

Fictitious Characters H 1610

BACKGROUND: *Fictitious characters may have names that resemble personal names or they may have names that are descriptive phrases or nicknames. Traditionally, all headings for fictitious characters were established in LCSH because fictitious characters could not be used as descriptive access points under AACR2. However, RDA permits names of individual fictitious characters to be used as descriptive access points when the character is credited with the creation of a work. In 2012 the decision was made to allow for two headings for fictitious characters. Headings established in LCSH under the guidelines in this instruction sheet were assigned as subject headings. Headings established in the name authority file were used as descriptive access points and could not be used as subjects.*

In 2013, a revision to RDA made it possible to establish all headings for individual fictitious characters in the name authority file. All headings for individual fictitious characters are now established in the name authority file in the 100 field of the MARC 21 authority record. The name headings may be used as subjects, tagged 600. Headings for groups of fictitious characters (e.g., the Hardy Boys, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles) continue to be established in LCSH and are tagged 150.

As time permits, the Policy and Standards Division will undertake a project to create RDA name headings for the fictitious characters that are already established in LCSH, and cancel the subject heading records.

This instruction sheet provides guidelines for establishing groups of fictitious characters in LCSH and assigning subject headings for individual fictitious characters and groups of fictitious characters. It also describes the procedures for cancelling subject headings for individual fictitious characters when name authority records have been created.

For more specific instructions on comic and cartoon characters see H 1430; for legendary characters see H 1795.

1. Form of heading. Establish named groups of characters in direct form in the 150 field. Add the parenthetical qualifier (**Fictitious characters**). *Examples:*

```
150 ## $a Hardy Boys (Fictitious characters)
150 ## $a Holt family (Fictitious characters)
150 ## $a Mystery Kids (Fictitious characters)
150 ## $a Teletubbies (Fictitious characters)
```

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1. *Form of heading.* (Continued)

Do not establish individual characters, including married couples, who appear together in a fictional work, as a group. Instead, establish them as separate characters in the name authority file.

a. Characters with the same names. Differentiate groups of characters having the same names by adding the creator's name to the qualifier following a space, a colon, and another space. *Example:*

```
150 ## $a Logan family (Fictitious characters : Andrews)
150 ## $a Logan family (Fictitious characters : Taylor)
```

b. Characters with names that differ according to the language of the work.

Establish groups of characters that have different names in English and foreign-language editions, or that have different names in various literary traditions, under the name used in English, regardless of the original language of the works. Provide 450 fields from the foreign-language names. *Examples:*

```
150 ## $a Looney Bay All-Stars (Fictitious characters)
450 ## $a Étoiles de Baie-des-Coucous (Fictitious characters)
```

2. *References.*

a. UF references. Add 450 fields with other names by which the character may be known. *Examples:*

```
150 ## $a Cartwright family (Fictitious characters)
450 ## $a Cartwright clan (Fictitious characters)
450 ## $a Cartwrights (Fictitious characters)
```

b. Broader terms. Do not add a broader term for headings for groups of fictitious characters.

3. Geographic subdivision. Code headings for fictitious characters as **Not Subdivided Geographically**.

4. Existing LCSH headings for individual characters. Existing LC subject headings for individual fictitious characters remain valid for use as subjects until name authority records for the characters are created and the subject authority records are cancelled. Follow the instructions below when creating a new name authority record for an individual fictitious character.

a. Name heading needed for use as a descriptive access point. Create a name authority record according to the instructions in RDA and the LC-PCC Policy Statements. Search LCSH to determine whether the heading has been established there, and if it has, submit a proposal to cancel the heading, following the instructions in H 193 sec. 14.

Note: Catalogers in PCC libraries who do not submit SACO proposals should make a name authority record and then request the Policy and Standards Division (policy@loc.gov) to create a proposal to cancel the subject heading.

b. Heading needed for subject use only. Optionally, an RDA name authority record may be created even if the heading is needed only for use as a subject heading. Create a name authority record according to the instructions in RDA and the LC-PCC Policy Statements. Submit a proposal to cancel the existing subject heading, following the instructions in H 193 sec. 14.

c. Phrase headings based on headings for fictitious characters. Make proposals to cancel phrase headings based on the heading for the character when the phrase will be replaced by a **[heading]—[free-floating subdivision]** combination, unless the heading is needed for hierarchy (i.e., is a BT for another heading). Example:

```
150 ## $a Bond, James (Fictitious character)
682 ## $i This authority record has been deleted because the subject
        heading is covered by an identical name heading
        (no2014075438).
```

```
150 ## $a Bond, James (Fictitious character) in art
682 ## $i This authority record has been deleted because the heading
        is replaced by the heading $a Bond, James (Fictitious
        character)—Art, $i a heading for which a subject authority
        record is not made because it uses a free-floating combination.
```

*Make proposals to revise phrase headings based on the heading for the character when the phrase will be replaced by a **[heading]—[subdivision]** combination in which the subdivision is not free-floating.*

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5. *Assignment of headings.*

a. Literary texts. Assign a subject heading for a fictitious character to collections of literary texts featuring the character, using the subdivisions **–Fiction**, **–Drama**, **–Poetry**, or **–Literary collections** as appropriate.

For individual plays or poems, assign a subject heading only if the character has been borrowed by the author from another author or source and used in the creation of a new work. For subject cataloging purposes, the borrowed character's identity is considered the same as that of the character created by the original author. Do not create a separate name heading for the borrowed character. Instead, assign the same heading that would have been assigned to the original work.

Do not assign a subject heading for works that are simply adaptations of another author's work.

LC practice:

Do not assign a subject heading for a fictitious character to an individual work of fiction, except for records that are cataloged according to special provisions for increased access to fiction (see H 1790).

b. Works about the character or the named group of characters. Assign a subject heading without further subdivision to general nonfiction works about a fictitious character or group of characters.

For works limited to characters in specific media, subdivide the subject heading by the free-floating subdivisions **–Art**, **--In literature**, **--In mass media**, etc.

Exception: Do not use **–In literature** for literary characters or **–Art** for characters that originated in art. Use the subdivisions **–In literature** and **–Art** only for characters borrowed from other media, e.g., **Snoopy—In literature**; **Laertes—Art**; **Simpsons (Fictitious characters)—In literature**; **Hobbits (Fictitious characters)—Art**.

For works on the use of a fictitious character by an individual author, assign also a heading of the type **[name of author]—Characters—[name of character]** (cf. H 1110).

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5. *Assignment of headings.* (Continued)

c. Free-floating subdivisions from H 1110. Free-floating subdivisions listed in H 1110, Free-Floating Subdivisions: Names of Persons, may not be used under headings for fictitious characters. Subdivisions from H 1110 that are needed for use under an individual heading may be editorially established under the specific heading.