BACKGROUND: Formerly the subdivision –Description and travel was used under names of places larger than cities, and under headings for metropolitan areas. The subdivision –Description was used under names of cities (except ancient cities) and names of individual universities and colleges. In 1991, the subdivision –Description was cancelled in favor of using the subdivision –Description and travel under names of both cities and larger places for descriptive works and accounts of travel, including the history of travel, in those places. This subdivision is not used for broad geographical works about a specific place. The subdivision –Geography is used under names of places for works of that type. This instruction sheet provides guidelines for assigning the subdivision –Description and travel.

For the use of the subdivisions –Guidebooks and –Tours, see H 1645; for –Pictorial works, see H 1935; for –Aerial photographs and –Aerial views, see H 1210.5.

For works on discovery and exploration, see H 1564.

1. General rule. Use the free-floating subdivision –Description and travel under names of places for descriptive works or accounts of travel, including the history of travel, in those places. Examples:

   Title: Across China.
   651 #0 $a China $x Description and travel.
   600 10 $a Jenkins, Peter, $d 1951- $x Travel $z China.

   Title: Boston ways : high, by, and folk.
   651 #0 $a Boston (Mass.) $x History.
   651 #0 $a Boston (Mass.) $x Description and travel.

Do not use the subdivision –Description and travel under names of individual parks, Indian reservations, universities and colleges, or extinct cities and towns (pre-1500). For descriptive works or accounts of travel in these places, assign the heading for the entity without further subdivision.
2. Period subdivisions. Do not establish period subdivisions after –Description and travel. For works written or issued before 1800, use the free-floating form subdivision –Early works to 1800 after –Description and travel. Example:

Title: Travels in the colonies in 1773-1775 : described in the letters of William Mylne.
651 #0 $a United States $x Description and travel $v Early works to 1800.
600 10 $a Mylne, William $v Correspondence.

In situations where the time period covered in the work is judged to be significant, it may be brought out by assigning an additional heading, such as [place]–History–[period subdivision]. This is optional and should not be regarded as a requirement. Example:

Title: Once upon a city : New York from 1870 to 1890.
651 #0 $a New York (N.Y.) $x Description and travel.
651 #0 $a New York (N.Y.) $x History $y 1865-1898.
651 #0 $a New York (N.Y.) $x Social life and customs $y 19th century.