

BACKGROUND: The heading **Great Britain** is used in both descriptive and subject cataloging as the conventional form for the United Kingdom, which comprises England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. This instruction sheet describes the usage of **Great Britain**, in contrast to **England**, as a subject heading. It also describes the usage of **Great Britain, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales** as geographic subdivisions.

1. Great Britain vs. England as a subject heading. In general assign the subject heading **Great Britain**, with topical and/or form subdivisions, as appropriate, to works about the United Kingdom as a whole. Assign **England**, with appropriate subdivision(s), to works limited to that country.

Exception: Do not use the subdivisions **-History** or **-Politics and government** under **England**. For a work on the history, politics, or government of England, assign the heading **Great Britain**, subdivided as required for the work. References in the subject authority file reflect this practice. Use the subdivision **-Foreign relations** under **England** only in the restricted sense described in the scope note under **England-Foreign relations** in the subject authority file.

2. Geographic subdivision.

a. Great Britain. Assign **Great Britain** directly after topics for works that discuss the topic in relation to Great Britain as a whole. *Example:*

Title: *History of the British theatre.*
650 #0 \$a Theater \$z Great Britain \$x History.

b. England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales. Assign **England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, or Wales** directly after topics for works that limit their discussion to the topic in relation to one of the four constituent countries of Great Britain. *Example:*

Title: *The natural history of Wales.*
650 #0 \$a Natural history \$z Wales.

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2. Geographic subdivision. (Continued)

c. Counties, cities, etc.. To works that discuss a topic in relation to a British county, city or other subordinate unit, divide the topic through the appropriate constituent country rather than through **Great Britain**. *Examples:*

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650 #0 $a Jews $z England $z West Country.  
650 #0 $a Medicine $z England $z London.  
650 #0 $a Geology $z Northern Ireland $z Belfast Region.  
650 #0 $a Reformation $z Scotland $z Tay River Region.  
650 #0 $a Country life $z Wales $z Arian River Valley.
```

If the entity being used as a geographic subdivision is in more than one constituent country, assign it directly after the topic. Do not further subdivide **Great Britain** to bring out a specific locality. *Example:*

```
650 #0 $a Stream ecology $z Wye, River (Wales and England)  
[not 650 #0 $a Stream ecology $z Great Britain $z Wye, River (Wales  
and England)]
```

d. Special provisions for law cataloging. Until 2003, it was Library of Congress practice to use **-Great Britain** as a geographic subdivision for legal works whose coverage was limited to England and Wales as well as for those that covered all of Great Britain. That practice has been discontinued.

Subdivide headings assigned to legal works by **-Great Britain** only if the work discusses the law in connection with all four of the constituent countries of Great Britain. If the work is limited to England, Wales, Scotland, or Northern Ireland or a combination of two or three of those countries, assign subject headings divided by the appropriate country or countries rather than by **-Great Britain**.

2. *Geographic subdivision.*

d. *Special provisions for law cataloging.* (Continued)

Determine the coverage of the work by relying primarily on the text, introductory matter, legal and bibliographic citations, etc., in the work itself. In those cases where it is difficult to determine from the work itself whether the discussion applies to all of Great Britain or is limited to England and Wales, the following lists may be used as guidance:

List 1 - Areas where the law of England and Wales generally differs from that of Scotland and Northern Ireland:

Civil law
Commercial law
Criminal law
Debt recovery/collection
Evidence (Law)
Family law
Inheritance and succession
Land law (or Real property)
Limitation of actions law
Torts

If a work is about one of the above subjects, and it is not clear from examining the work itself whether it covers Great Britain as a whole or only England and Wales, it may be assumed that it is limited to England and Wales, and the subject headings assigned should be geographically divided accordingly.

List 2 - Areas where the law generally applies uniformly throughout Great Britain:

Discrimination (sex and race)
Extradition
Health and safety (generally applies to Great Britain except Northern Ireland)
Media/journalism
Taxation (including VAT)

For a work about one of the above topics, the subject headings should generally be divided by **-Great Britain** unless the work is explicitly more limited.