

Software and Works about Software H 2070

BACKGROUND: Before 1987, headings for individual computer programs had been established as subject headings and were tagged 150 in authority records and 650 in bibliographic records. Since 1987, headings for individual computer programs are established, when needed, in the name authority file rather than the subject authority file. Since 2017, headings for software frameworks and software packages have also been established in the name authority file.

The headings are usually uniform titles tagged 130, but occasionally they are in author-title form tagged 100, 110, or 111. This instruction sheet describes the principles to be followed in assigning subject headings to computer software and to works about individual computer programs. For general procedures on classifying software, see F 710. For guidelines on assigning subject headings to databases, see H 1520.

1. Software.

Note: These provisions apply specifically to works cataloged as software, not to works cataloged as books with accompanying software. For principles to be followed in cataloging works of the latter type, see H 180, sec. 1.

a. Assigning subject headings. Assign at least one subject heading to every software title to bring out the topic(s) or genre of the software. Follow the same principles as to number and specificity of headings as are followed for books.

Use the free-floating form subdivision **-Software** under each heading assigned, for example, **Engineering-Software**, **Electronic spreadsheets-Software**, **Computer adventure games-Software**. If the title has been coded for intellectual level **a**, **b**, or **c** in field 008/22 (the box labeled **Audience** on the 008 input screen in the LC ILS), use the free-floating subdivision **-Juvenile software** under the headings assigned. Do not use the subdivision **-Computer programs** when cataloging software. Use **-Computer programs** only for works *about* computer programs.

b. Elements that are not brought out in subject headings. Do not assign subject headings to bring out the program language, the make or model of the computer, or the operating system, since access to these elements is provided in the descriptive cataloging data.

c. When to assign the heading for a named computer program. Do not assign the heading for a named computer program to the program itself. Do not, for example, assign **Lotus 1-2-3 (Computer file)** when cataloging the Lotus 1-2-3 software. Instead, assign the appropriate topical headings, for example, **Electronic spreadsheets-Software** and **Business-Software**. Assign **Lotus 1-2-3 (Computer file)** only to works *about* the program, for example, a book, a film, a periodical, or a package of software *about* Lotus 1-2-3 (see sec. 2, below).

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1. *Software.* (Continued)

d. Establishing topical or genre headings. Establish new topical or genre headings as required, according to the same criteria followed in cataloging books and other media.

2. *Works about individual computer programs.*

LC practice:

a. Assigning the name heading. When assigning the heading for a named computer program to a work about the program, first search the LC Database to determine whether a name authority record has been created for the program. The name heading is usually in the form [*name of program*] with no qualifier although occasionally a program may be established as an author-title combination. In the event of conflict, a qualifier may be added.

- *If an authority record is found*, assign the heading in the form provided in the record.
- *If an authority record is not found*, search the file of bibliographic records to determine whether the program itself has been cataloged by the Library of Congress.
 - *If a bibliographic record is found* and the main entry is under title, assign the title as a subject heading in the form found in the 245 field.
Do not treat the general material designation [**computer file**] as part of the heading. If main entry is under a personal or corporate name, assign a name-title combination as the subject heading, in the same manner as for commentaries (cf. H 1435). If in doubt as to the form to use as subject heading, consult a descriptive cataloger.
 - *If a bibliographic record is not found*, establish a heading for the program in the name authority file.

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2. *Works about individual computer programs.*

LC practice: (Continued)

b. Assigning topical headings. In addition to the heading for the name of the program, assign at least one heading to bring out the topic or application of the program.

Examples:

Title: The best book of Lotus 1-2-3.

630 00 \$a Lotus 1-2-3 (Computer file)

650 #0 \$a Business \$x Computer programs.

Title: The WordPerfect book.

630 00 \$a WordPerfect (Computer file)

650 #0 \$a Word processing.

3. Bibliography and catalogs of software. Use the form subdivision **-Bibliography** under the heading **Computer software** or under headings of the type **[topic]-Software** only for *lists of books about software*. Use **-Catalogs** only for *lists of the software itself*.