BACKGROUND: The heading Discoveries in geography and the free-floating subdivision –Discovery and exploration under places are used for works on geographical exploration of places that are unsettled or sparsely settled and are unknown to the rest of the world. This instruction sheet provides guidelines for assigning the heading Discoveries in geography and the free-floating subdivision –Discovery and exploration. It also covers use of the heading Outer space–Exploration for space exploration in general and use of the subdivision –Exploration under headings for celestial bodies.

1. History of exploration.
   
   a. General. Assign the heading Discoveries in geography to general works on the history of discovery and exploration. Treat this heading as inherently historical and do not subdivide it by –History.

   b. By country. For works on the history of discovery and exploration conducted by one country, subdivide the heading Discoveries in geography by the nationality carrying out the exploration. Examples:

   650 #0 $a Discoveries in geography $x American.
   650 #0 $a Discoveries in geography $x Spanish.

   The subdivision –Exploring expeditions, formerly used under names of places for works on expeditions sent from those places for purposes of exploration, was discontinued in 1993.

2. Exploration of a particular place.
   
   a. General. Use the free-floating subdivision –Discovery and exploration under names of places that were unsettled or sparsely settled and largely unknown to the rest of the world at the time of exploration for historical works on the exploration of those places or first person accounts of explorers. In accordance with H 1647, do not subdivide further by –History.
2. Exploration of a particular place.  (Continued)

b. The New World.

(1) General. Assign the heading America—Discovery and exploration to works on the discovery and exploration of the New World by Columbus and other early explorers.

For first person accounts, assign as an additional heading America—Early accounts to 1600.

(2) Special. For works on later explorations in individual regions, countries, states, etc., of the Western Hemisphere, assign a heading of the type [place]—Discovery and exploration.

The former practice of prohibiting the use of the subdivision—Discovery and exploration under the United States and Latin America and under places smaller than countries was discontinued in 1987.

c. By country. For works on the exploration of a place by explorers from a particular foreign country, assign a heading of the type [place]—Discovery and exploration subdivided further by the nationality of the explorers or country supporting the exploration. Examples:

651 #0 $a America $x Discovery and exploration $x Spanish.

3. Space exploration. Use the heading Outer space—Exploration for the topic of exploration of space in general, through either manned space vehicles or unmanned probes. For the exploration of individual and types of objects in space, assign headings of the type Moon—Exploration; Inner planets—Exploration; Jupiter (Planet)—Exploration; etc. Establish new headings as needed. Do not use the subdivision—Discovery and exploration under names of individual celestial bodies.

4. Assigning additional headings. Works on discovery and exploration are usually multifaceted, requiring an array of headings to bring out various aspects of the material. Assign several headings, if appropriate, to cover all important topics discussed in the work, such as the place explored, the persons or country conducting the exploration, special aspects of the exploration, etc.
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5. Examples.

Title: Scientific expeditions in the Portuguese overseas territories.
650 #0 $a Scientific expeditions $z Portugal $x History.
651 #0 $a Africa $x Discovery and exploration $x Portuguese.

Title: World exploration by the Royal Geographic Society.
610 20 $a Royal Geographical Society (Great Britain) 
650 #0 $a Discoveries in geography $x British.

Title: America's founding years, 1492-1815.
651 #0 $a United States $x History $y Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775.
651 #0 $a United States $x History $y Revolution, 1775-1783.
651 #0 $a United States $x History $y 1783-1815.
651 #0 $a America $x Discovery and exploration.

Title: Westward vision: the story of the Oregon Trail.
610 20 $a Oregon Trail.
650 #0 $a Overland journeys to the Pacific.
651 #0 $a West (U.S.) $x Discovery and exploration.

Title: Spanish exploration of the Pacific Northwest.
651 #0 $a Northwest, Pacific $x Discovery and exploration $x Spanish.
650 #0 $a Explorers $z Northwest, Pacific $x History.
650 #0 $a Explorers $z Spain $x History.

Title: The Portuguese explorers.
650 #0 $a Discoveries in geography $x Portuguese.
650 #0 $a Explorers $z Portugal.
650 #0 $a Voyages and travels.
651 #0 $a Portugal $x History $y Period of discoveries, 1385-1580.
5. Examples. (Continued)

**Title:** The log of Christopher Columbus.
600 10 $a Columbus, Christopher $v Diaries.
650 #0 $a Explorers $z America $v Diaries.
650 #0 $a Explorers $z Spain $v Diaries.
651 #0 $a America $x Discovery and exploration $x Spanish.
651 #0 $a America $v Early accounts to 1600.

**Title:** Smith's exploring expedition to Brazil.
651 #0 $a Brazil $x Discovery and exploration $x British.
600 10 $a Smith, Robert, $d 1810-1870 $x Travel $z Brazil.
650 #0 $a Explorers $z Great Britain $v Biography.
650 #0 $a Explorers $z Brazil $v Biography.
650 #0 $a Natural history $z Brazil.