

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1997, the subdivisions *–Constitution*, *–Constitutional history*, and *–Constitutional law*, as well as other related subdivisions, were used under names of places to construct subject headings for texts of, and works about, the constitutions of political jurisdictions. Beginning in 1997, at the recommendation of a task force of the American Association of Law Libraries, these subdivisions were discontinued in favor of geographic subdivision of the headings **Constitutions**, **Constitutional history**, and **Constitutional law**. The subdivision *–Constitution* remains valid under names of individual corporate bodies. Also in 1997, Library of Congress subject cataloging practice was changed to allow the assignment of the name-title heading for an individual constitution to a work about the constitution. This instruction sheet describes subject heading practice for texts of, and works about, constitutions of political jurisdictions and individual corporate bodies.

1. Constitutions of political jurisdictions.

a. Texts of constitutions.

(1) Collections. Assign the heading **Constitutions** (*May Subd Geog*) to collections of texts of constitutions of multiple jurisdictions or of a single jurisdiction. *Examples:*

Title: Select constitutions of the world.
650 #0 \$a Constitutions.

Title: Las Constituciones latinoamericanas.
650 #0 \$a Constitutions \$z Latin America.

Title: Constitutions of Maryland.
650 #0 \$a Constitutions \$z Maryland.

To collections of the constitutions of the political divisions of a particular place, further subdivide the heading **Constitutions-[place]** by the appropriate subdivision to designate the type of political division, for example, **–States** or **–Provinces** (see H 713). *Example:*

Title: The constitutions of the Australian states.
650 #0 \$a Constitutions \$z Australia \$x States.

*Note: Headings of the type **Constitutions**, **State** and **Provincial constitutions**, which were formerly used for collections of this type, have been cancelled.*

H 1465 Constitutions

1. *Constitutions of political jurisdictions.*

a. Texts of constitutions. (Continued)

(2) *Individual constitutions.* Assign the heading **Constitutions** (*May Subd Geog*) to the text of an individual constitution of a specific place. Do not assign the name-title heading for the constitution to a work that consists solely of the text of the constitution. *Examples:*

Title: The Constitution of the United States.
650 #0 \$a Constitutions \$z United States.

Title: The California state constitution.
650 #0 \$a Constitutions \$z California.

Also assign this heading for the constitutions of Indian tribes that are recognized by the U.S. government and established as jurisdictional name headings.
Example:

*Title: Constitution and By-laws of the Kickapoo Tribe of
Oklahoma.*
650 #0 \$a Constitutions \$z Kickapoo Tribe of
Oklahoma.

b. Works about constitutions and constitutional law.

(1) *General and comparative works.* Assign the heading **Constitutional law**, subdivided by place and further subdivided by **-States, -Provinces**, etc., if appropriate (see H 713), to works about constitutions or constitutional law in general and to comparative works about the constitutions or constitutional law of multiple jurisdictions. *Examples:*

Title: Constitutionalism.
650 #0 \$a Constitutional law.

Title: European constitutional law.
650 #0 \$a Constitutional law \$z Europe.

Title: Recent developments in state constitutional law.
650 #0 \$a Constitutional law \$z United States
\$x States.

1. *Constitutions of political jurisdictions.*

b. *Works about constitutions and constitutional law. (Continued)*

(2) *Constitutional law of a specific place.* Assign the heading **Constitutional law** (*May Subd Geog*) to works that discuss the constitutional law of a particular place. *Examples:*

Title: American constitutional law.
650 #0 \$a Constitutional law \$z United States.

Title: A manual of Australian constitutional law.
650 #0 \$a Constitutional law \$z Australia.

To works that discuss a specific constitution as a document, or that include a significant amount of material about its construction and formulation, also assign the name-title heading for the constitution, if it is judged to be a useful access point. *Example:*

Title: The New York State Constitution : a reference guide.
610 10 \$a New York (State). \$t Constitution
(1894)
650 #0 \$a Constitutional law \$z New York (State)

(3) *Constitutional interpretation and construction.* Although the subdivision **-Interpretation and construction** is free-floating under most legal topics (see H 1154.5), do not use this subdivision under the headings **Constitutions** or **Constitutional law**, since most works on constitutional law deal to a greater or lesser degree with the interpretation and construction of constitutions. Instead, assign the heading **Constitutional law**, subdivided by place if appropriate, for works on constitutional interpretation and construction *Example:*

Title: Contemporary perspectives on constitutional interpretation.
650 #0 \$a Constitutional law \$z United States.

H 1465 Constitutions

1. *Constitutions of political jurisdictions.* (Continued)

c. *Constitutional amendments.*

Note: The subdivisions ~~–Constitution–Amendments~~ and ~~–Constitutional law–Amendments~~, which were used under names of places prior to 1997, have been discontinued.

(1) *Texts of constitutional amendments.* To works that consist solely of the text of one or more particular amendments to a constitution, assign the appropriate topical heading(s) to bring out the subject. Also assign **Constitutional amendments–[place]** as a form heading. Do not assign the name-title heading for the amendment(s). *Examples:*

Title: *The complete text of the Bill of Rights.*
650 #0 \$a Civil rights \$z United States.
650 #0 \$a Constitutional amendments \$z United States.

(2) *Works about constitutional amendments in general.* To works that discuss constitutional amendments in general, including the amending process, as well as works on various constitutional amendments of multiple or particular jurisdictions, assign the heading **Constitutional amendments**, subdivided by place and further subdivided by ~~–States~~, ~~–Provinces~~, etc., if appropriate (see H 713). *Examples:*

Title: *Federalism and constitutional change.*
650 #0 \$a Constitutional amendments.
650 #0 \$a Federal government.

Title: *Amending the constitution of Canada : a discussion paper.*
650 #0 \$a Constitutional amendments \$z Canada.

Title: *Major problems in state constitutional revision.*
650 #0 \$a Constitutional amendments \$z United States \$x States.

1. *Constitutions of political jurisdictions.*

c. *Constitutional amendments. (Continued)*

(3) *Works about specific constitutional amendments.* To works that discuss a specific constitutional amendment or group of amendments, assign the name-title heading for the amendment. Also assign **Constitutional amendments-[place]** as a topical heading, and one or more additional topical headings to bring out the subject of the amendment or amendments. *Example:*

Title: The Fourth Amendment.

610 10 \$a United States. \$t Constitution. \$n 4th Amendment.
 650 #0 \$a Constitutional amendments \$z United States.
 650 #0 \$a Searches and seizures \$z United States.

Title: The Bill of Rights : what it is, what it means, and how it's been misused.

610 10 \$a United States. \$t Constitution. \$n 1st-10th Amendments.
 650 #0 \$a Constitutional amendments \$z United States.
 650 #0 \$a Civil rights \$z United States.

d. Constitutional history. To works that discuss the historical development of constitutions, assign, as appropriate **Constitutional history-[place]**, **Constitutional history, Ancient**, and/or **Constitutional history, Medieval**.

Do not use the subdivision **-History** under the headings **Constitutions** or **Constitutional law**.

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2. *Constitutions of corporate bodies.* To texts of, or works about, the constitution of a particular corporate body, assign the heading for the corporate body with the subdivision **-Constitution.** *Examples:*

Title: Constitution of the Bible Society of Virginia.

610 20 \$a Bible Society of Virginia \$v Constitution.

Title: Les constitutions d'Anderson : vérité ou imposture.

610 20 \$a Freemasons \$x Constitution.

600 10 \$a Anderson, James, \$d ca. 1680-1739.

650 #0 \$a Freemasonry \$x History.