

**BACKGROUND:** A database is a collection of logically interrelated data stored together in one or more computerized files, usually created and managed by a database management system. The data are encoded, and each file is designed with a high-level structure for accepting, storing, and providing information on demand. Typically, there is a set of definitions for the database that describe its various data elements and a set of codes to identify each element. The database may include the database management software that created the file, or it may include only the data.

Prior to May 1996, the subdivision **-Databases** was regularly assigned as a form subdivision to any electronic resource other than executable software. In particular, it was often used in conjunction with other form subdivisions, for example **-Directories-Databases** to indicate a work was in electronic form. Since May 1996, the assignment of the subdivision **-Databases** has been limited according to the provisions of this instruction sheet.

This instruction sheet provides guidance on the assignment of subject headings to databases, to works about databases, to certain related materials, and on the assignment of the free-floating subdivision **-Databases**.

For guidance on the assignment of subjects to electronic serials, including serially issued databases, see H 1580.5.

**1. The subdivision -Databases.** Assign the free-floating form subdivision **-Databases** under subjects for a database as defined above. *Examples:*

*Title:* Eastern Europe business database [electronic resource].  
520 ## \$a Database of economic, trade, and legal  
information on Eastern European countries.  
Includes a searchable factory, business, and  
product section.  
650 #0 \$a Industries \$z Europe, Eastern \$v Databases.  
650 #0 \$a Commercial products \$z Europe, Eastern  
\$v Databases.

## H 1520 Databases

### 1. *The subdivision -Databases.*

*Examples: (Continued)*

*Title: Food additives : toxicology, regulation, and properties [electronic resource].*

520 ## \$a Commercial, CD-ROM version of the Priority-based Assessment of Food Additives (PAFA) database used by the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (FDA/CFSAN), the primary repository for the toxicological effects of direct food additives. In addition to summaries of toxicological effects, the database contains regulatory information and property data for the compounds. Also includes the EAFUS database (Everything Added to Foods in the United States). The search software provides access to the 180 data fields for each of the 3,000 compounds, as well as the ability to save, export, print, or modify queries.

650 #0 \$a Food additives \$x Analysis \$v Databases.

650 #0 \$a Food additives \$x Toxicology \$v Databases.

650 #0 \$a Food additives \$x Safety regulations \$z United States \$v Databases.

*Title: Properties of organic solvents [electronic resource].*

520 ## \$a Database of information on almost 600 organic solvents used in industry, academic research, and general commerce. In order to locate and select the proper solvent, users can specify desired physical properties falling into the following categories: identifying information such as names, synonyms, and various registry numbers; common physical properties; thermodynamic properties; transport properties; electrical properties; spectral data; and health and safety information. Includes search and retrieval software, online help, and the capability to export to printers and word processors.

650 #0 \$a Organic solvents \$v Databases.

1. *The subdivision -Databases.*

*Examples: (Continued)*

*Title: County data base for new construction, 1980-87-95 [electronic resource]*

520 ## \$a Furnishes data for construction permits and for basic economic and demographic information for U.S. counties and county equivalents. Data are derived from U.S. Bureau of the Census tapes and are arranged in ASCII read files formatted for input to popular business software packages such as Lotus 1-2-3 and dBASE.

650 #0 \$a Building permits \$z United States \$v Statistics \$v Databases.

650 #0 \$a Construction industry \$z United States \$v Statistics \$v Databases.

Do not assign the subdivision *-Databases* under subjects for electronic resources that are essentially textual in nature and not formatted as databases, such as articles, conference proceedings, literary works, form letters. These texts may be keyboarded through a word-processing program, or they may be digitized images of a print or microform format. Assign only the subject(s) appropriate to the textual material. *Examples:*

*Title: Legal issues surrounding the digital library [electronic resource] : proceedings of the Library of Congress Network Advisory Committee, December 3-5, 1995.*

520 ## \$a Full text of a Network Advisory Committee meeting. Features discussion of First Amendment rights and the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders such as authors, publishers, and libraries. Includes meeting agenda, table of contents, list of attendees, and presentations.

650 #0 \$a Information superhighway \$x Law and legislation \$z United States \$v Congresses.

## H 1520 Databases

2. *Cataloging from other than internal sources.* Catalogers who do not or cannot load the file for cataloging purposes may make the determination that an item is a database based on factors such as these:

- the item presents itself as a database
- accompanying information describes the file as containing specific data elements that would lend themselves to discrete coding
- accompanying information describes the data elements and their coding and structure.

In case of doubt, do not assign the subdivision **-Databases**. *Examples:*

*Title:* *Arctic fisheries database [electronic resource].*

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520 ## $a Database of raw fisheries data collected over a
      period of 17 years regarding a number of
      environmental studies in the Arctic marine waters
      of Alaska as part of the Outer Continental Shelf
      Environmental Assessment Program. Also includes
      Arctic fisheries data retriever (version 2.00)
      software which can extract any subset of the
      database and create a file suitable for
      statistical analysis, and a Mapit (version 1.00)
      software package giving the user the ability to
      view sampling locations as displayed on a map of
      Alaska. The package is primarily intended for
      those involved with scientific research who have
      access to sophisticated PC-based statistical
      packages such as SAS, BMDP, SPSS, and
      StatGraphics.
650 #0 $a Fisheries $z Alaska $v Statistics $v Databases.
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2. *Cataloging from other than internal sources.*

Examples: (Continued)

Title: *The National dairy database [electronic resource].*

520 ## \$a Collection of dairy-related educational materials, lists, and software tools gathered from land-grant universities and dairy industry organizations. Includes over 700 documents with 3,750 pages of material on such topics as herd and animal health, facilities and equipment, business management, etc. Contains 46 software programs, 750 tables/charts, and an expertise database. Designed to assist producers, educators, consultants, veterinarians, the media, and others in the dairy industry.

650 #0 \$a Dairying.

650 #0 \$a Dairy farming.

650 #0 \$a Dairy product industry.

[Note: Although this item calls itself a database, the accompanying information describes this CD-ROM as consisting of over 3,000 pages of documents and research reports. There is no indication of distinct data elements that might be manipulated, nor is any software present that might manipulate the data. This computer file probably lacks the formal structure of a database and thus, the subdivision **-Databases** is not assigned.]

3. *Special cases.* Do not assign the subdivision **-Databases** to the following types of works:

- Computer files that have the structure of and present themselves as reference-type works, such as directories, bibliographies, catalogs, dictionaries, encyclopedias, indexes, or other similar types. Assign instead the pertinent form headings or form subdivision under subjects. (If one of these electronic resources is also a database, do not further subdivide by **-Databases** and do not assign another subject for the database.) *Examples:*

Title: *The American business disk [electronic resource].*

520 ## \$a Business listings compiled from nationwide yellow pages.

650 #0 \$a Business enterprises \$z United States \$v Telephone directories.

## H 1520 Databases

### 3. Special cases.

Examples: (Continued)

*Title: DESIS desertification bibliography [electronic resource].*

520 ## \$a A referral database with 3,896 references, from 1967 to 1988, to conventional and nonconventional documents on desertification and its control. Indexed by author and subject and geographical descriptors. The database is accompanied by CD-ISIS database management software and is available as a CD-ISIS database or in ISO 2709 format. Its formatted output, titled World desertification bibliography, is provided in ASCII text.

650 #0 \$a Desertification \$v Bibliography.

*Title: Brody's medical dictionary [electronic resource].*

520 ## \$a Complete electronic medical dictionary with over 40,000 entries.

650 #0 \$a Medicine \$v Dictionaries.

- Collections of non-textual data that are not specifically formatted and encoded for the purposes of manipulation of the data. Assign only the headings appropriate to the contents of the files; do not assign the subdivision **-Databases**. *Example:*

*Title: SoundWAV. Volume 1 [electronic resource] : the ultimate 16-bit Stereo .WAV collection.*

520 ## \$a Contains over 600 megabytes of professionally recorded .WAV files. Playable in sixteen-bit stereo, eight-bit stereo.,

650 #0 \$a Sounds.

**4. Works with electronic resources as accompanying materials.** When a work being cataloged is accompanied by an electronic resource that constitutes at least 20% of the overall work and when the contents of the electronic resource are judged to be significant, assign the appropriate topical headings for the electronic resource (cf. H 180, sec. 1). Use the above guidelines in determining when to use the subdivision **-Databases** following such headings.  
*Example:*

*Title: The economic geography of Fujian : a sourcebook.*  
*[accompanying disks contain compressed locational data (15 files) and statistical data (49 files)]*  
 651 #0 \$a Fujian Sheng (China) \$x Economic conditions  
     \$v Statistics \$v Databases.  
 650 #0 \$a Geographical positions \$z China \$z Fujian Sheng  
     \$v Databases.  
 650 #0 \$a Geographic information systems.

**5. Works about databases.** To a work about databases in general, assign the appropriate topical headings, for example, **Databases**, or **Relational databases**. To a work about databases on a particular subject, assign as a topical subdivision the free-floating subdivision **-Databases** under the appropriate subject(s). To a work about a particular database, assign the name-title or uniform title for the database being discussed; in addition, assign, if appropriate, the same topical headings that were or would be assigned to an edition of the database itself. *Examples:*

*Title: Skeletal Database Committee recommendations / Paleo-pathology Association.*  
*[a twelve-page printed report on the construction of skeletal databases.]*  
 650 #0 \$a Paleopathology \$x Databases.  
 650 #0 \$a Human skeleton \$x Databases.

*Title: The directory of online healthcare databases.*  
*[an annual printed directory of medical databases.]*  
 650 #0 \$a Medicine \$x Databases \$v Directories.

*Title: The midwifery research database : MIRIAD : a sourcebook of information about research in midwifery.*  
*[a book about The midwifery research database.]*  
 630 00 \$a Midwifery research database (Computer file)  
 650 #0 \$a Midwifery \$x Databases.