

Rivers, Valleys, Watersheds, etc. H 800

BACKGROUND: *Most of the provisions for formulating and qualifying geographic names, presented in H 690 and H 810, apply also to names of rivers. There are certain aspects of rivers, however, that require special provisions not applicable to other types of geographic features. This instruction sheet presents these special provisions for formulating, qualifying, and providing references for names of rivers. It also discusses the use of names of rivers as geographic subdivisions, and the formulation and use of headings for features based on rivers, such as deltas, estuaries, watersheds, valleys, etc.*

*Note: The term **river** is used in this instruction sheet in the generic sense to include all types of surface streams, such as rivers, brooks, creeks, washes, etc.*

1. Formulating names of rivers.

a. General rule. Follow the provisions of H 690 in selecting the appropriate name form and constructing the substantive portion of the heading. For special provisions applicable to forks or branches of rivers, see sec. 4, below.

b. Rivers in Great Britain and Ireland. In Great Britain and Ireland, rivers are usually referred to as **River** [...] rather than [...] **River**, even though some American reference sources list them as [...] **River**. In recognition of this convention and in accordance with H 690, sec. 4.a., generally establish rivers in Great Britain and Ireland in inverted form as [...], **River** ([*qualifier*]).

2. Qualification of names of rivers.

Note: For purposes of this instruction sheet, treat a river as being located in a particular jurisdiction even if it only forms a portion of the boundary of the jurisdiction, and does not actually enter it. For example, regard a river that originates in one jurisdiction and later forms the boundary between two other jurisdictions before coming to an end, as being located in all three jurisdictions.

a. Rivers wholly within one jurisdiction. Qualify by the name of the appropriate jurisdiction, in accordance with the provisions of H 810. *Examples:*

151 ## \$a Wama River (Tanzania)
151 ## \$a Cape Fear River (N.C.)
151 ## \$a Merri River (Vic.)
151 ## \$a Tyne, River (England)

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2. Qualification of names of rivers.

a. Rivers wholly within one jurisdiction. (Continued)

Conflicts. In the event that there are two or more rivers with the same name in the same jurisdiction, qualify by the name of the appropriate smaller jurisdiction, in accordance with the provisions of H 810. *Example:*

151 ## \$a Meadow Creek (Fayette County, W. Va.)

If the river is not in a *single* smaller jurisdiction within the larger jurisdiction, qualify by the names of two smaller jurisdictions, putting the names in the following order: first the one in which the river originates, and second the one in which its mouth is located. Link the two names using the word **and** if the river is in only those two jurisdictions, or using a hyphen if it is in three or more smaller jurisdictions. Include the larger jurisdiction only once, as the last element of the qualifier. *Examples:*

151 ## \$a Spring Creek (Colbert County and Franklin County, Ala.)

151 ## \$a Eagle Creek (Boone County-Marion County, Ind.)

b. Rivers in two jurisdictions. Qualify by the names of both jurisdictions, in accordance with the general provisions of H 810. Use the name of the jurisdiction in which the river originates as the first name in the qualifier, linking it with the word **and** to the name of the jurisdiction in which the mouth of the river is located. *Examples:*

151 ## \$a Hunyani River (Zimbabwe and Mozambique)

151 ## \$a Cumberland River (Ky. and Tenn.)

151 ## \$a Pembina River (N.D. and Man.)

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2. Qualification of names of rivers. (Continued)

c. Rivers in more than two jurisdictions. Do not qualify, except to resolve conflicts. When qualifying to resolve conflicts, use the name of the jurisdiction in which the river originates as the first name in the qualifier, linking it with a hyphen to the name of the jurisdiction in which the mouth of the river is located. Qualify at the highest possible political level allowed by the provisions of H 810. *Examples:*

151 ## \$a Colorado River (Colo.-Mexico)

[This river is in more than two jurisdictions, but the qualifier is required because there is another Colorado River. This river originates in Colorado, and its mouth is in Mexico. Geographic features in the United States are qualified at the state level and those in Mexico at the country level. Therefore the appropriate qualifier is (Colo.-Mexico).]

151 ## \$a Green River (Wyo.-Utah)

[The qualifier is needed to distinguish between other Green Rivers in the United States; state names are used in qualifiers for features in the United States.]

3. References for rivers.

a. UF references. Add 451 fields for variant forms of the name of a river in accordance with the provisions of H 690.

b. Broader terms.

*Note: In the following provisions, the word **country** or **countries** is understood to refer to **states** for rivers in the United States, **provinces** for rivers in Canada, and **constituent countries** for rivers in Great Britain.*

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3. References for rivers.

b. Broader terms. (Continued)

Add 550 (broader term) fields as follows:

(1) Rivers in a single country: Add the broader term **Rivers-[country]**.

Examples:

151 ## \$a Genil River (Spain)
550 ## \$w g \$a Rivers \$z Spain

151 ## \$a Robson River (B.C.)
550 ## \$w g \$a Rivers \$z British Columbia

(2) Rivers in two or three countries: Add the broader term **Rivers-[country]** for each of the countries. *Examples:*

151 ## \$a London River (France and Switzerland)
550 ## \$w g \$a Rivers \$z France
550 ## \$w g \$a Rivers \$z Switzerland

151 ## \$a Wye, River (Wales and England)
550 ## \$w g \$a Rivers \$z England
550 ## \$w g \$a Rivers \$z Wales

151 ## \$a Amazon River
550 ## \$w g \$a Rivers \$z Brazil
550 ## \$w g \$a Rivers \$z Colombia
550 ## \$w g \$a Rivers \$z Peru

151 ## \$a Dnieper River
550 ## \$w g \$a Rivers \$z Belarus
550 ## \$w g \$a Rivers \$z Russia (Federation)
550 ## \$w g \$a Rivers \$z Ukraine

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3. References for rivers.

b. Broader terms. (Continued)

(3) *Rivers in more than three countries:* Add the broader term **Rivers** subdivided by the name of the next larger region that encompasses all of the countries in which the river is located. *Example:*

```
151 ## $a Niger River
550 ## $w g $a Rivers $z Africa, West
```

Exception: For rivers located in more than three first order political divisions of Canada, Great Britain, or the United States, add the broader term **Rivers- [country]**. *Example:*

```
151 ## $a Missouri River
550 ## $w g $a Rivers $z United States
```

Do not add a broader term field from the name of a larger stream of which a river is a tributary.

4. Forks and branches of rivers.

a. Directional fork or branch names. If the fork or branch name is directional (of the type **South Fork, East Fork, Middle Fork, Northwest Branch,** etc.), formulate the heading as follows (even if this formulation does not correspond with the BGN formulation):

```
151 ## $a [name of main river], [...] Fork or Branch
      ([qualifier])
451 ## $a [...] Fork or Branch, [name of main river]
      ([qualifier])
550 ## $w g $a Rivers $z [place]
```

Note: Formulate the qualifier to correspond with the extent of the fork or branch alone, not with that of the main stream. *Example:*

```
151 ## $a Salmon River, Middle Fork (Idaho)
451 ## $a Middle Fork, Salmon River (Idaho)
550 ## $w g $a Rivers $z Idaho
```

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4. Forks and branches of rivers. (Continued)

b. Substantive fork or branch names. If the fork or branch name is substantive (of the type **Clear Fork, Clark Fork, Tug Fork, Bear Branch**, etc.), formulate the heading in the same manner as an individually named river. *Example:*

151 ## \$a Clark Fork (Mont. and Idaho)
[The fork is a part of the Columbia River system]

5. *Wild and scenic rivers and national rivers.* Establish headings for such entities in the same manner as headings for parks and reserves (cf. H 1925).

The names of rivers within such headings may be in a form different from the form of the heading for the river itself. *Example:*

151 ## \$a Middle Fork Clearwater Wild and Scenic River System
(Idaho)

6. *Deltas.* A delta is a low-lying plain composed of stream-borne sediments deposited by a river at its mouth. The practice of using **-Delta** as a free-floating subdivision under names of rivers was discontinued in 1991. Establish headings for deltas by adding the term **Delta** to the heading for the river. Formulate the qualifier according to the standard rules for qualifying geographic features in H 810 to correspond to the geographic extent of the delta itself, rather than that of the whole river, for example, **Mississippi River Delta (La.)**; **Nile River Delta (Egypt)**. Establish a delta formed by the confluence of two rivers and known by a hyphenated form in the form in which it is best known, for example, **Peace-Athabasca Delta (Alta.)**.

7. *Estuaries.* An estuary is the broad, partly enclosed mouth or lower course of a river where its current meets the sea tide. The practice of using **Estuary** as a free-floating term added to names of rivers was discontinued in 1991. Generally, establish headings for river estuaries by adding the term **Estuary** to the heading for the river. If the heading for the river is established in inverted form, add a comma before the term **Estuary**, for example, **Ythan, River, Estuary (Scotland)**. Formulate the qualifier according to the standard rules for qualifying geographic headings in H 810 to correspond to the geographic extent of the estuary itself, rather than that of the whole river, for example, **Columbia River Estuary (Or. and Wash.)**. Establish estuaries known by specific names, by names that do not include the word **River**, or not associated with a river under their own names, for example, **Forth, Firth of (Scotland)**; **Dee Estuary (Wales and England)**; **Tracy Arm (Alaska)**. Establish an estuary formed by the confluence of two rivers and known by a hyphenated form in the form in which it is best known, for example, **Sacramento-San Joaquin Estuary (Calif.)**.

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8. Valleys. **Valley** designates the flatlands extending along the course of a river and its tributaries. The practice of using **Valley** as a free-floating term added to names of rivers and river systems was discontinued in July 1995. Generally establish headings for valleys by adding the term **Valley** to the heading for the name of the river, for example, **Hudson River Valley (N.Y. and N.J.)**. If the heading for the river is established in inverted form, add a comma before the term **Valley**, for example, **Medway, River, Valley (Scotland)**. If reference sources or bibliographic titles indicate that the word **River** is not part of the name of the valley, **River** may be omitted, for example, **San Joaquin Valley (Calif.)** [*not San Joaquin River Valley (Calif.)*]. Establish river valleys known by other names under those names, for example, **Airedale (England)**. Add 451 fields for alternative forms with or without the term **River**. If the river is not yet established, establish a heading for the river at the same time. Use the same qualifier for both the river and the valley headings. Make broader term references of the type **Valleys-[place]** corresponding to the references of the type **Rivers-[place]** that are made for the river. Do not formulate headings based on the names of two rivers in combination with each other. Instead, formulate separate headings based on each individual river. For example, for a work that discusses the Sacramento and lower San Joaquin valleys, formulate the following two headings:

151 ## \$a Sacramento Valley (Calif.)
151 ## \$a San Joaquin Valley (Calif.)

9. Watersheds. A watershed is the entire region or area that a river, river system, or other body of water drains, including mountainous areas. The practice of using **Watershed** as a free-floating term added to names of rivers and lakes was discontinued in March 1993. Establish headings for watersheds by adding the term **Watershed** to the heading for the name of the river, lake, or other body of water. If the heading for the river, etc., is established in inverted form, add a comma before the term **Watershed**, for example, **Snake River, South Fork, Watershed (Idaho)**. If the body of water is not yet established, establish a heading for it at the same time. Use the term **Watershed** even though the work being cataloged may use another expression, such as basin, drainage basin, river basin, catchment area, etc. (Although river basins are designated as watersheds, geological basins are established as such, using the term **Basin**, for example, **Diamond Basin (Nev.)**.) Generally retain the same qualifier as that used for the river, etc. Make broader term references of the type **Watersheds-[place]** corresponding to the references of the type **Rivers-[place]** that are made for the river, etc. Do not routinely undertake research to determine the full extent of the drainage area. If readily available information indicates that the geographic extent of the watershed of a major body of water substantially exceeds the boundaries of the jurisdiction(s) in which the body of water is located, establish the heading for the watershed to reflect that broader extent and make appropriate broader term references. Make a used for reference from the name of the watershed with the

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9. Watersheds. (Continued)

same qualifier as the heading for the body of water. Provide a scope note delineating the geographic extent. *Example:*

```
151 ## $a Winnipeg, Lake, Watershed
451 ## $a Winnipeg, Lake, Watershed (Man.)
550 ## $w g $a Watersheds $z Northwestern States
550 ## $w g $a Watersheds $z Ontario
550 ## $w g $a Watersheds $z Prairie Provinces
680 ## $i Here are entered works on the area drained by Lake
Winnipeg, which extends from the lake in Manitoba east
to Lake Superior, west to the Rockies, and south to
Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Montana.
```

Do not establish watershed headings based on the names of two rivers in combination with each other. Instead, establish separate watershed headings for each river. For example, for a work that discusses the Virgin River-Meadow Valley Wash drainage basin, establish the following two headings:

```
151 ## $a Virgin River Watershed
151 ## $a Meadow Valley Wash Watershed (Nev.)
```

10. River regions. **Region** designates the largest area associated with a river, consisting not only of the drainage basin itself but also other adjacent territories beyond the basin. Following the instructions in H 760, formulate free-floating phrase headings for the names of regions of rivers by adding the word **Region** to the river name, rather than to the heading for the valley or watershed. *Example:*

```
651 #0 $a Potomac River Region.
[not 651 #0 $a Potomac River Valley Region.]
[not 651 #0 $a Potomac River Watershed Region.]
```

*Note: Names of valley regions not associated with rivers may be formulated on a free-floating basis in accordance with H 760, for example, **Death Valley Region (Calif. and Nev.)**.*

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11. Subdivisions used under names of rivers and estuaries. Subdivide names of individual rivers and estuaries by the free-floating topical subdivisions authorized for use under bodies of water (see H 1145.5). *Example:*

651 #0 \$a Missouri River \$x Navigation.

12. Names of rivers used as geographic subdivisions. When using the name of a river as a geographic subdivision, follow the standard provisions for geographic subdivision (see H 830). If the river is located entirely within one country (or first order political division in the case of Canada, Great Britain, and the United States), divide through that country (or division). *Examples:*

650 #0 \$a Stream measurements \$z France \$z Loire River.

650 #0 \$a Stream measurements \$z California \$z Sacramento River.

If the river is in more than one country (or first order division for the three exceptional countries), assign it directly after headings without interposing the name of a larger place. *Examples:*

650 #0 \$a Stream measurements \$z Rhine River.

650 #0 \$a Stream measurements \$z Missouri River.

650 #0 \$a Stream measurements \$z Roanoke River (Va. and N.C.)

Parts of rivers. When cataloging a work that deals with only a portion of a river that is assigned directly, assign two headings, one to bring out the river, and one the specific locality. Do not divide the river through the locality. *Example:*

*Title: Stream measurements made along the Missouri River in South
Dakota.*

650 #0 \$a Stream measurements \$z Missouri River.

650 #0 \$a Stream measurements \$z South Dakota.

[*not* 650 #0 \$a Stream measurements \$z South Dakota \$z Missouri
River.]

LC practice:

13. Corrections. As new works are cataloged, correct headings that appear in obsolete form in the subject authority file, including headings with improper capitalization. Also correct bibliographic records associated with headings undergoing update, but do not change those bibliographic records that are correct in all respects except capitalization.