BACKGROUND: It is subject cataloging policy to assign as a subject heading or as a geographic subdivision, only the latest name of a political jurisdiction that has had one or more earlier names, as long as the territorial identity remains essentially unchanged. For example, although both Ceylon and Sri Lanka are valid as name headings, only Sri Lanka is used in subject cataloging. When a particular heading for a jurisdiction is not valid for use as a subject heading because a later name is used, a statement to that effect should appear in a 667 field in the name authority record for the earlier heading. The 667 field is labeled SUBJECT USAGE. Example:

151 ## $a Ceylon
667 ## $a SUBJECT USAGE: This heading is not valid for use as a subject. Works about this place are entered under Sri Lanka.

1. Searching the name authority file. When in doubt as to whether a given geographic name heading is valid for use as a subject heading, first search the LC Database to determine whether a decision has already been made and recorded in a 667 SUBJECT USAGE field. If this field is found in the authority record for the heading in question, follow the instructions as presented in the record.

2. Adding usage decisions to name authority records. Add a 667 SUBJECT USAGE field to new and existing geographic name headings for former names of political jurisdictions if the former name cannot be used as a subject heading because a later name is used.