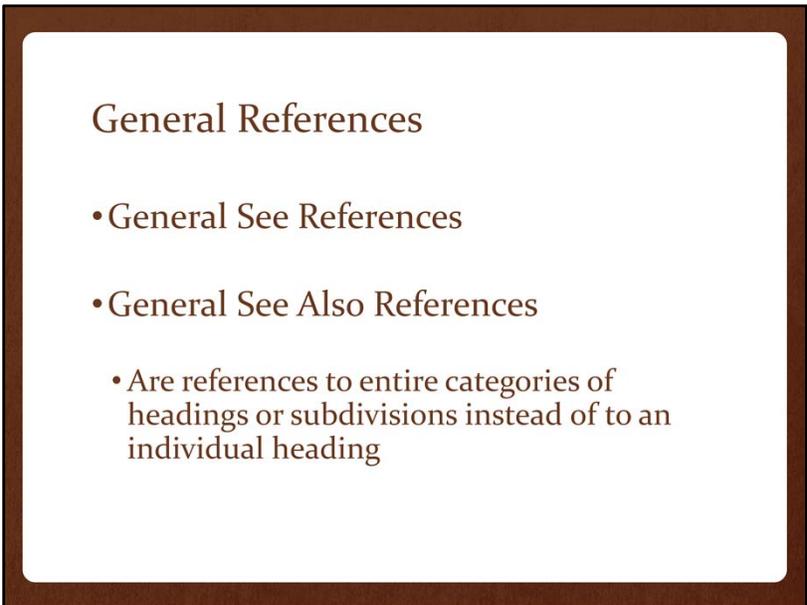

Library of Congress Subject Headings

Module 2.8
General See and General See Also References

Policy and Standards Division
Library of Congress
June 2016



General References

- General See References
- General See Also References
 - Are references to entire categories of headings or subdivisions instead of to an individual heading

This module is about the general references that appear in LCSH.

Unlike UF, BT, and RT references, General SEE references and General SEE ALSO references provide guideposts to entire categories of headings and subdivisions.

They are often overlooked during discussions of the structure of LCSH, but they are useful and important guides to the proper assignment of headings.

General SEE references and General SEE ALSO references serve the same general purpose, but are used in different ways. We will discuss them separately, beginning with General SEE references.

General See References

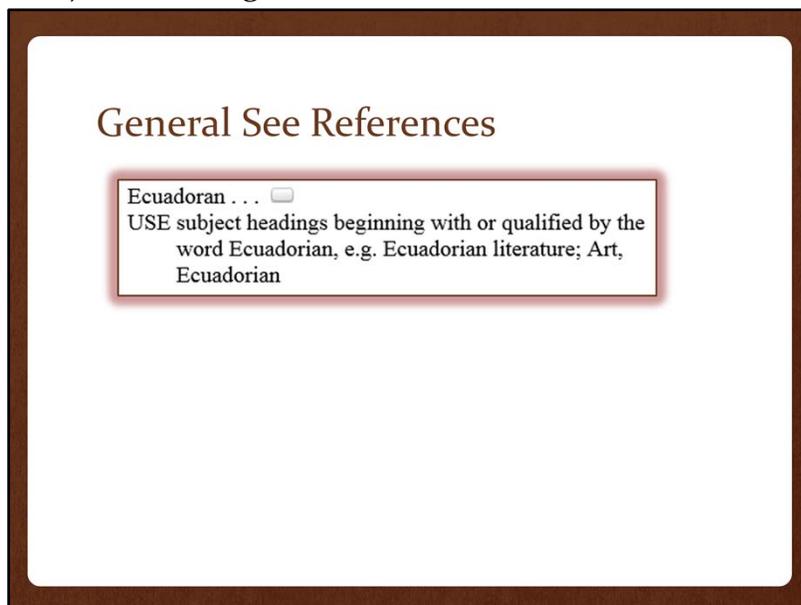
- Provide blanket references from
 - Synonyms that are never used in authorized headings
 - Variant spellings when another spelling is consistently used in headings
 - Abbreviations that are not used in subject headings

General SEE references serve two purposes.

The first is to provide blanket references from non-preferred synonyms of words that appear in subject headings, as well as references from variant spellings of words when another spelling is used consistently. General SEE references also provide reference from some abbreviations that are not used in subject headings.

In each case, a single general SEE reference is made instead of making explicit USED FOR references to numerous headings. They started as a way of keeping the physical size of LCSH in check.

Some examples will help explain how this works.



This example is taken from Classification Web, and as you can see, the reference is in normal type, not boldface, indicating that it is not authorized for use.

If you are not using Classification Web, you can always identify this type of reference by the presence of the ellipsis (or three periods) in the entry line.

The reference itself begins with the USE instruction, which is followed by a description of the types of headings to search for.

By reading this reference, we know that the word *Ecuadoran* is not used in LCSH. Instead, we should look for headings that include the word **Ecuadorian**.

By making this one general SEE reference, we are avoiding having to make explicit UF references to almost 90 headings in LCSH that include the word **Ecuadorian**.

General See References

Ecuadoran . . .
USE subject headings beginning with or qualified by the word Ecuadorian, e.g. Ecuadorian literature; Art, Ecuadorian

Programme . . .
USE topical headings beginning with or including the words Program or Programs, e.g. Program budgeting; Programs; Apprenticeship programs

This example shows a general SEE reference from the British spelling of programme to the American spelling.

As you can see, it again uses the ellipsis and the instruction to USE the other spelling.

General See References

Ecuadoran . . .

USE subject headings beginning with or qualified by the word Ecuadorian, e.g. Ecuadorian literature; Art, Ecuadorian

Programme . . .

USE topical headings beginning with or including the words Program or Programs, e.g. Program budgeting; Programs; Apprenticeship programs

Mt. . . .

USE subject headings for place names that include the word "Mount", e.g. Fuji, Mount (Japan)

And this final example shows that the abbreviation Mt. is not used in LCSH.

Instead, the word Mount is spelled out, as it is in the heading for Mount Fuji. There are hundreds of headings for mountains in LCSH, so not making explicit UF references from the abbreviation for every one of those headings is a significant savings. You can see again the ellipsis and the instruction USE.

It is important to understand that general SEE references such as these are made only when a synonym, a variant spelling, or an abbreviation consistently refers to a single word or phrase.

General See References

St. Augustine grass
USE [Saint Augustinegrass](#)

St. Augustine Inlet (Fla.)
USE [Saint Augustine Inlet \(Fla.\)](#)

St. Augustinegrass
USE [Saint Augustinegrass](#)

St. Barbe family (Fictitious characters)
USE [Saint Barbe family \(Fictitious characters\)](#)

St. Bartholomew's Day, Massacre of, 1572
USE [Saint Bartholomew's Day, Massacre of, France, 1572](#)

St. Bartholomew's Hospital Site (Bristol, England)
USE [Saint Bartholomew's Hospital Site \(Bristol, England\)](#)

In this example you can see an abbreviation that is not controlled through a general SEE reference: St.

Each of these references is an explicit UF reference that appears on an individual entry.

General See References

St. Augustine grass USE Saint Augustine	St. Margarets Bay (N.S.) USE Saint Margarets Bay (N.S.)
St. Augustine In USE Saint Augustine	St. Margaret's Street (Canterbury, England) USE Saint Margaret's Street (Canterbury, England)
St. Augustinegra USE Saint Augustine	St. Margaret's Well (Binsey, England) USE Saint Margaret's Well (Binsey, England)
St. Barbe family USE Saint Barbe	St. Maries River (Idaho) USE Saint Maries River (Idaho)
St. Bartholomew USE Saint Bartholomew	St. Marks, Fort (Fla.) USE Fort Saint Marks (Fla.)
St. Bartholomew USE Saint Bartholomew	St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge (Fla.) USE Saint Marks National Wildlife Refuge (Fla.)

The list keeps going and going and going.

General See References

St. Augustine grass USE Saint Augustine	St. Margarets Bay (N.S.) USE Saint Margarets Bay (N.S.)	St. Ursula Altar (Sculpture) USE Marienstatter Altar (Sculpture)
St. Augustine In USE Saint Augustine	St. Margaret's Street (Canterb USE Saint Margaret's Street (Canterb)	St. Valentine's Day USE Valentine's Day
St. Augustinegra USE Saint Augustine	St. Margaret's Well (Binsey, I USE Saint Margaret's Well (Binsey, I)	St. Vincent, Battle of, 1797 USE Cape Saint Vincent, Battle of, 1797
St. Barbe family USE Saint Barbe	St. Maries River (Idaho) USE Saint Maries River (Idaho)	St. Vincent, Battle of, 1833 USE Cape Saint Vincent, Battle of, 1833
St. Bartholomew USE Saint Bartholomew	St. Marks, Fort (Fla.) USE Fort Saint Marks (Fla.)	St. Vincent (Cape), Battle of, 1797 USE Cape Saint Vincent, Battle of, 1797
St. Bartholomew USE Saint Bartholomew	St. Marks National Wildlife R USE Saint Marks National Wildlife R	St. Vincent, Cape (Portugal) USE Saint Vincent, Cape (Portugal)

Why not make a general SEE reference? It would seem to be a perfect use case.

It is not possible because St. can be an abbreviation for Saint, State, or Street. Therefore, explicit UFs have to be made whenever it is necessary to provide a reference from that abbreviation.

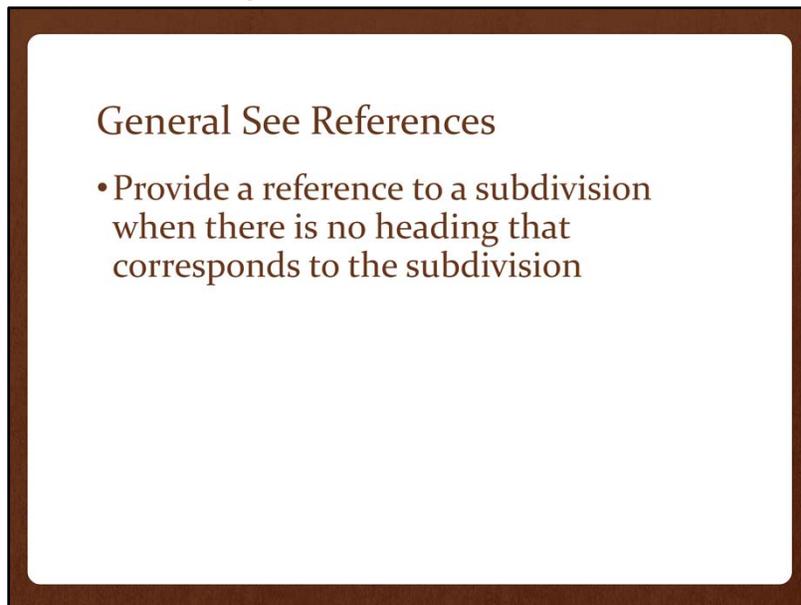
General See References

- Provide entry language for commonly used phrases that are commonly searched
- Show the standard format of the relevant headings

Great Fire of . . .
USE headings of the type Great Fire, [place], [date], e.g. Great Fire, Chicago, Ill., 1871

On occasion, you will find general SEE references that provide entry language for phrases that users commonly search. The point of these references is to instruct users on the format of authorized headings.

Many people looking for resources about a great fire might search Great Fire of, but will not find anything. To avoid confusion and frustration, a general SEE reference for that phrase is provided, and it shows the format of heading to search.



General See References

- Provide a reference to a subdivision when there is no heading that corresponds to the subdivision

The second purpose of a general SEE reference is to provide a reference to a subdivision when there is no authorized heading that corresponds to that subdivision.

Some of the subdivisions that are referred to are printed in LCSH, while others are free-floating. Don't worry about that distinction now. We'll talk more about the difference between established and free-floating subdivisions in a later unit.

General See References

- Provide a reference to a subdivision when there is no heading that corresponds to the subdivision

Guidebooks
USE subdivision Guidebooks under names of countries, cities, etc.;
under individual corporate bodies, parks, buildings, etc.; and
under topical headings

Here is an example of a general SEE reference that indicates that there is a subdivision – **Guidebooks**.

As with the previous examples, the entry element is in normal type, not boldface, indicating that the entry is not an authorized heading.

The USE reference tells us what kinds of headings the subdivision –**Guidebooks** can be assigned to.

As you can see in this example, the use is restricted to “names of countries, cities, etc.; [names of] individual corporate bodies, parks, buildings, etc.; and topical headings.”

General See References

- Provide a reference to a subdivision when there is no heading that corresponds to the subdivision

Guidebooks
USE subdivision Guidebooks under names of countries, cities, etc.;
~~under individual corporate bodies, parks, buildings, etc.; and~~

Patterns for crafts
USE subdivision Patterns under individual crafts, e.g.
Dressmaking—Patterns; Embroidery—Patterns; Glass
craft—Patterns; Grilles—Patterns; Hand weaving—Patterns;
Lace and lace making—Patterns; Tailoring—Patterns

Here is another example, showing that the wording in the entry is not always identical to the subdivision. *Patterns for crafts* references the subdivision **–Patterns**.

“Use subdivision Patterns under individual crafts, e.g. **Dressmaking—Patterns; Embroidery—Patterns**” and so on.

As you can see, general SEE references are valuable guideposts for catalogers and users both, as they attempt to find pertinent headings.

You can find more information about general SEE references in *Subject Headings Manual* instruction sheet H 374.

General See Also References

- Provide reference to a subdivision when there is a heading that corresponds to the subdivision

Now we will move on to general SEE ALSO references, which also provide reference to subdivisions, but in this case there is a corresponding authorized heading. The reference appears in the entry for the heading.

General See Also References

- Provide reference to a subdivision when there is a heading that corresponds to the subdivision

Palaces (May Subd Geog)
[[NA277](#) (Greek)]
[[NA320](#) (Roman)]
[[NA7710-7786](#) (Architecture)]
BT [Buildings](#)
SA subdivision **Palaces** under names of individual persons

As you can see from the boldface type, **Palaces** is an authorized heading.

Look down the entry and you will see the notation SA, which stands for See Also. The See Also reference tells us that the subdivision **Palaces** can be used under names of individual persons.

In this case, the subdivision is worded the same as the heading, but that is not always true.

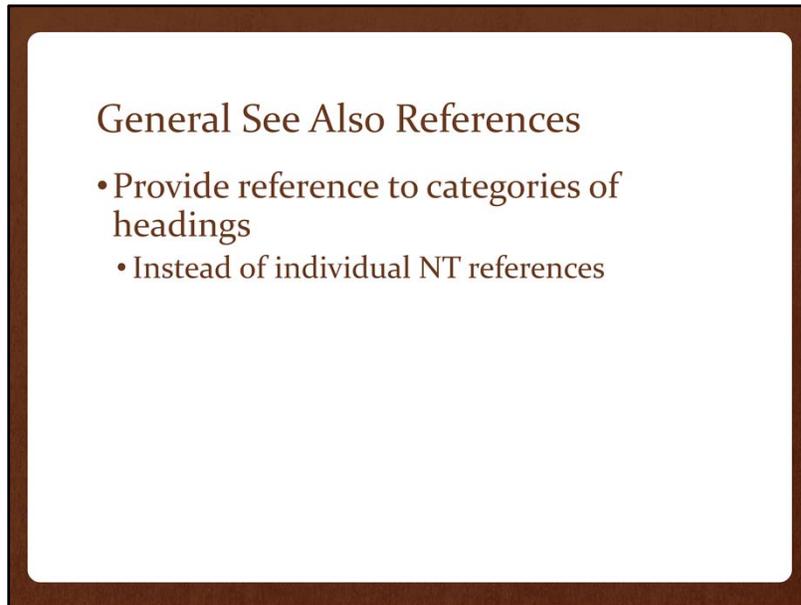
General See Also References

- Provide reference to a subdivision when there is a heading that corresponds to the subdivision

Carbon (May Subd Geog)
[[QD181.C1](#) (Chemistry)]
[[TA455.C3](#) (Engineering materials)]
[[TP245.C4](#) (Chemical technology)]
BT [Group 14 elements](#)
[Light elements](#)
SA subdivision **Carbon content** under individual materials and types of materials and under individual plants and groups of plants, e.g. **Metals—Carbon content;**
Corn—Carbon content

The subdivision –**Carbon content** corresponds to the heading **Carbon**, so we find the SA reference in the entry for **Carbon**.

The reference again gives a brief synopsis of the types of headings that can be followed by the subdivision –**Carbon content**, which are headings for materials and plants.



General See Also References

- Provide reference to categories of headings
 - Instead of individual NT references

General SEE ALSO references are also used to provide reference to categories of headings.

You will occasionally find SA references to types of headings instead of a list of Narrower Terms.

General See Also References

- Provide reference to categories of headings
- Instead of individual NT references

Meat animals (May Subd Geog)

Here are entered general works on animals that are produced primarily for their meat producing characteristics, whether for breeding or slaughter.

BT [Food animals](#)

SA individual meat animals and groups of meat animals, e.g.
Beef cattle; Swine

In this case, instead of Narrower Terms for groups of meat animals and individual meat animals, which would be reasonable, an SA reference is provided.

This is a very old practice, instituted because it was considered to be impractical to make the list of Narrower Terms.

SEE ALSO references like this are not made anymore. In fact, as time permits, the lists of Narrower Terms are being made and those SA references are mostly being removed.

General See Also References

- Provide reference to categories of headings
 - To name headings

Church buildings (May Subd Geog)
[[NA4790-5095](#) (Architecture)]
UF Churches [Former heading]
BT [Buildings](#)
 [Church facilities](#)
RT [Church architecture](#)
SA names of individual churches

Sometimes general SEE ALSO references show users that they might find materials under name headings that are used as subjects.

This example provides an alert that names of individual churches are used also as subjects.

This type of general SEE ALSO reference is spotty at best. The lack of a reference does not mean that name headings are not used.

General See Also References

- Provide reference to categories of headings
- To name headings

Authors

UF Writers

BT [Litterateurs](#)

RT [Bio-bibliography](#)
[Literature](#)

SA subdivision **Bio-bibliography** under special subjects, and under names of countries, cities, etc.

The SA reference for the heading **Authors** does not indicate that names of individual authors can be used as subjects, but in fact they can be.

General See Also References

- Provide reference to categories of headings
- From a generic heading to a group of headings that begin with the same word

Air

[\[QC161-166.5 \(Physics\)\]](#)

[\[QD163 \(Inorganic chemistry\)\]](#)

BT [Atmosphere](#)

SA headings beginning with the word **Atmospheric**

Some general SEE ALSO references refer from a general heading to a category of headings that begins with a particular word.

Those who look up the heading **Air** are told that headings that begin with the word **Atmospheric** may be of interest, for example.

More information on general SEE ALSO references may be found in *Subject Headings Manual* instruction sheet H 371.

Summary

- General references provide useful information about headings and references
- It is important to read them!

General SEE references and General SEE ALSO references provide a wealth of information about subdivisions, standard spellings, and other headings that may be of interest. Reading them will help you assign headings and subdivisions accurately and efficiently.