

Multiple Subdivisions H 1090

BACKGROUND: As of July 2018, proposals for new “multiple” subdivisions stopped being accepted and individual strings that formerly would have been authorized by a multiple are individually proposed and established. Also in 2018, the Policy and Standards Division (now the Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division) began a project to separately establish each valid heading string that was created based on a multiple subdivision and to cancel the multiple subdivisions. Existing multiple subdivisions remain valid for use until they have been cancelled.

This instruction sheet defines “multiple” subdivisions and describes the procedures for assigning headings under which multiple subdivisions have been established.

A “multiple” subdivision is a subdivision in the subject authority file that incorporates bracketed terms, generally followed by the word *etc.* This device is used to suggest the creation of similar subdivisions under the heading in question. The presence of a multiple subdivision under a heading in the subject authority file automatically gives free-floating status to analogous subdivisions under the same heading, and, if the heading is a pattern heading, under those headings that it controls. Examples:

World War, 1939-1945–Personal narratives, American, [French,
German, etc.]
Subject headings–Aeronautics, [Education, Latin America, Law, etc.]
Names, Personal–Scottish, [Spanish, Welsh, etc.]

Some subdivisions used under name headings, though not actually established under any heading in the subject authority file, also function as multiple subdivisions, in that not only the subdivision itself, but also the bracketed element, may be assigned on a free-floating basis. Examples:

[name of person]–Translations into French, [German, etc.]
[name of corporate body]–Fire, [date]
[place]–Foreign public opinion, British, [French, Italian, etc.]

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BACKGROUND: (Continued)

The equivalent of a multiple subdivision appears in some instances in the subject authority file in the form of an instructional scope note that allows for free-floating subdivision of the heading as described and illustrated in the note. Example:

Solar eclipses

Subdivided by date, e.g. Solar eclipses–1854.

For specific instructions on multiple subdivisions for religions and religious denominations, see H 1998 and H 2015.

*Note: The subject authority file previously included main headings incorporating bracketed terms followed by the word **etc.**, for example, **Coins, Arab, [Austrian, French, etc.]**. These were called “multiple headings” and served to suggest the creation of similar headings. Until 1981, individual headings controlled by a multiple heading were not printed in **Library of Congress Subject Headings** and were therefore not represented by individual authority records in the subject authority file. That practice was discontinued with the introduction of AACR2 in 1981. Individual authority records were then created for each heading that was needed for AACR2 cataloging that would formerly have been authorized by the authority record for a multiple heading. In 1990 all multiple headings were deleted from the subject authority file. Individual authority records were created for those headings formerly represented by a multiple that had been assigned by the Library of Congress to bibliographic records in the MARC database.*

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1. Assigning headings with established multiple subdivisions. Once a multiple subdivision (or its equivalent, as described in the Background statement above) has been established under a heading, formulate and assign any subdivision falling within the scope illustrated by the multiple subdivision as a free-floating subdivision under that heading, or, if it is a pattern heading, under any heading that it controls.

Note: It is usually necessary, when assigning a free-floating subdivision of this type, to assign at least one additional heading to the work being cataloged, bringing out the topic named in the subdivision.

Examples:

Title: The best name book in the whole wide world.
650 #0 \$a Names, Personal \$x English.
(Authorized by: **Names, Personal–Scottish, [Spanish, Welsh, etc.]**)
650 #0 \$a English language \$x Etymology \$x Names.

Title: Ordination of priests in the Roman Catholic Church.
650 #0 \$a Ordination \$x Catholic Church.
(Authorized by: **Ordination–Anglican Communion, [Methodist Church, etc.]**)
610 20 \$a Catholic Church \$x Clergy.