

# Qualification of Geographic Headings

H 810

A. Background.....	2
B. Recent revisions.....	2
C. Definitions.....	2
D. Choice of geographic qualifiers .....	2
D.1. General rule .....	2
D.2. Exceptions to the general rule.....	2
E. Form of geographic qualifiers.....	4
E.1. Latest name .....	4
E.2. Abbreviations .....	4
E.3. Final form of qualifier.....	4
F. Entities wholly within one jurisdiction.....	5
F.1. General rule.....	5
F.2. Conflicts.....	5
F.3. Entities in cities.....	6
F.4. Entities on islands.....	7
G. Entities in two jurisdictions .....	8
H. Entities in more than two jurisdictions .....	8
H.1. General rule .....	8
H.2. International bodies of water .....	9
Appendix A. First Order Political Divisions of the Exceptional Countries.....	9
Appendix A.1. Australia.....	9
Appendix A.2. Canada .....	9
Appendix A.3. Great Britain .....	10
Appendix A.4. Malaysia.....	10
Appendix A.5. United States .....	11
Appendix A.6. Other jurisdictions .....	12
Revision history.....	12

## *A. Background*

Geographic headings that do not represent potential descriptive access points, including headings for geographic features, regions, parks, etc., are generally established in the subject authority file. Since 1981 the rules used by subject catalogers in formulating these names have been essentially the same as those used for establishing jurisdictional headings, that is, the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules* (and, beginning in 2013, *Resource Description & Access*). With the adoption of AACR2, subject cataloging practices were modified to conform with the new rules. The procedures described in this instruction sheet apply only to the choice and form of the qualifiers for geographic headings. For procedures for formulating the substantive portion of these headings, see H 690.

## *B. Recent revisions*

2025-02: Updated template. Added some examples.

## *C. Definitions*

*Exceptional Countries*: five specific countries for which there are special rules regarding geographic qualifiers. The countries are Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Malaysia, and the United States.

*Qualifier*: text added in parentheses after the primary term to make a specific meaning unambiguous, as well as to differentiate the character string, also known as qualification.

## *D. Choice of geographic qualifiers*

### D.1. General rule

Generally, qualify subject headings representing geographic entities by the name of the country or countries in which they are located.

For entities on the continent of Antarctica or within the Antarctic regions, use **\*(Antarctica)\*** as the qualifier.

### D.2. Exceptions to the general rule

#### **D.2.a. Exceptional Countries**

Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Malaysia, and the United States are called “Exceptional Countries”. Qualify geographic headings in these countries by the name of the first order political division in which the entity is located.

#### ***Examples:***

- 151 ## \$a Brisbane Forest Park (Qld.)
- 151 ## \$a Boothia Peninsula (Nunavut)
- 151 ## \$a Brenig Lake (Wales)
- 151 ## \$a Taman Negeri Perlis (Perlis, Malaysia)
- 151 ## \$a Hardscrabble Gulch (Idaho)

For a list of the political divisions of these five exceptions, and the forms to be used as qualifiers, see Appendix A at the end of this document.

Note: Serbia and Montenegro, the successor of Yugoslavia, is no longer an exception because it split into two separate countries in 2006.

#### **D.2.b. Entities in cities**

Qualify archaeological sites, parks and gardens, streets and roads, and other man-made geographic structures, by the name of the city; qualify natural features by the name of the larger jurisdiction except in cases of conflict (see sec. F.3).

##### **Examples:**

- 151 ## \$a Central Park (New York, N.Y.)
- 151 ## \$a Gaer Fawr Site (Powys, Wales)
- 151 ## \$a Leaning Tower (Pisa, Italy)

#### **D.2.c. Headings for non-jurisdictional islands**

See H 807.

#### **D.2.d. Entities on islands**

Qualify by the name of the island or larger jurisdiction as described in sec. F.4.

#### **D.2.e. Names of extinct cities**

Use the qualifier **\*(Extinct city)\***. See H 715.

#### **D.2.f. Rivers**

See H 800.

#### **D.2.g. Undersea features**

Generally do not qualify undersea features in international waters, for example, **\*East Pacific Rise\*** or **\*Aleutian Trench\***. If it is necessary to resolve a conflict or remove ambiguity, add the body of water as a qualifier, for example, **\*Gully, The (North Atlantic Ocean)\***. For undersea

features within territorial limits, qualify by the name of the appropriate jurisdiction, for example, **\*Old Orchard Shoal (N.Y.)\*** or **\*Grand Bahama Bank (Bahamas)\***.

### *E. Form of geographic qualifiers*

#### E.1. Latest name

Use, as a geographic qualifier, only the latest form of the name of a jurisdiction, for example, **\*(Zimbabwe)\*** [not (Rhodesia, Southern)].

#### E.2. Abbreviations

When using one of the first order political divisions (ADM1s) of the Exceptional Countries as a qualifier, abbreviate the name according to the tables in Appendix A. Do not abbreviate any other place names when using them as qualifiers.

#### E.3. Final form of qualifier

Qualify a geographic heading by placing the name of the appropriate jurisdiction(s) within a single set of parentheses after the substantive portion of the heading.

**Example:**

151 ## \$a Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (Hawaii)

When using the names of two jurisdictions as a qualifier, place both names within a single set of parentheses, linking them with the word **\*and\***.

**Example:**

151 ## \$a Chesapeake Bay (Md. and Va.)

When qualifying by the name of a city (or at any level lower than the level specified in sec. D.1, above), use the established heading for the city or other entity, but reformulate it by placing it within a single set of parentheses, separating the basic name from the name of the larger qualifying jurisdiction with a comma, and omitting any additional information that is part of the established heading.

**Examples:**

Form of heading for city	Form when used as qualifier
Chicago (Ill.)	(Chicago, Ill.)
Black Creek (Wis. : Village)	(Black Creek, Wis.)
Veracruz (Veracruz-Llave, Mexico)	(Veracruz, Veracruz-Llave, Mexico)

When the jurisdiction being used as a qualifier is itself qualified by a term designating the nature of the jurisdiction, omit the latter term, and if necessary, reformulate the resulting name in the same manner as described above for cities.

**Examples:**

Form of heading for jurisdiction	Form when used as qualifier
Washington (State)	(Wash.)
Micronesia (Federated States)	(Micronesia)
Arequipa (Peru : Dept.)	(Arequipa, Peru)

## *F. Entities wholly within one jurisdiction*

### F.1. General rule

Qualify by the name of the jurisdiction in which the entity is located, formulating the qualifier in accordance with the general provisions above.

**Examples:**

- 151 ## \$a Columbia Dam (Tenn.)
- 151 ## \$a Great Barrier Reef (Qld.)
- 151 ## \$a Saint Helens, Mount (Wash.)
- 151 ## \$a Taunus (Germany)
- 151 ## \$a Valdai Hills (Russia)
- 151 ## \$a Lake District (England)
- 151 ## \$a Cairngorms (Scotland)
- 151 ## \$a Diamond Mountains (Korea)

Note: Use **\*(Korea)\*** to qualify all entities located in Korea, whether in North Korea, South Korea, or both.

### F.2. Conflicts

If there are two or more entities with the same name in the same jurisdiction, formulate a distinctive qualifier according to the following methods.

#### F.2.a. Entities of the same type

Add to the qualifier the name of the next smaller jurisdiction (county, department, province, etc.).

**Examples:**

151 ## \$a Pelican Lake (Otter Tail County, Minn.)

151 ## \$a Pelican Lake (Saint Louis County, Minn.)

151 ## \$a Blackwater River (Essex, England)

151 ## \$a Blackwater River (Hampshire and Berkshire, England)

Note: Do not differentiate among multiple features of the same type, with the same name, within a single county in the United States, except for features in cities (see sec. F.3). Include a 667 field to indicate that the heading is not differentiated, using standard phrasing as follows.

**Model:**

667 ## \$a Undifferentiated geographic heading. Covers all [type of feature] named [name of feature] in [county].

**Example:**

151 ## \$a Lookout Mountain (Whatcom County, Wash.)

667 ## \$a Undifferentiated geographic heading. Covers all mountains named Lookout Mountain in Whatcom County, Wash.

Follow the same principle for multiple features of the same type, with the same name, within a single first-level administrative subdivision of a country other than the United States. Adjust the wording of the note in the 667 field as appropriate.

**Example:**

151 ## \$a Enz River (Baden-Württemberg, Germany)

667 ## \$a Undifferentiated geographic heading. Covers all rivers named Enz River in Baden-Württemberg, Germany.

### F.2.b. Entities of different types

Add to the qualifier a generic term, in English, designating the type of entity. Separate this term from the geographic term within the qualifier by a space, a colon, and another space.

**Example:**

151 ## \$a Cold Lake (Alta. : Lake)

[This designation is necessary because there is also a city in Alberta with the name Cold Lake, for which the heading is \*Cold Lake (Alta.)\*]

Note: Provide information about such conflicts in 670 fields in order to justify the addition of extra names or terms in qualifiers.

### F.3. Entities in cities

Note: Do not use names of townships in the United States as qualifiers. Instead, qualify by the specific city, town, village, etc., within the township.

### F.3.a. Parks and gardens

Qualify by the name of the city, formulating the qualifier according to the general provisions above.

**Examples:**

151 ## \$a Vauxhall Gardens (London, England)

151 ## \$a Jardin du Luxembourg (Paris, France)

### F.3.b. Streets and roads, and other man-made geographic structures

Qualify by the name of the city. See H 2098, sec. 2.b.

### F.3.c. Archaeological sites

Qualify by the name of the city.

### F.3.d. Natural features

Do not qualify lakes, hills, etc. within cities by the name of the city except to resolve conflicts. Qualify by the name of the larger jurisdiction, in accordance with the general rule for qualification of entities wholly within a single jurisdiction.

### F.3.e. Buildings and structures

See H 1334.

## F.4. Entities on islands

### F.4.a. Islands established as name headings without qualifiers

Qualify the entity on the island by the name of the island as established in the Name Authority File.

**Examples:**

Island	Entity on the island
Taiwan	Tan shui River (Taiwan)
Greenland	Disko Bay (Greenland)

### F.4.b. Islands established as name or subject headings with qualifiers for larger jurisdictions

Qualify the entity on the island by the name of the larger jurisdiction, not by the island name.

**Examples:**

Island	Entity on the island
--------	----------------------

Sicily (Italy)	Etna, Mount (Italy)
Crete (Greece)	Kommos Site (Greece)

Exception: Use the specific island name when necessary to resolve conflicts.

**Examples:**

- 151 ## \$a Kailua Bay (Oahu, Hawaii)
- 151 ## \$a Kailua Bay (Hawaii Island, Hawaii)

**F.4.c. Entities on islands that comprise more than one jurisdiction**

Qualify the entity on the island by the name of the jurisdiction in which the entity is located. For example, use the qualifier **\*(Haiti)\*** rather than (Hispaniola) for an entity in Haiti.

*G. Entities in two jurisdictions*

Qualify by the names of both jurisdictions in which the entity is located, formulating the qualifier in accordance with the general provisions above.

As a general rule, put the names of the two jurisdictions in alphabetical order. However, if the entity is located primarily in one of the two, put the name of that jurisdiction first. For special provisions applicable to the qualification of rivers in two jurisdictions, see H 800.

**Examples:**

- 151 ## \$a Somport Pass (France and Spain)
- 151 ## \$a Chesapeake Bay (Md. and Va.)
- 151 ## \$a Bull Shoals Lake (Ark. and Mo.)
- 151 ## \$a White Mountains (N.H. and Me.)

*H. Entities in more than two jurisdictions*

**H.1. General rule**

Use no qualifier unless it is necessary to distinguish between two entities of the same name or to clarify an ambiguous term.

**Examples:**

- 151 ## \$a Euphrates River
- 151 ## \$a Middle East
- 151 ## \$a Mediterranean Sea
- 151 ## \$a Atlas Mountains
- 151 ## \$a Southern States
- 151 ## \$a Hudson Bay

151 ## \$a Great Dividing Range

151 ## \$a West (U.S.)

Qualification of such entities to resolve conflicts occurs most frequently with rivers. For special provisions applicable to this situation, see H 800.

## H.2. International bodies of water

Do not qualify bodies of water touching two or more countries and open to the sea except to resolve a conflict. In accordance with this rule, headings such as English Channel and Bering Sea are established without qualifiers.

Apply the standard provisions for geographic qualification, as presented in this instruction sheet and in H 800, to inland bodies of water such as lakes and rivers (associated watersheds, estuaries, etc.), as well as for bodies of water touching two or more jurisdictions below the country level.

### *Appendix A. First Order Political Divisions of the Exceptional Countries*

#### Appendix A.1. Australia

First Order Division	Form in Qualifier
Australian Capital Territory	(A.C.T.)
New South Wales	(N.S.W.)
Northern Territory	(N.T.)
Queensland	(Qld.)
South Australia	(S.A.)
Tasmania	(Tas.)
Victoria	(Vic.)
Western Australia	(W.A.)

#### Appendix A.2. Canada

First Order Division	Form in Qualifier
Alberta	(Alta.)
British Columbia	(B.C.)
Manitoba	(Man.)
New Brunswick	(N.B.)
Newfoundland and Labrador	(N.L.)
Northwest Territories	(N.W.T.)

<b>First Order Division</b>	<b>Form in Qualifier</b>
Nova Scotia	(N.S.)
Nunavut	(Nunavut)
Ontario	(Ont.)
Prince Edward Island	(P.E.I.)
Québec (Province)	(Québec)
Saskatchewan	(Sask.)
Yukon	(Yukon)

### Appendix A.3. Great Britain

<b>First Order Division</b>	<b>Form in Qualifier</b>
England	(England)
Northern Ireland	(Northern Ireland)
Scotland	(Scotland)
Wales	(Wales)

### Appendix A.4. Malaysia

<b>First Order Division</b>	<b>Form in Qualifier</b>
Johor	(Johor, Malaysia)
Kedah	(Kedah, Malaysia)
Kelantan	(Kelantan, Malaysia)
Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)	(Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
Labuan, Federal Territory of	(Labuan, Malaysia)
Malacca (State)	(Malacca, Malaysia)
Negeri Sembilan	(Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia)
Pahang	(Pahang, Malaysia)
Perak	(Perak, Malaysia)
Perlis	(Perlis, Malaysia)
Pulau Pinang	(Pulau Pinang, Malaysia)
Putrajaya	(Putrajaya, Malaysia)
Sabah	(Sabah, Malaysia)
Sarawak	(Sarawak, Malaysia)
Selangor	(Selangor, Malaysia)
Terengganu	(Terengganu, Malaysia)

## Appendix A.5. United States

<b>First Order Division</b>	<b>Form in Qualifier</b>
Alabama	(Ala.)
Alaska	(Alaska)
Arizona	(Ariz.)
Arkansas	(Ark.)
California	(Calif.)
Colorado	(Colo.)
Connecticut	(Conn.)
Delaware	(Del.)
District of Columbia	(D.C.)
Florida	(Fla.)
Georgia	(Ga.)
Hawaii	(Hawaii)
Idaho	(Idaho)
Illinois	(Ill.)
Indiana	(Ind.)
Iowa	(Iowa)
Kansas	(Kan.)
Kentucky	(Ky.)
Louisiana	(La.)
Maine	(Me.)
Maryland	(Md.)
Massachusetts	(Mass.)
Michigan	(Mich.)
Minnesota	(Minn.)
Mississippi	(Miss.)
Missouri	(Mo.)
Montana	(Mont.)
Nebraska	(Neb.)
Nevada	(Nev.)
New Hampshire	(N.H.)
New Jersey	(N.J.)

<b>First Order Division</b>	<b>Form in Qualifier</b>
New Mexico	(N.M.)
New York (State)	(N.Y.)
North Carolina	(N.C.)
North Dakota	(N.D.)
Ohio	(Ohio)
Oklahoma	(Okla.)
Oregon	(Or.)
Pennsylvania	(Pa.)
Rhode Island	(R.I.)
South Carolina	(S.C.)
South Dakota	(S.D.)
Tennessee	(Tenn.)
Texas	(Tex.)
Utah	(Utah)
Vermont	(Vt.)
Virginia	(Va.)
Washington (State)	(Wash.)
West Virginia	(W. Va.)
Wisconsin	(Wis.)
Wyoming	(Wyo.)

### Appendix A.6. Other jurisdictions

<b>First Order Division</b>	<b>Form in Qualifier</b>
New Zealand	(N.Z.)
Puerto Rico	(P.R.)
United States	(U.S.)

Note: Until 2013, the British Virgin Islands and United States Virgin Islands were both abbreviated (V.I.). The full name is now used in qualifiers, i.e., (British Virgin Islands); (United States Virgin Islands).

#### *Revision history*

2025-06: Updated template. Added some examples.

2025-02: Updated to new template. Corrected typo and updated example.