataloged.

**2. New topics not yet identifiable.** When a work being cataloged is on a topic that appears to be new but is judged to be not yet discrete and identifiable, assign the available subject headings that most accurately designate the topic of the work.

**3. Newly emerging topics.** Headings are usually established to reflect current American usage for a concept, but sometimes no consensus has yet developed among the authorities in a given field as to the proper terminology for the concept. When establishing a new heading in such a situation, conduct authority research according to the principles given in H 202 and then make an intuitive judgment based on available evidence (in some cases only the work being cataloged) by selecting elements that will allow the heading to express what is intended and at the same time serve as a retrieval term in the system.

Provide UF references from any significantly different terms that have been found to be used for the same concept. If terminology for the concept later becomes well established in another form, it may be necessary to change the heading to the more appropriate form.