BACKGROUND: Prior to the transfer of sovereignty from Great Britain to China in 1997, Hong Kong was treated in subject cataloging practice as an autonomous entity. Since July 1997, Hong Kong is treated as a political division of China. This instruction sheet describes that practice.

1. Treatment as a political division of China. Treat Hong Kong (China) as an administrative division of China rather than as a country, assigning as required subdivisions that are appropriate for use under political divisions of countries (see H 1140). Examples:

   651 #0 $a Hong Kong (China) $x Officials and employees.
   651 #0 $a Hong Kong (China) $x Social conditions.

2. Geographic subdivision practice. When using Hong Kong as a geographic subdivision, divide through China. Examples:

   650 #0 $a Agriculture $z China $z Hong Kong.
   650 #0 $a Secret societies $z China $z Hong Kong.

   Also divide through China for localities within Hong Kong used as geographic subdivisions. Example:

   650 #0 $a Nautical charts $z China $z Victoria Harbor.

3. Establishing headings for entities in Hong Kong. Use (China) to qualify geographic features within Hong Kong. Examples:

   151 ## $a Mirs Bay (China)
   151 ## $a Wang Lang Island (China)

   Qualify buildings, parks, archaeological sites, and other entities of the type that may be qualified by names of cities by the name of the appropriate locality in Hong Kong. Do not use (Hong Kong, China) to qualify entities of these types. Example:

   151 ## $a Lizhengwu Site (Kowloon, China)

   Use the qualifier (Hong Kong, China) only if it is necessary to distinguish between an entity in Hong Kong and another entity with the same name and of the same type located elsewhere in China.
3. Establishing headings for entities in Hong Kong. (Continued)

Divide topical headings that are used as broader terms for named entities in Hong Kong by China, not Hong Kong. Example:

151 ## $a Hong Kong Island (China)
550 ## $w g $a Islands $z China

4. Transfer of sovereignty. Assign to works about the 1997 transfer of sovereignty over Hong Kong to China the subject heading Hong Kong (China)–History–Transfer of Sovereignty from Great Britain, 1997.

5. Geographic area code. Assign the code a-cc-hk.