DEFINITION: Longitudinal studies are case studies in which variables related to a topic or group of people are assessed over a period of time or observed at successive stages in order to determine change or stability. Such studies may follow the development of trends or evaluate the effects of stimuli, events, or experience.

1. General usage of Longitudinal studies. Use the free-floating subdivision –Longitudinal studies as either a form or a topical subdivision under topical headings and headings for classes of persons and ethnic groups for works that report the results of longitudinal studies or discuss the methods and techniques of conducting them. Examples:

   Title: Longitudinal research on drug use : empirical findings and Methodological issues.
   650 #0 $a Drug abuse $x Longitudinal studies.

   Title: RN's one and five years after graduation.
   650 #0 $a Nurses $z United States $v Longitudinal studies.

   650 #0 $a Birth control $z United States $v Longitudinal studies.
   650 #0 $a Contraception $z United States $v Longitudinal studies.

2. Longitudinal case studies. Use –Longitudinal studies for works that cover one or more case studies longitudinally. Examples:

   Title: Longitudinal evaluation of a Wisconsin nutrition program for the elderly.
   650 #0 $a Food relief $z Wisconsin $v Longitudinal studies.
   650 #0 $a Older people $z Wisconsin $x Nutrition $v Longitudinal studies.

   Title: The persistence of preschool effects : a long-term follow-up of fourteen infant and preschool experiments.
   650 #0 $a Education, Preschool $z United States $x Longitudinal studies.