LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
SUBJECT HEADING

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Contents of LCSH

1) What is subject heading?

2) Type of Subject Heading

3) What is library of congress subject heading

4) Use term in LCSH
5) Functions of Library of Congress Subject Headings

6) Principles of Heading Construction

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1 What is subject heading

- Subject cataloguing is that specific procedure of cataloguing by which the cataloguer chooses the appropriate subject heading for the subject discussed in the catalogued books.

- The main objective of the subject cataloguing is to fulfill the subject related needs of the readers.
Subject heading gives complete indication of the subject covered in the book, including all of its various aspects and forms.

Subject heading should be a synonym and indication of the specific subject of a book.
2 Type of Subject Heading

Some useful Subject Heading aspect all over words are given below.

- Sears list of Subject heading, (SLSH)
- A.L.A. List of Subject Headings for Use in Dictionary Catalogues
- Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH)
3 What is library of congress subject heading

- The **Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH)** comprise a thesaurus of subject headings, maintained by the United States Library of Congress for use in bibliographic records.

- LCSHs are applied to every item within a library’s collection, and facilitate a user’s access to items in the catalogue that pertain to similar subject matter.
If users could only locate items by ‘title’ or other descriptive fields, such as ‘author’ or ‘publisher’, they would have to expend an enormous amount of time searching for items of related subject matter, and undoubtedly miss locating many items because of the ineffective and inefficient search capability.
LCSH system was originally designed as a controlled vocabulary for representing the subject and form of the books and serials in the Library of Congress collection.

Purpose of LCSH is providing subject access points to the bibliographic records contained in the Library of Congress catalogues.
LCSH is a tool for subject indexing of library catalogs in general.
It has also been used as a tool in a number of online bibliographic databases outside of the Library of Congress.

Print copy of LCSH available in most public libraries
1. **May Sub. Geog.** Place names may follow the heading.

2. **Call number given (TT154)** indicates where most books on this subject are found. Rather than search further, you might just go directly to this call number.
3. **UF (Used For)** refers to related subject headings.

4. **BT (Broader Topic)** refers to more general subject headings. These headings would be useful if you need to broaden your topic.
5. **RT (Related Topic)**. These terms can provide ideas of other topics to investigate.

6. **SA (See Also)** refers you to other ways of looking up the same topic.

7. **NT (Narrower Topic)** refers to more specific headings than the boldface heading.
5 Functions of Library of Congress Subject Headings

- LCSH system serves both internal and external needs.
- LCSH system was originally designed as a controlled vocabulary for representing the subject and form of the books and serials in the Library of Congress collection.
- Purpose of LCSH is providing subject access points to the bibliographic records contained in the Library of Congress catalogues.
- It has also been used as a tool in a number of online bibliographic databases outside of the Library of Congress.

- LCSH has become a tool for subject indexing of library catalogs in general.
6 Principles of Heading Construction

6.1) Fundamental principles of LCSH
6.2) Structure of subject headings
6.3) Generation of headings and cross references
6.4) Main headings
6.5) Subdivisions
6.6) Pre-coordination and synthesis
6.7) Term relationships
6.8) Notes
6.9) Class numbers
6.1 Fundamental principles of Library of Congress Subject Headings

- The fundamental principles guiding the development of the Library of Congress subject headings system are effective responses to:
  a) User needs
  b) Uniform heading (one heading per subject - control of synonyms)
  c) Unique heading (one subject per heading - control of homographs)
  d) Specific and direct entry
  e) Stability
  f) Consistency
6.2 Structure of subject headings

A. Single-concept headings
   - Automobiles
   - Botany
   - Budget deficits
   - Electric interference
   - Boards of trade
   - Clerks of court

B. Pre-coordinated multiple-concept headings
   - Budget in business
   - Church and industry
   - Earth-Rotation
   - Biology-Scholarships, fellowships,
6.5 Main headings

- The main heading is that part of the subject heading string which represents the main concept without subdivision.
- Main headings may be categorized according to their functions: topical headings, form headings, and different kinds of proper name headings.
6.5 Main headings

6.5.1) Types and functions of main headings

6.5.2) Syntax
A) Topical headings
Topical heading represents a concept or object treated in a bibliographic item. It reflects what the item is about. Examples

- Economy
- German language
- Soldiers as artists
B) Form headings

A form heading reflects the form of the material. There are various forms of reading material in the library.

B.1) Bibliographic form:

Examples

- Atlases
- Encyclopedias and dictionaries
- Short films
B.2) Artistic and literary form:

Examples

- English essays
- Piano music
- Short stories
6.5.2 Syntax

- **Topical and form headings:**
  
  All main headings consist of single nouns or noun equivalents. Noun equivalents may be in the form of adjectives or gerunds or in the form of adjectival phrases, conjunctive phrases, or prepositional phrases. Qualifiers are added to headings when necessary.
  
  **A) Single noun headings**
  
  **B) Phrase headings**
6.5.2 Syntax

A) Single noun headings:
1. Many topical and form headings consist of a single noun or a noun equivalent in the form of a single adjective or gerund.
2. Nouns representing concrete objects are normally in the plural form, and nouns representing abstract concepts appear in the singular.

- Enzymes
- Philosophies
- Deaf
- Running
- Art
- Agriculture
- Education
- Religion
6.5.2 Syntax

- B) Phrase headings
  Some concepts that involve two areas of knowledge can be expressed only by more or less complex phrases.

Ex. -
1) Bible as literature
2) Freedom of information
B Phrase headings

B.1) Adjectival headings

B.2) Conjunctive phrase headings

B.3) Prepositional phrase headings

B.4) Inverted phrase headings
7.5.2 Syntax

B.1) Adjectival headings:
  I. Computer architecture
  II. Social classes

B.2) Conjunctive phrase headings:
  I. Children and politics
  II. Boats and boating
### B.3) Prepositional phrase headings:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I.</td>
<td>Directors of corporations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II.</td>
<td>Doctor of philosophy degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III.</td>
<td>Proposal writing in educational research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV.</td>
<td>Societies living in</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### B.4) Inverted phrase headings:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I.</td>
<td>Children’s literature, Canadian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II.</td>
<td>Education, Higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III.</td>
<td>Taxation, Exemption from</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.6 Subdivisions

- Subdivisions are extensions of the main heading. They normally represent aspects of the main heading.

A.1) Topical subdivisions
A.2) Form subdivisions
A.3) Geographic subdivisions
A.4) Chronological subdivisions
### 7.6 Subdivisions

#### A.1) Topical subdivisions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I.</th>
<th>Intellectual life</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>II.</td>
<td>Marketing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III.</td>
<td>Religious aspects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### A.2) Form subdivisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I.</th>
<th>Bibliography</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>II.</td>
<td>Periodicals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III.</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV.</td>
<td>Tables</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.6 Subdivisions

- A.3) Geographic subdivisions
  - A.3.1) Direct subdivisions
  - A.3.2) Indirect subdivisions

- Music-Japan
- Music-California
- Music-Economic aspects-United States
- Music-France-Paris
- Music-Ontario-Toronto
7.6 Subdivisions

A.4) Chronological subdivisions:

| I.   | Art, Modern-20th century |
| II.  | India-History-1800-1899 (19\textsuperscript{th} century) |
| III. | France-History-Revolution, 1797-1802 |
| IV.  | Lebanon-History-1982-1984 |
| V.   | Poland-Economic conditions-1945-1953 |
| VI.  | United States-History-1945-1953 |
| VII. | Bermuda Islands-Description and travel-1979- |


7.7 Pre-coordination and synthesis

- A heading may contain a single concept or a combination of multiple concepts. The combination may be formed when the heading is being established or when it is assigned to a particular bibliographic item.

A) Multiple-concept main headings
B) Headings with subdivisions
7.7 Pre-coordination and synthesis

- A) Multiple-concept main headings:
  - i) Children and politics
  - ii) Electricity in art
  - iii) Religious education of teenage boys

- B) Headings with subdivisions
  - i) Birth control-Moral and ethical aspects
  - ii) Cinematography-Electronic equipment
  - iii) Philosophy, Ancient-Oriental
There are four types of term relationships in LCSH:

A) Equivalence relationships
B) Hierarchical relationships
C) Associative relationships
D) General and Specific references
USE references are made from unauthorized or non-preferred terms to authorized or valid headings. Reciprocals, in the form of UF (Used-for) references, are made under the valid headings.

- **Business intelligence**
  - UF Business espionage
  - UF Corporate intelligence
  - UF Espionage, Business
  - UF Espionage, Industrial
  - UF Industrial espionage
  - UF Intelligence, Business
## B Hierarchical relationships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B.1) Broader terms</th>
<th>B.2) Narrower terms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apes</td>
<td>Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT Primates</td>
<td>NT Hydrogen as fuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnology</td>
<td>NT Liquid fuels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT</td>
<td>Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>NT Fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novell</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT Fiction</td>
<td>NT Novell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrogen as fuel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT Fuel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C  Associative relationships

Example:

Ships
RT Boats and boating

Birds
RT Ornithology

Medicine
RT Physicians
## D General and specific references

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>D.1) General USE references</th>
<th>D.2) General SA (See also) references</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Cards, Playing USE Card games</td>
<td>1) Flowers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Playing cards USE Card games</td>
<td>SA names of flowers, e.g. Roses; to be added as needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2) Card games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See also</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Card tricks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gambling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tarot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.8 Notes

- Notes are provided under some headings in order to define the scope, to explain the relationships among headings, and to assist in the proper application of the headings so that consistency in assigning headings to documents on like subjects may be achieved.

A) Definitions
B) Relations to other headings
C) Instructions, explanations
6.9 Class numbers

- A Library of Congress Classification number is added to a heading if the caption for the number is identical or nearly identical in scope, meaning, and language to the subject heading, or if the topic is explicitly mentioned in an "Including" note under the caption for the number. Multiple class numbers may be added to a heading when the subject is treated from more than one perspective. For the heading of a subject covered by a span of class numbers, the full span of pertinent class numbers is included.
7 Subject Heading for Special Materials in LCSH.

- The assignment of subject heading for audiovisual and special instructional materials should follow the same principles that are applied to books. The heading most specifically describing the contents of the material should be used. And the same headings should be applied to book and non-book material alike.
- American poetry - Periodicals
- Tuberculosis - Statistics - Periodicals
- Jesus Christ - Travel - Palestine - Maps - To 1800
- Teleki, Samuel, grof, 1845-1916 - Journeys - Maps
- Accounting - Periodical
8 Conclusion

- LCSH is comparatively simple to use.
- The rules and principles are fairly explicit in their directions, containing scope notes and specific instructions for their use.
- If followed consistently, LCSH will provide useful reference guide for the user and also to the library reference staff.
Its disadvantage is that LCSH is American biased.

The words that are used in it are the words that are popular in American dialect and which are not popular to Indian conditions.

Many discrepancies regarding the subject headings can also be seen in its

- Labor-Labour
- Color-Colour
- Elevators-Lifts