Library of Congress Classification: Module 1.3

Library of Congress Classification
Module 1.3
The Basics of Classification Web

Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division
Library of Congress
September 2019
Before we begin our in-depth exploration of LC classification, we want to take a few minutes to introduce you to Classification Web.

Classification Web, which is updated daily, is the best method for assuring that you are using the most up-to-date classification numbers in your cataloging. There are also several searching options provided in the system.

In this module we will discuss the features of Class Web’s three classification browsers and explain their various purposes.
[Note: This was a live demo. The slides in the handout do not precisely match the slides in the audio-visual lecture.]

This is the main menu for Classification Web.

LC classification and the other vocabularies that LC provides access to in the Classification Web interface are listed in large type, with options underneath them.
LC classification has several options: browse and search are on the first line, followed by links to three browsers: standard, enhanced, and hierarchy. Finally, links to the outline, subsets, and bookmarks are on the third line.

Clicking browse will probably give you the enhanced browser, but it depends on the way that your preferences were set.

You can change your preferences by clicking on the three-bar icon that appears in the upper left-hand corner and select settings. This menu also provides quick links to the other vocabularies.

In this module we will show you the features of the three browsers, but we will begin by talking about the features that appear in all of them.
You can change your preferences by clicking on the three-bar icon that appears in the upper left-hand corner and select settings. This menu also provides quick links to the other vocabularies.

In this module we will show you the features of the three browsers, but we will begin by talking about the features that appear in all of them.
Regardless of the browser, the initial screen is essentially blank.

The banner at the top of the screen indicates the browser we are using. Here, it is the enhanced browser.

The first item on the next line is a blank search box, which is followed by two drop-down menus. The default values for the menus are Schedules and Class number. For now, we will retain those values.
Now we type a class number from the schedules into the search box and press enter. I will type QR78.

Classification Web displays the part of the schedule closest to the number that you typed. In this case, the exact number existed.
The number PS99 does not exist, so if I type that and press enter, Class Web will bring up the next closest number.

Depending on how your preferences are set, you can use the scroll bar to scroll down and see up to 100 lines of the schedule.
As we scroll, only the main portion of the screen moves. Under the line with the search box, there is another box that is stationary. This is the hierarchy pane. The hierarchies are too long to display on a single computer screen, so the hierarchy pane shows the levels of hierarchy for the selected number. Each level of hierarchy is separated by a long dash.
You have also noticed the blue bar by this time. The bar indicates the number that is selected, and it can be moved around by double-clicking.

Moving it changes the data in the hierarchy pane. Watch the hierarchy pane as I double-click to move the bar around the screen.

You can also click this arrow to move back a page and this one to move forward a page.

There are also hyperlinks throughout the schedules, and they act as you would expect hyperlinks to act.

Now let’s talk about some other actions that you can perform from this screen.

Clicking on the gear in the right-hand corner provides three options. New Browse allows you to clear your browse search – the search we just did. Search calls up a new window with various advanced search options. We will discuss those functions in the context of finding class numbers in an upcoming module.

Finally, the last menu option under the gear allows you to refresh your screen.

Let’s go back to the browse screen and look at the drop-down menus next to the search box. The first
allows you to choose whether to search the schedules or the tables. In the introduction to LCC, we mentioned that some numbers are built with tables, which are a way of simplifying the maintenance of LCC. Tables are used when the same method of sub-arrangement is used in numerous places in the schedules.

Clicking Tables causes the default value in the second menu to change to Table number. Now you can browse by the number of the table just like you browse for a class number. If I type in f1, Table F1 is retrieved.

There are also other options in the second drop-down menu, and they duplicate some of the search options that are found by clicking Search in the menu under the gear.
You can also click this arrow to move back a page and this one to move forward a page.

There are also hyperlinks throughout the schedules, and they act as you would expect hyperlinks to act.

Now let’s talk about some other actions that you can perform from this screen.
Clicking on the gear in the right-hand corner provides three options. New Browse allows you to clear your browse search – the search we just did. Search calls up a new window with various advanced search options.
We will discuss those functions in the context of finding class numbers in an upcoming module.

Finally, the last menu option under the gear allows you to refresh your screen.
Let’s go back to the browse screen and look at the drop-down menus next to the search box. The first allows you to choose whether to search the schedules or the tables. In the introduction to LCC, we mentioned that some numbers are built with tables, which are a way of simplifying the maintenance of LCC. Tables are used when the same method of sub-arrangement is used in numerous places in the schedules.

Clicking Tables causes the default value in the second menu to change to Table number. Now you can browse by the number of the table just like you browse for a class number. If I type in f1, Table F1 is retrieved.

There are also other options in the second drop-down menu, and they duplicate some of the search options that are found by clicking Search in the menu under the gear.
Clicking Tables causes the default value in the second menu to change to Table number. Now you can browse by the number of the table just like you browse for a class number. If I type in F1, Table F1 is retrieved.

There are also other options in the second drop-down menu, and they duplicate some of the search options that are found by clicking Search in the menu under the gear.
The standard browser most closely replicates the experience of using the paper schedules. In the standard browser, Classification Web displays the schedules as they appear in print. The tables can be browsed by inputting the number of the table, and the browser also provides links to the table. All of the table calculations must be done manually.

Let’s look briefly at the standard browser.
If I type in the classification number PL8047, we can see that it represents the Angas language.

Next to the caption is the notation “Table P-PZ15.” This means that resources in PL8047 are sub-arranged by using Table P-PZ15. Clicking on the hyperlink brings the table onto the screen.

Notice the hierarchy pane as I move the blue bar around. The information in the pane changes in response, but nothing is hyperlinked. The hierarchy pane is informational only.
Clicking on the hyperlink brings the table onto the screen.

Notice the hierarchy pane as I move the blue bar around. The information in the pane changes in response, but nothing is hyperlinked. The hierarchy pane is informational only.
Notice the hierarchy pane as I move the blue bar around. The information in the pane changes in response, but nothing is hyperlinked. The hierarchy pane is informational only.
The standard browser is most useful if you know the number, or at least the general area, in which a resource should be classified.

We do not recommend that the standard browser be used for most daily cataloging activities.

We will use it sparingly in this training.
The enhanced browser is generally the preferred browser of the three. It displays the schedules as they appear in print, but also incorporates some helpful features.

Specifically, the enhanced browser merges some tables with the schedules when the user clicks on a link. This saves time, increases accuracy, and makes LCC easier to use.

In addition, the levels of hierarchy in the hierarchy pane are clickable, which makes looking for notes and references very efficient.

We will briefly demonstrate those features.
[Note: This was a live demo. The slides in the handout do not precisely match the slides in the audio-visual lecture.]

For comparison purposes, we will use the same example that we did for the standard browser.

Typing in the classification number PL8047 shows us the entry for the Angas language with the instruction, “Table P-PZ15.”

Whereas the standard browser only brought up the table, by clicking the hyperlink,
the enhanced browser puts the table into the schedule and calculates the numbers in an integrated, seamless display.

Now look at the hierarchy pane. Every level of hierarchy is hyperlinked, so clicking a link adjusts the view of the schedule to that position.
Now look at the hierarchy pane. Every level of hierarchy is hyperlinked, so clicking a link adjusts the view of the schedule to that position.
Enhanced Browser

- Most useful if you have a general idea where a resource should be classified
- Provides flexibility by allowing navigation to higher levels of hierarchy
- The browser of choice for many catalogers

Like the standard browser, the enhanced browser is most useful when you have a general idea where a resource should be classified.

However, the clickable levels in the hierarchy pane allow for navigation to higher levels of hierarchy, and therefore provide flexibility that the standard browser just does not have.

Most of the screenshots used in this training will be from the enhanced browser.
Like the enhanced browser, the hierarchy browser merges tables with the schedules. The entries in the hierarchy pane are also hyperlinked and therefore actionable.

The difference with the hierarchy browser is that the schedules are displayed one hierarchical level at a time, instead of how they would appear in the print schedules.
[Note: This was a live demo. The slides in the handout do not precisely match the slides in the audio-visual lecture.]

We will search again for PL8047, Angas language. The display is similar to the display in the enhanced browser. If I were to click on the caption, the table would be calculated just as it is in the enhanced browser. Note that we are viewing an alphabetical list of languages of Africa.

The difference with the hierarchy browser can be seen if I click “Special languages (alphabetically)” in the hierarchy pane.
The alphabetical list of languages disappears and we are presented with a screen that consists almost entirely of hyperlinked captions. Each of the captions includes hierarchically subordinate lines, but the browser keeps track of your current level and limits the display to that level of specificity. To show lower levels of hierarchy, click on a caption. If I click on “Special languages (alphabetically)” in the schedule itself (and not in the hierarchy pane), the alphabetical list of languages reappears.
In the hierarchy browser you can also see a list of the main classes and subclasses.
For instance, by typing P, we can see a list of the highest-level hierarchies for the language and literature schedules. Clicking on any one of them will allow you to drill down through the levels to find the number that is needed for a resource.
Clicking PB, we can see a list of Celtic languages and we find successively more specific numbers. Clicking Irish, for example, we find three subhierarchies: Philology, Language, and Literature. Clicking any one of those shows more specific subtopics.
Clicking Irish, for example, we find three subhierarchies: Philology, Language, and Literature. Clicking any one of those shows more specific subtopics.
The hierarchy browser is very useful when you are not sure where a resource should be classified because it allows you to start with a general idea and get more and more specific until you find the appropriate class number. We will occasionally use the hierarchy browser in this training.
Exercises

Click when you are ready to begin