Library of Congress Classification
Module 2.3
Using the Structure of the Schedules

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In previous modules we showed how the hierarchies can be navigated in Classification Web, explained how to interpret the various instructions and references that appear in the schedules, and briefly covered the restrictions on the use of two special types of numbers: those that are bracketed and those that are parenthesized.

In this module we will demonstrate the importance of examining the hierarchies and following the instructions and references when classifying materials.
When assigning classification numbers – or double-checking classification numbers assigned in copy cataloging records – we must remember to “read up” the hierarchy.

This simply means that we have to check every level of hierarchy above the possible number to see if there are any pertinent instructions or references. References and instructions at higher levels of hierarchy apply equally at lower levels of hierarchy.

In Classification Web, it is an easy process to read up the hierarchy and follow references. We will demonstrate the process with four examples.
The first example is a resource on the persecution of Protestants in Spain during the Inquisition.

A possible number is BR1608.S8.

That number, however, may or may not be correct. We have to consult the schedules to find out.
[Note: This was a live demo. The slides in the handout do not precisely match the slides in the audio-visual lecture.]

The caption for BR1608.S8 is **Spain**. If we look at the hierarchy pane, we can see that the hierarchy is **Christianity—Persecution. Martyrs—By region or country—Other, A-Z**. Translating that into a phrase, the meaning of the number is the persecution of Christian martyrs in Spain.

That number seems reasonable for this resource. Protestants are Christian, and the resource covers their persecution in Spain. But before we can approve BR1608.S8 for the resource, we need to check the hierarchy for notes and references.

The best way to do this is to take each level of hierarchy one by one, backward.
So the first thing I will do is click on **Other, A-Z**. Doing so brings me to that level of hierarchy. There are no instructions, so I can click on the next level: **By region or country**.
There are no references or instructions directly under **By region or country**, but there is one under Great Britain. It is a *Confer* reference for the persecution of Catholics in England. The resource we are cataloging is persecution of Protestants in Spain, so that *Confer* reference is immaterial.
I will click on the next higher hierarchical level: Persecution. Martyrs. There are two references here. The first is, “For persecution of individual sects see BX1-9999.” That could be helpful, but the second reference is right on point: “For the Inquisition see BX1700-1745.”

The resource we are cataloging is about the Inquisition, and a For … see… reference is a direct order, so we need to click on the hyperlink.

By doing so, we see that we are taken to History of the Inquisition. Now we have to read through that area of the schedule. Do we see any numbers for Spain? Yes, the numbers beginning with BX1735 are for the history of the Inquisition in Spain. There is an Including note that says, “Including works on Spain and Portugal,” so works about the Inquisition in Spain are classified here, as well as works about the Inquisition in Spain and Portugal together. BX1735 is for General works, and the next numbers are for Spanish colonies and dependencies.
By doing so, we see that we are taken to **History of the Inquisition**. Now we have to read through that area of the schedule. Do we see any numbers for Spain?
Yes, the numbers beginning with BX1735 are for the history of the Inquisition in Spain. There is an *Including* note that says, “Including works on Spain and Portugal,” so works about the Inquisition in Spain are classified here, as well as works about the Inquisition in Spain and Portugal together.

BX1735 is for **General works**, and the next numbers are for Spanish colonies and dependencies.
The resource we are cataloging is about Spain specifically, so the correct number for the resource is BX1735, general works about the Inquisition in Spain.
Our second example is a resource about the history of pharmaceutical companies in the United States.

A possible number is RS68.

Let’s check the schedule to see if it is correct.
[Note: This was a live demo. The slides in the handout do not precisely match the slides in the audio-visual lecture.]

When we look up RS68, we see that it is for **Pharmaceutical companies**, which makes sense, but it is a parenthesized number.

Recall that numbers in parentheses are cancelled and cannot be used for monographs or for newly cataloged serials. They *can* be used for serial continuations, *if* the serial has already been classified in that number.

So let’s say that we are cataloging a serial that has undergone a title change, and it was originally classified in RS68. RS68 is the correct number for the serial continuation.

Now let’s say that the resource is a monograph or a serial that is being cataloged for the first time. RS68 cannot be used in either of those cases. Instead, we have to click on the *See* reference – remember that it is a direct order – and find the correct number for the history of the pharmaceutical industry in the United States.
The number that comes up is for periodicals and serials. In order to make sure that we can see the whole hierarchy, click on **Pharmaceutical industry** in the hierarchy pane.
In the schedule, the caption next to HD9665-9675 is hyperlinked. It also says Table H19, but do not worry about that now. We will talk about tables later.
Click on the hyperlink. We are back where we started. This hierarchy is for the **Pharmaceutical industry**, so we need to figure out where resources about particular countries are classed.
HD9665.5 might be okay. Its caption is **General works. History**. However, the hierarchy indicates that it is directly under the pharmaceutical industry. HD9665.5 is used for resources about the pharmaceutical industry in several regions or countries of the world – or maybe even resources that are worldwide in scope.
HD9665.8.A2-Z is a possibility, but look at the hierarchy. It is specifically about **Taxation**. The resource we are cataloging is not about taxation.
There is another **By region or country** number, HD9665.9.A2-Z, but we can tell from the hierarchy that it is specifically about **Inspection**. The resource we are cataloging is not about inspection, either.
There is another **By region or country** caption. Look at the hierarchy on this one. It is directly under the **Pharmaceutical industry**, so it is not limited to a particular subtopic under the pharmaceutical industry. It is about the pharmaceutical industry in general in individual places. Directly under that caption is a caption for the **United States**, and directly under that is a number for **Periodicals, societies, and serials**.
If we have a newly cataloged serial about the pharmaceutical industry in the United States, the correct number is HD9666.1.

If we have a monograph we have to keep looking.
HD9666.5 says that it is for general works about the pharmaceutical industry in the United States, and also the history of the pharmaceutical industry in the United States. That is the correct number for a monograph.

To ensure that we are using the correct number we need to read up the hierarchy. Let’s click on Special industries and trades.
It shows a *Class here* note and several references. The *Class here* note says, “Class here commercial aspects of individual industries, trades, and companies, including management, finance, marketing, etc.” It sounds like we are in the correct place, but we should consider the references.

Technical aspects, including management at the plant or factory level, are classed elsewhere. That reference does not apply to the resource we are cataloging.

The next reference is about high technology industries in general, and does not apply here.

The third reference is about specific companies. The resource being cataloged is not about a specific company.

Finally, the last reference is about the workers.
If we click on that reference, we see that it leads to the **Labor. Work. Working class** area of the schedule. It is not pertinent.
I’ll go back to where I was by clicking the browser’s back arrow.
And if I click to the highest level of hierarchy, I find that there are no notes, references, or instructions there.

**HD9666.5** is definitely the correct number for a monograph about the history of the pharmaceutical industry in the United States.
To review, the number RS68 was cancelled – parenthesized – so it cannot be used unless the resource is a serial continuation.

If it is a newly cataloged serial or a monograph, we have to follow the See reference provided and find the best number.

Therefore, this resource may class in three different places, depending on the exact cataloging situation.
Our third example is a resource about the production of electricity using photovoltaic methods.

A possible number is TK1087.
Note: This was a live demo. The slides in the handout do not precisely match the slides in the audio-visual lecture.

The classification number TK1087 means **Photovoltaic power generation and Photovoltaic power systems**, and we can see from the hierarchy pane that it is in the **Electrical engineering** schedule. The number looks pretty good, but we should check the references and read up the hierarchy to make sure.

There are two **Confer** references in this number. TK2960 is for **Solar batteries and Solar cells**. Remember that a **Confer** reference is a suggestion, not an order. We should check the other number to see if it looks better, but we are not required to use it.
Clicking on TK2960, we see that the number is about Solar batteries and Solar cells, but the resource we are cataloging is not limited to those topics.
We can click the back button on the browser to return to where we were.

There is another *Confer* reference for **Photovoltaic cells**, so we should click on that.
Again, look at the hierarchy. It is specific to **Semiconductor devices**, which is not appropriate to the resource. We will go back again.
TK1087 still looks good, but we still need to read up the hierarchy.
We will take each level one-by-one, so we will click on Production from solar energy first. Hmmm. There is no reference or instruction directly under that line, so we will click on Production of electric energy or power.
Oh! There are three For... see... references there, but none of them are pertinent because the resource is not about power plants, dynamoelectric machinery, nor the distribution of electric power.
Let’s go up to the highest level of hierarchy. Again, there are several *For... see...* references, but none of them are pertinent to the resource.
Example 3

Topic: Production of electricity using photovoltaic methods

Possible number: TK1087
Correct number: TK1087

We have done our due diligence and checked for pertinent references in the suggested number itself as well as throughout the higher levels of hierarchy.

TK1087 is the best number for the resource.
Our fourth and final example is a resource on the history of the Labour Party in Great Britain.

The possible number is DA42.
[Note: This was a live demo. The slides in the handout do not precisely match the slides in the audio-visual lecture.]

The caption for DA42 is Modern, but modern what? If we look at the hierarchy, we can see that it is the modern Political and institutional history of England. The Labour Party is certainly modern, but is this the best number for the resource?
In this case, the hierarchy is relatively short so we can just look at the next level: **Political and institutional history.** There are two *For... see...* references here. The first one is about specific periods or reigns, and is not pertinent. The second says, “For political parties see JN1111-1129.” That is directly pertinent to a resource about the Labour Party.
Clicking over to JN1111-1129, we find that the number is for **Political parties** in Great Britain.
If we look down the screen a bit, we find that there is a subordinate line called Special parties, A-Z.

Recall from the first module that in LCC, special just means individual.
Indented under that caption is a list of political parties, including the Labour Party. The correct number is therefore JN1129.L32.
Example 4

Topic: A history of the Labour Party in Great Britain

Possible number: DA42
Correct number: JN1129.L32

[No audio]
In summary, it is important to check for instructions and references at the number that you are thinking about assigning to a resource. It is also vitally important that you read up the hierarchy to determine whether there is a reference or instruction at a higher level, because if there is, it applies to subordinate levels of hierarchy.

What looks like a reasonable and perfectly good number may in fact be incorrect, and it is only by reading up the hierarchies that this can be determined.
Exercises

*Click when you are ready to begin*