

BACKGROUND: *The subdivision –Early works to 1800 and similar subdivisions used under subjects are useful in subject cataloging because (a) they collocate early texts on a subject in the file under the subject, and (b) they separate from the general works (that is, the unsubdivided headings) materials that would normally be regarded as irrelevant by the average catalog user interested in current materials.*

1. General rule. Use the subdivision **–Early works to 1800** as a free-floating form subdivision under all appropriate headings, including those assigned to maps of all types, to designate individual works written or issued before 1800. For exceptions to this rule, see sec. 5, below. *Examples:*

```
650 #0 $a Astronomy $v Early works to 1800.
651 #0 $a Bergamo (Italy) $v Early works to 1800.
650 #0 $a Money $v Tables $v Early works to 1800.
650 #0 $a Martial arts $z China $v Early works to 1800.
650 #0 $a Physicians $z England $v Biography $v Early works to
      1800.
651 #0 $a Greece $x Description and travel $v Early works to 1800.
651 #0 $a Paris (France) $v Aerial views $v Early works to 1800.
650 #0 $a Real property $z England $v Maps $v Early works to 1800.
```

Note: *The former free-floating subdivision –Maps–To 1800 was discontinued in August 1993.*

2. Categories of text that are applicable.

a. Early printed works and manuscripts. Assign the subdivision as long as the text in question originated before the date given in the subdivision. This applies not only to early printed works, but also to works originally appearing in manuscript form before the invention of printing.

b. Editions. Assign the subdivision to all editions of a work, including editions issued after 1800, as long as the original text has not been altered or reworked. Also assign the subdivision for literal translations of such texts, regardless of the date of the translation.

c. Post-1800 adaptations and reassembled works. Omit the subdivision if parts of an early work or works were adapted or reassembled after 1800 so as to constitute a new work. Also omit the subdivision in the case of collections of excerpts from one or more early works.

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2. *Categories of text that are applicable.* (Continued)

d. Collections of early texts. Assign the subdivision for collections of early texts brought together without alteration and issued in one publication after 1800.

3. *Position of the subdivision in the subject string.* As a general rule, locate the subdivision as the last element in the string.

If it is necessary to bring out the form of the original work, add the appropriate form subdivision immediately before **–Early works to 1800**, for example, **[topic]–Handbooks, manuals, etc.–Early works to 1800**. To bring out the form in which the modern publisher issued the work, add it after **–Early works to 1800**, for example, **[topic]–Early works to 1800–Periodicals**.

4. *Conflicts.* Before assigning the subdivision on a free-floating basis, check the subject authority file to ascertain that no provision exists that conflicts with the use of the subdivision. If there is a conflict, use the established heading-subdivision combination. The following list represents some of the alternative provisions that currently exist in the subject authority file:

- a date other than 1800 is used to bring out a date having more significance than 1800 for the topic. *Examples:*

```
150 ## $a Encyclopedias and dictionaries $v Early works to
      1600
150 ## $a Electricity $v Early works to 1850
150 ## $a Psychiatry $v Early works to 1900
```

- the heading-subdivision combination is a 450 field in the record for another heading to group early materials on closely-related topics together. *Example:*

```
150 ## $a Physical education and training $v Early works to
      1800
450 ## $a Athletics $v Early works to 1800
```

- a heading has been established with variant terminology instead of a date. *Examples:*

```
150 ## $a Botany $v Pre-Linnean works
150 ## $a Natural history $v Pre-Linnean works
150 ## $a Zoology $v Pre-Linnean works
```

5. When to omit the subdivision. Do not use the subdivision in situations for which the passage of time is of little consequence, including the following:

- under names of persons, corporate bodies (except for geographic names), or individual works (except sacred works)
- historical works; chronologies
- under headings with dates, or period subdivisions; under headings with period qualifiers, for example, **Science, Ancient**
- works of belles lettres; works about belles lettres

If it should be necessary because of the special nature of the material to make an exception to any of the above categories, establish the particular heading-subdivision combination in the subject authority file.

Omit the subdivision when cataloging a commentary on an early work, when the commentary requires companion headings as described in H 1435, sec. 2.

Do not use this subdivision under headings for musical compositions. For instructions on the use of period subdivisions for musical compositions, see H 1160.

6. Bibliographies.

a. Early bibliographies. Assign headings of the type **[topic]-Bibliography-Early** to designate individual bibliographies that were issued before 1800 on a topic.

The subdivision **-Early works to 1800** is not used under the subdivision **-Bibliography**.

b. Bibliographies of early works. Assign headings of the type **[topic]-Early works to 1800-Bibliography** to designate bibliographies that list individual works issued before 1800 on a topic.

*Note: Catalogs of such bibliographies are assigned the heading **[topic]-Early works to 1800-Bibliography-Catalogs**, or, in the case of exhibition catalogs, **[topic]-Early works to 1800-Exhibitions**.*

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6. *Bibliographies.* (Continued)

c. When assigning the subdivisions **-Bibliography-Early** or **-Early works to 1800-Bibliography**, also assign the heading **Early printed books-[century, if appropriate]**, for example, **Early printed books-16th century**. *Example:*

Title: Recent books on architecture.

[published in London in 1775]

650 #0 \$a Architecture \$v Bibliography \$v Early.

650 #0 \$a Early printed books \$y 18th century
\$v Bibliography.

650 #0 \$a Architecture \$x Early works to 1800
\$v Bibliography.