BACKGROUND: Sermons are homilies or discourses for the purpose of religious instruction or exhortation, often based on texts of sacred works and delivered as part of religious services. This instruction sheet provides guidelines for assigning headings to individual sermons and collections of sermons to bring out the religion, denomination, language, topic, and occasion of the sermons, and to critical works about sermons.

1. General. Assign the form heading Sermons to collections of sermons by two or more authors, not limited to one language or religion.

Assign a heading of the type Sermons, [language] to collections of sermons in one language not limited to one religion, establishing each phrase heading with language qualifier as needed, for example, Sermons, English; Sermons, French.

Note: Sermons, American is used for English sermons of the United States. However, headings with other national qualifiers should not be established.

Establish subdivisions for special classes of authors, if appropriate, for example, Sermons, American–Women authors.

Establish chronological subdivisions without interposition of the subdivision –History, for example, Sermons, English—21st century.

2. Christianity.

a. General collections. Assign the form heading Sermons to collections of Christian sermons not limited to one language, topic, occasion, or Christian denomination.

Assign this heading to Christian sermons only in those exceptional cases where it is not possible to use a more specific heading.

b. By language. Assign headings of the type Sermons, [language] to individual sermons or collections of Christian sermons in one language, for example, Sermons, Welsh; Sermons, Spanish.

Establish subdivisions for special classes of authors, if appropriate, for example, Sermons, English–Women authors.
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2. Christianity.  (Continued)

c. By denomination. In accordance with H 1187, assign a heading of the type [denomination]–Sermons to individual sermons or collections of sermons by one or more authors from that denomination, for example, Catholic Church–Sermons.

Do not add a language qualifier to headings of this type. Assign an additional heading to bring out the language of the sermons, as indicated in sec. 2.b.

d. By topic. To individual sermons or collections of sermons about a topic, individual person, or sacred work, assign a heading for the topic, uniform title for the sacred work, or the name of the person subdivided by the free-floating form subdivision –Sermons. Examples:

630 00 $a Bible. $p Genesis $v Sermons.
600 00 $a Francis, $c of Assisi, Saint, $d 1182-1226 $v Sermons.
650 #0 $a Hope $x Religious aspects $x Christianity $v Sermons.
650 #0 $a Salvation $v Sermons.

When assigning –Sermons as a free-floating subdivision under names of individual persons, do not interpose a topical subdivision between the name of the person and the subdivision –Sermons. Establish any heading needed for sermons on a specific topic about a person, for example, Jesus Christ–Passion–Sermons.

e. By occasion. Assign an appropriate phrase heading for individual or collections of sermons delivered on a special occasion or prepared for a specific audience, for example, Children’s sermons; Christmas sermons; Funeral sermons.
3. Other religions.

a. General collections. Assign a phrase heading of the type [religion] sermons to collections of sermons from a religion other than Christianity by two or more authors not limited to one language, for example, Buddhist sermons; Jewish sermons.

b. By language. Establish a phrase heading with language qualifier for individual sermons or collections of sermons of a particular religion in one language, for example, Buddhist sermons, Korean; Islamic sermons, Indonesian.

c. By sect. In accordance with H 1185, assign a heading of the type [name of sect]–Sermons to individual sermons or collections of sermons by authors from that sect. Do not add a language qualifier to headings of this type. Assign an additional heading to bring out the language, as indicated in sec. 3.b.

d. By topic. To individual sermons or collections of sermons on a topic, assign a heading for the topic subdivided by the free-floating form subdivision –Sermons, for example, Joy–Religious aspects–Hinduism–Sermons.

e. By occasion. Assign a phrase heading for an individual sermon or collection of sermons delivered on a special occasion or prepared for a specific audience, for example, Jewish occasional sermons; Rosh ha-Shanah sermons.

4. Assigning an array of headings. To individual sermons or collections of sermons, assign an array of headings to bring out the religion, denomination, language, topic, and occasion of the sermons. Examples:

Title: Wesley's standard sermons.
650 #0 $a Methodist Church $v Sermons.
650 #0 $a Sermons, English.
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4. Assigning an array of headings.

Examples: (Continued)

Title: Jewish funeral sermons.
   650 #0 $a Jewish funeral sermons.
   650 #0 $a Jewish sermons, Hebrew.

Title: Women and the word.
   650 #0 $a Sermons, American $x Women authors.

Title: Thoughts for special occasions and days.
   650 #0 $a Jewish occasional sermons.
   650 #0 $a Jewish sermons, American.

Title: Jesus never said everyone was lovable.
   650 #0 $a Love $x Religious aspects $x Christianity
   $v Sermons.
   650 #0 $a Methodist Church $v Sermons.
   650 #0 $a Sermons, American.

Title: Sermons on the prophecies of Micah.
   630 00 $a Bible. $p Micah $v Sermons.
   610 20 $a United Church of Canada $v Sermons.
   650 #0 $a Sermons, English $z Canada.

Title: Marian sermons.
   600 00 $a Mary, $c Blessed Virgin, Saint $v Sermons.
   610 20 $a Catholic Church $v Sermons.
   650 #0 $a Sermons, American.

5. History and criticism. Assign the free-floating subdivision –History and criticism under any type of heading or subdivision for sermons to works that critically evaluate the style and/or the contents of individual or collections of sermons, for example, Sermons, French–History and criticism.

Do not assign this type of heading to works on methods of writing and delivering sermons. To these works assign the appropriate heading for preaching, for example, Preaching; Buddhist preaching; Islamic preaching; Methodist preaching.