

Legal Materials: Systems of Law H 1718

BACKGROUND: Systems of law are represented in LCSH by phrase headings such as *Canon law*, *Jewish law*, *Dakota law*, etc., or by inverted phrase headings such as *Law, Ashanti*; *Law, Bantu*; etc.. Headings for specific topics within a legal system are established in the form [topic] (qualifier for legal system), for example, *Domestic relations (Adat law)*, *Criminal law (Roman law)*, etc. This instruction sheet provides guidelines for establishing and assigning headings of this type.

1. Headings for legal systems in general.

a. Establishing new headings. Establish new headings for systems of law, including those of specific ethnic groups, as phrase headings. If the adjectival qualifier designates an ethnic group of the United States or a group of North or South American Indians, establish the heading in straight form. If the adjectival qualifier designates any other ethnic group, establish the heading in inverted form, as specified in H 320, sec. 2. If the heading is established in straight form, provide an inverted UF. If it is established in inverted form, provide a UF in direct order. Also provide an appropriate BT. In the case of headings that designate the system of law of a specific ethnic group, the BT is **Customary law**–[place]. Do not provide for geographic subdivision of the heading. Use the fill character (| - No attempt to code) in field 008/06. *Examples:*

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150 ## $a Tlingit law
450 ## $a Law, Tlingit
550 ## $w g $a Customary law $z Alaska
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150 ## $a Law, Kusu
450 ## $a Kusu law
550 ## $w g $a Customary law $z Kenya
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b. Assigning headings. When assigning these headings to individual bibliographic works, do not divide them geographically, since in most cases they represent legal systems that are limited to a specific place.

*Note: The headings **Adat law**, **Feudal law**, **Islamic law**, and **Law, Primitive**, are exceptions to this rule, and may be divided geographically.*

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1. Headings for legal systems in general.

b. Assigning headings. (Continued)

Examples:

Title: Navajo tribal code.
650 #0 &a Navajo law.

Title: Adat law in Indonesia.
650 #0 \$a Adat law &z Indonesia.

2. Headings for specific topics in legal systems.

a. **Establishing new headings.** Establish new headings for specific topics or classes of persons within a legal system using the following model:

150 ## \$a [topic or class of persons] (qualifier for legal system, in direct order)
550 ## \$w g \$a [established heading for the legal system]

Note: Do not interpose the subdivision **–Law and legislation** or **–Legal status, laws, etc.** between the topic and the qualifier, even if the topic is not inherently legal. Examples:

150 ## \$a Mass media (Islamic law)
[not 150 ## \$a Mass media \$x Law and legislation (Islamic law)]

150 ## \$a People with disabilities (Jewish law)
[not 150 ## \$a People with disabilities \$x Legal status, laws, etc. (Jewish law)]

2. *Headings for specific topics in legal systems.*

a. *Establishing new headings. (Continued)*

If the heading for the topic or class of persons includes a parenthetical qualifier, include it in the heading for the topic or class of persons in the legal system. Append the qualifier for the legal system in a separate set of parentheses. *Examples:*

150 ## \$a Fines (Penalties) (Roman law)
550 \$w g \$a Roman law

150 ## \$a Mines (Military explosives) (International law)
550 #w g \$a International law

For headings that have the qualifier **(Islamic law)**, provide for geographic subdivision by coding field 008/06 **i** (Subdivided geographically - indirect). For headings that have any other system of law as the qualifier, do not provide for geographic subdivision. Use the fill character (| - No attempt to code) in field 008/06. *Examples:*

150 ## \$a Birth control (Canon law) [coded | in 008/06]
550 ## \$w g \$a Canon law

150 ## \$a Contracts (Frankish law) [coded | in 008/06]
550 ## \$w g Law, Frankish

150 ## \$a Criminal law (Islamic law) [coded **i** in 008/06]
550 ## \$w g \$a Islamic law

b. *Assigning headings.* When assigning headings of this type to individual items being cataloged, do not divide them geographically. When it is necessary and appropriate to do so, bring out specific places by assigning an additional heading or headings.

Note: Since Islam serves as the basis for the legal systems of many countries, headings that are qualified by **(Islamic law)** are exceptions to this rule, and may be divided geographically.

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2. Headings for specific topics in legal systems.

b. Assigning headings. (Continued)

Examples:

Title: Traditional family law and change in Tanzania : a study of the Kuria social system.

650 #0 \$a Domestic relations (Kuria law)

650 #0 \$a Domestic relations \$z Tanzania.

650 #0 \$a Kuria (African people) \$z Tanzania \$x Social life and customs.

Title: Muslim criminal law in Indo-Pakistan sub-continent.

650 #0 \$a Criminal law (Islamic law) \$z India.

650 #0 \$a Criminal law (Islamic law) \$z Pakistan.