

Government Publications H 1643

BACKGROUND: *Government publications are official documents and materials issued by governments and their organizations. Until 1988 **Government publications** and related headings were used only for general works about these publications. Headings of the type [place]– **Government publications** were assigned to works about government publications in a particular place. This practice has been discontinued and replaced by topical headings with geographic subdivision. This instruction sheet provides guidelines for assigning headings to works about government publications, to bibliographies of government publications, and to collections of these documents.*

1. General. Assign the heading **Government publications** (*May Subd Geog*) as a topical heading to general works that discuss official publications issued by government bodies.

Assign **Government publications**–[*name of country*] to works on the official documents issued by several types of government bodies in the country (federal, state, local, etc.) or to works limited to discussing publications issued by the national government and its agencies.

2. Special. To works on the official publications of a particular type of government below the national level, assign the appropriate specific heading for these types of publications.
Examples:

650 #0 \$a County government publications \$z Kentucky \$z Caldwell
County.
650 #0 \$a County government publications \$z California.
650 #0 \$a Interstate agency publications \$z United States.
650 #0 \$a Local government publications \$z Great Britain.
650 #0 \$a Local government publications \$z Michigan.
650 #0 \$a Municipal government publications \$z France.
650 #0 \$a Municipal government publications \$z Georgia
\$z Savannah.
650 #0 \$a Provincial government publications \$z Canada.
650 #0 \$a Provincial government publications \$z Ontario.
650 #0 \$a State government publications \$z New Jersey.
650 #0 \$a State government publications \$z Mexico.

3. International. Assign the heading **International agency publications** to works on the official publications of international agencies treated collectively.

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4. Acquisition of government publications. Assign the heading **Acquisition of government publications** to works on methods for locating and acquiring government publications of any type. Assign additional headings, if appropriate, for the types of materials selected, the type of institution acquiring the publications, etc. *Example:*

Title: Selecting and organizing state government publications.
650 #0 \$a Libraries \$x Special collections \$x State
government publications.
650 #0 \$a State government publications \$z United States
\$x Bibliography \$x Methodology.
650 #0 \$a Acquisition of government publications.

5. Bibliography. To bibliographies of government publications, add the subdivision **–Bibliography** to the appropriate heading for the type of publications included, for example, **Local government publications–Indiana–Bibliography; County government publications–Pennsylvania–Bibliography; State government publications–Mexico–Bibliography.**

For instructions on assigning headings to library catalogs of government publications, see H 1361.

For instructions on assigning headings to publishers' catalogs of government publications, including catalogs of publications issued by individual government agencies, see H 1965.

6. Collections of documents. To works containing collections of government documents on a topic or topics, assign the appropriate subject headings subdivided by **–History–Sources** or by **–Sources** (cf. H 2080) *Example:*

Title: Politics and government in the Federal Republic of Germany : basic documents.
650 #0 \$a Constitutional history \$z Germany (West)
\$v Sources.
651 #0 \$a Germany (West) \$x Politics and government
\$v Sources.

Do not assign the heading **Government publications** or headings for particular types of government publications to these collections unless the work also contains a section discussing these works, that is, the writing, publishing, distribution, acquisition, organization, or use of these publications.